

1 Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.

2 RPTS EUELL

3 HIF202000

4

5

6 MARKUP OF:

7 H.R. 9340, RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT;

8 H.R. 9332, LOAD FORECASTING ENHANCEMENT ACT

9 H.R. 9339, AFFORDABLE INNOVATION FOR THE GRID ACT;

10 H.R. 9335, ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE RATES
11 ACT;

12 H.R. 6633, HIGH-CAPACITY GRID ACT;

13 H.R. 6529, PROTECTING FAMILIES FROM AI DATA CENTER ENERGY
14 COSTS ACT;

15 H.R. 9338, PIPELINE SAFETY AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2026;

16 H.R. 9617, COORDINATING AND HARNESSING AMERICA'S RECOVERY OF
17 MINERALS (CHARM) ACT;

18 H.R. 9616, ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND REMEDIATION
19 TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE (EMRTAI) ACT OF 2026;

20 H.R. 1266, COMBATING ILLICIT XYLAZINE ACT;

21 H.R. 2004, TYLER'S LAW;

22 H.R. 7970, STOP NITAZENES ACT;

23 H.R. 1561, ALERT COMMUNITIES ACT;

24 H.R. 7994, HERO ACT;

25 H.R. 8005, STOP PILLS THAT KILL ACT;

26 H.R. 7184, PRESS ACT;

27 H.R. 5880, FIGHT ILLICIT PILL PRESSES ACT;

28 H.R. 9393, LOWER COSTS, MORE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2026;
29 H.R. 9390, PRICES ON THE WALL ACT OF 2026;
30 H.R. 9397, PREMIUM TRANSPARENCY ACT;
31 H.R. 9396, PRIOR AUTHORIZATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT;
32 H.R. 3514, IMPROVING SENIORS' TIMELY ACCESS TO CARE ACT OF
33 2025;
34 H.R. 9392, MEDICARE ADVANTAGE COST TRANSPARENCY ACT;
35 H.R. 5243, TO AMEND TITLE XVIII OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO
36 INCREASE DATA TRANSPARENCY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS UNDER
37 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE;
38 H.R. 9389, _ NUTRITION EDUCATION AND CHRONIC DISEASE
39 PREVENTION IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS ACT OF 2026;
40 H.R. 8201, EXPANDING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES ACT;
41 H.R. 5526, BIOSIMILAR RED TAPE ELIMINATION ACT;
42 H.R. 8908, STOP GAMES ACT OF 2026; AND
43 H.R. 9661, EXPEDITED ACCESS TO BIOSIMILARS ACT
44 TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026
45 House of Representatives,
46 Committee on Energy and Commerce,
47 Washington, D.C.

48 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:00 a.m. in
49 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brett Guthrie
50 [chair of the committee] presiding.

51 Present: Representatives Guthrie, Latta, Griffith,
52 Bilirakis, Hudson, Carter of Georgia, Palmer, Crenshaw,

53 Joyce, Weber, Allen, Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger,
54 Harshbarger, Miller-Meeks, Cammack, Obernolte, James, Bentz,
55 Houchin, Fry, Lee, Langworthy, Kean, Rulli, Evans, Goldman,
56 Fedorchak; Pallone, DeGette, Schakowsky, Matsui, Castor,
57 Tonko, Clarke, Ruiz, Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kelly,
58 Barragan, Soto, Schrier, Trahan, Fletcher, Ocasio-Cortez,
59 Auchincloss, Carter of Louisiana, Menendez, Mullin, Landsman,
60 and McClellan.

61 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;
62 Byron Brown, Chief Counsel; Jessica Donlon, General Counsel;
63 Michael Essington, Chief Counsel; Andrew Furman, Professional
64 Staff Member; Calvin Huggins, Clerk; Megan Jackson, Staff
65 Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk; AT Johnson, Special Advisor;
66 Brayden Lacefield, Special Assistant; Giulia Leganski, Chief
67 Counsel; Mary Martin, Chief Counsel; Madeline Martinez, Staff
68 Assistant; Joel Miller, Chief Counsel; Ben Mullany, Press
69 Secretary; Ryan Murphy, Director of Member Services; Lillian
70 Noland, Clerk; Brice Ogle, Special Assistant; Clare Paoletta,
71 Professional Staff Member; Claire Richey, Clerk; Seth
72 Ricketts, Clerk; Jackson Rudden, Clerk; Chris Sarley, Member
73 Services/Stakeholder Director; Emma Schultheis, Professional
74 Staff Member; Arthur Speck, Professional Staff Member; Peter
75 Spencer, Senior Professional Staff Member; Dray Thorne,
76 Director of Information Technology; Timothy Trimble, Staff
77 Assistant; Matt VanHyfte, Communications Director; Katie

78 West, Press Secretary; Nick Wooldridge, Professional Staff
79 Member; Lydia Abma, Minority Policy Analyst; Jordan Antwi,
80 Minority Intern; Jennifer Black, Minority Professional Staff
81 Member; Ruth Campos, Minority Intern; Keegan Cardman,
82 Minority Staff Assistant; Timia Crisp, Minority Professional
83 Staff Member; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director
84 and General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff
85 Director; Anthony Gutierrez, Minority Professional Staff
86 Member; Caitlin Haberman, Minority Staff Director, ENV; Perry
87 Hamilton, Minority Deputy Director, Member Services and
88 Outreach; Saha Khaterzai, Minority Professional Staff Member;
89 Alyssa Kimura, Minority Intern; Serena Klebba, Minority Staff
90 Assistant; Una Lee, Minority Chief Counsel, HE; Brendan
91 Lopez, Minority Press Assistant; Kristopher Pittard, Minority
92 Professional Staff Member; Emma Roehrig, Minority Staff
93 Assistant; Kylea Rogers, Minority Policy Analyst; Andrew
94 Souvall, Minority Director of Communications, Outreach, and
95 Member Services; Medha Surampudy, Minority Professional Staff
96 Member; Samantha Tate, Minority Intern; Hannah Treger,
97 Minority Staff Assistant; and Tuley Wright, Minority Staff
98 Director, ENG.

99 *The Chair. The committee will come to order, and we
100 will now resume the committee's markup.

101 We are considering several bills today, and I just want
102 to -- the kind of logistics of this -- we are considering

103 several bills, many bills, because of the hard work of so
104 many people on this committee to get us to this point. And
105 since we did miss a day we had scheduled but we figured it
106 would be hard to hold everybody here on the 4th of July break
107 so we are having to make that up here, so that does mean we
108 have a long day ahead of us. And so my hope is this, is that
109 I know there is some -- there will be amendments, and maybe
110 some bills we would all agree on. But if there is -- most of
111 the bills are agreed upon.

112 And so, when we call the roll -- obviously if you are in
113 the lounge or rooms off to the side and you miss your roll
114 and you come back into the room at the end. But once we get
115 to the bills that are -- everybody has agreed on is -- we
116 call the roll -- and make decisions. If you need to be
117 somewhere and say, I may miss that vote, that is -- I just
118 want to make sure we are going to be quick to call the roll
119 because, otherwise, we will never get through all the bills.

120 But if there is bills that -- I know everybody -- or
121 amendments, we will make sure we are flexible on that. So
122 that is kind of my intent, to get through the order we have
123 today. But we have so many bills today because so many
124 people have done so much hard work and have worked together,
125 and that is very, very much appreciated.

126 So the chair calls up H.R. 9340 and asks the clerk to
127 report.

128 *The Clerk. H.R. 9340, a bill to amend the Public
129 Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.

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

133 So ordered.

134 [The bill follows:]

135

136 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

137

138 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
139 bill?

140 The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for five
141 minutes to speak on the bill.

142 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I also want to
143 thank Congresswoman Castor for co-leading the bill with me,
144 and today I speak in strong support of my bill, H.R. 9340,
145 the Ratepayer Protection Act, which does exactly what the
146 title suggests: protects everyday ratepayers from higher
147 electric bills due to unprecedented energy demand from data
148 centers.

149 This legislation codifies President Trump's Ratepayer
150 Protection Pledge which reinforces the public-private
151 commitment that data center developers in the U.S. pay for
152 the generation, transmission, and distribution that they
153 need. It is common sense, bipartisan, and it directly
154 responds to constituents' concerns about the cost of living
155 and potential financial burdens tied to rapid data center
156 development across the country.

157 Over the next decade demand for AI infrastructure will
158 continue to grow exponentially across the world. Large
159 amounts of computing power are required for daily operations
160 such as the everyday AI that you use on your cell phone.
161 Even more is needed for complex operations like research and
162 development for innovative technology and emerging industries

163 in places like aerospace or medical. These are industries
164 that employ thousands of Coloradans. We must ensure we are
165 building AI infrastructure responsibly, and we have policies
166 in place to reassure hard-working families that this new
167 development delivers benefits, not higher electric bills.

168 But at a time when radical climate mandates and blue
169 states like Colorado are reducing grid reliability and
170 passing down billions of dollars to ratepayers in favor of
171 portfolios that sometimes don't work, small businesses and
172 households need relief. We need more energy infrastructure
173 as soon as we possibly can so we can meet the demand. And
174 data centers are willing to cover the full cost of these
175 upgrades that they are triggering.

176 However, without a clear framework in place, states like
177 Colorado that lack a state standard for integrating large
178 data centers could pass on these additional costs to other
179 ratepayers, and monthly utility bills are going to spike.
180 And that is what the Ratepayer Protection Act addresses. It
181 specifically requires each state regulatory authority to
182 consider adopting a large load standard, one that applies to
183 data centers and hyperscalers with a demand of 100 megawatts
184 or more at a single facility, and it builds on three common
185 sense principles.

186 First, large data centers should cover the full
187 incremental cost of any generation, transmission, or

188 distribution upgrades needed to meet their high energy
189 demand. When a data center demand triggers the need for a
190 new high-voltage line or additional generation, they must
191 bear the costs, not small businesses or households in the
192 surrounding community.

193 Second, contracts should include meaningful financial
194 assurances upfront and long term to prevent overbuilding or
195 stranding assets that would otherwise leave everyday
196 consumers to absorb the cost. Communities should not be left
197 paying for infrastructure built around a single customer who
198 later scales back or relocates.

199 Third, states maintain authority to craft the specific
200 standards that suit their unique needs. This bill does not
201 impose a Federal mandate. Instead, it offers a thoughtful
202 Federal standard for states to consider as they evaluate how
203 best to integrate large loads. States understand their grids
204 and industries, and should engage with utilities, counties,
205 and local communities to choose the solution that works best
206 for them.

207 In my community and many others across the country,
208 people are anxious about the pace of data center development,
209 but they are terrified that Communist China will have control
210 over their information if we lose leadership in the AI space.
211 We are not opposed to innovation or economic opportunity; we
212 just want assurance that our monthly electric bills won't

213 skyrocket.

214 This bill advanced through the Energy Subcommittee on a
215 bipartisan basis because it is common sense. It keeps energy
216 costs low for Americans, it helps us build the energy
217 backbone required to compete and win in the AI era. A vote
218 for this bill is a vote for residential ratepayers. I urge
219 my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the
220 Ratepayer Protection Act.

221 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

222 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
223 from Florida --

224 *Ms. Schrier. This is the ANS?

225 *The Chair. No, this isn't the ANS, this is the bill.
226 He hasn't called the ANS. Do you want to speak on the ANS or
227 the bill?

228 Okay, the gentlelady from Washington is recognized for
229 five minutes to speak on the bill.

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

231 Families in my district are struggling to get by, and my
232 constituents are bearing high costs on groceries and gas.
233 And for the last couple of years our utility bills have
234 skyrocketed. For many of my constituents, utility bills
235 jumped by almost 50 percent over the last 2 years. That jump
236 is caused by a few different factors, including the demand
237 from data centers moving in to buy our hydropower, which is

238 affordable. And as these hyperscalers continue to demand
239 more from our grid, we must implement guardrails that protect
240 our communities.

241 Data center companies, not ratepayers, should be
242 expected to pay for grid upgrades and energy. We should be
243 developing best practices now and not later for collecting
244 data to accurately forecast demand to prevent blackouts. And
245 as these companies continue to innovate, we need to
246 understand better how this new technology can make energy
247 more affordable to ensure that they do their part to improve
248 our lives. These bills are a good first step to do that, and
249 we should continue to use the levers of Congress to protect
250 our constituents. They benefit -- meaning big tech --
251 benefits from our data, from our power grid, and they
252 generate a whole lot of profit. And Congress must ensure
253 that our communities are benefiting from these promises of
254 innovation and not just getting stuck with the bill.

255 Thank you, and I yield back.

256 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
257 on the Republican side to speak on the bill?

258 Seeing none, the gentlelady from Massachusetts is
259 recognized for five minutes to speak on the bill.

260 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too support
261 the Ratepayer Protection Act and look forward to advancing
262 the bipartisan legislation to the House floor today.

263 Right now families across our country are afraid to open
264 up their electric bills. The number keeps climbing, and
265 their paycheck isn't keeping pace. They are doing the math
266 at the kitchen table, wondering what they might have to cut
267 next just to keep the lights on. That fear is real, and too
268 many families have stopped believing that anyone in
269 Washington is listening. They watch prices rise at the pump
270 and at the grocery store. They sit through weeks of brutal
271 heat and run the air conditioning that they can barely
272 afford. And now they read that a data center is coming to
273 their community, and they are told not to worry about what
274 that means for their bills.

275 Well, to be clear, data centers aren't going away. So
276 it is our job to make sure that when data centers are built
277 they are built on terms that work for the families who live
278 nearby. That is what this legislation gets right. It says
279 something simple: If you build the data center, you pay for
280 the data center, the construction costs, the utility costs.
281 Those fall on the company, not the family down the street.
282 This bill gives states a strong standard to make sure large
283 load developers foot the bill themselves. That is a real
284 move toward keeping these costs off our constituents' bills.

285 I am also glad H.R. 6529, the Protecting Families from
286 AI Data Energy Costs Act, is part of today's markup. It is
287 another effort to make sure surging demand from these massive

288 projects doesn't land on the backs of residential ratepayers.

289 Both of these bills are good first steps, Mr. Chairman,
290 but we should also be honest about what they don't do. They
291 don't fully address the water that these facilities draw from
292 our communities; they don't answer the concern back home that
293 when the grid is stretched families worry that they will be
294 deprioritized. People in the district that I represent are
295 raising these questions, and they deserve answers. That is
296 exactly why, when Congressman Obernolte and I drafted the
297 Great American AI Act, we included provisions to make data
298 centers more efficient and lessen their environmental
299 footprint because the smarter that we build these facilities,
300 the less strain they put on the grid, on our water, and on
301 the families who live nearby.

302 So these bills can't be where our work ends. AI is
303 spreading through every corner of our economy, and hard-
304 working Americans cannot be an afterthought while that
305 happens. I commend the sponsors of this legislation and the
306 committee staff for their work. It really matters, and I
307 look forward to continuing this track record of bipartisan
308 work on AI in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you.

309 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
310 there anyone on the Republican side?

311 The gentlelady from Tennessee is recognized for five
312 minutes to speak on the bill.

313 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Thank you, Mr. --

314 *The Chair. We are not speaking on the ANS, we are
315 speaking on the bill.

316 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Yes.

317 *The Chair. All right, thank you.

318 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Speaking on the bill, not the ANS.
319 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike the last word.

320 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized to speak on
321 the bill.

322 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Americans should not be forced to
323 unfairly shoulder the cost of new generation if the demand is
324 driven by data centers. That is why I would like to thank
325 Rep. Evans for his bill, the Ratepayer Protection Act. This
326 legislation makes clear that states should consider how large
327 electricity demands from data centers affect residential
328 customers and existing businesses. And under this
329 legislation states must consider how a rate structure can be
330 appropriately differentiated among customer classes, ensuring
331 the costs associated with new growth are borne by those
332 driving that demand.

333 Combined with President Trump's Ratepayer Protection
334 Pledge and FERC's recent show cause orders, the Ratepayer
335 Protection Act demonstrates our shared commitment to support
336 transparency in rates and prevent a fair cost shifting. So I
337 applaud these efforts, and I urge my colleagues to vote in

338 favor of this legislation.

339 And with that I yield back.

340 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back? The gentlelady
341 yields back. The gentlelady from Michigan is recognized for
342 five minutes to speak on the bill.

343 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

344 I would like to thank first Congressman Evans and
345 Congresswoman Castor for their leadership on this bill. And
346 I thank both of you, Mr. Chair and Ranking Member Pallone,
347 for bringing this legislation before the committee today.

348 This issue is an issue I hear about every day when I am
349 home. Communities are not happy with what is happening.
350 They don't like it when they read a headline that says the
351 utility company will not give them the opportunity for input.
352 What is going to happen to them? And I want to say
353 communities deserve to know what is happening in their
354 backyard, and deserve a real voice in the process. Across my
355 district I hear from families, local officials, community
356 leaders who are worried about rising energy costs, increased
357 strain on the grid, water usage, and the broader impacts
358 these facilities may have on local infrastructure and
359 municipal resources.

360 Residential energy prices have increased at twice the
361 rate of inflation since the pandemic, and energy usage at
362 data centers is expected to more than double by 2030. People

363 across the country are asking a simple question: Are they
364 going to be left footing the bill for these enormous energy
365 demands created by some of the wealthiest corporations in the
366 world?

367 Our communities deserve a full, complete, and accurate
368 understanding of these projects, including clear transparency
369 about impacts on local energy demand, water usage, noise
370 pollution, public safety, emergency response capacity, and
371 municipal resources. These big tech companies have invested
372 billions of dollars in data centers, but too often
373 communities are left wondering whether they will be footing
374 the bill for big tech's increased energy usage and costly
375 grid upgrades made necessary by these facilities. This is
376 why we need responsible guardrails, transparency, and
377 accountability to ensure these projects benefit our workers,
378 our neighbors, the users of both electricity, water, and
379 local communities alike.

380 The Ratepayer Protection Act is a strong first step
381 towards ensuring that local communities are not forced to
382 subsidize these energy demands through higher utility bills
383 while big tech companies reap the profits. I am going to be
384 supporting this bill, but I also want to make it clear there
385 is more work to do to ensure communities receive the
386 transparency, the accountability, and the engagement they
387 deserve for those seeking to operate in their backyard. I

388 urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9340.

389 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I yield back.

390 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back, and I think I -
391 - I know I can speak for the entire committee. There have
392 been a lot of thoughts and prayers for you and your family
393 this week. God bless.

394 Are there any Republicans waiting to speak on the bill?

395 Seeing none, the gentleman from Florida is recognized.
396 The gentleman from Florida is recognized for five minutes to
397 speak on the bill.

398 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman.

399 We must focus on empowering communities when we are
400 talking about data centers. We are seeing data centers
401 cropping up all across the country, including in Florida.
402 They are needed for the cloud, for data storage, for AI, for
403 our economic future. But the electricity and water demands
404 are great. So is the noise, the emergency response, and so
405 many other demands on communities. So we need protections
406 for our constituents. We need rules of the road.

407 First, local constituents, cities, and county
408 commissioners must have the ultimate say whether a data
409 center is located in their community. It is absolutely
410 essential that our locals get to decide siting.

411 And second is what this bill addresses: long-term power
412 and water agreements, infrastructure all designed to help

413 protect the ratepayers, especially as energy prices continue
414 to go up. The Ratepayer Protection Act is a major step in
415 the right direction. State utilities can charge special
416 rates to fully recover costs. All new contracts of 100
417 megawatts or more would be included in this bill, and even
418 some potential upfront financial assurances.

419 But we have more work to do. The new infrastructure law
420 that is being debated in Congress does not include water or
421 electric infrastructure yet. Now, you may recall about five-
422 plus years ago, when we passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure
423 Law, it did include water improvements, it did include
424 electric improvements. We need to dig deep and make sure
425 that, when we ultimately pass an infrastructure law, it
426 includes roads, ports, airports, water, and electric, and be
427 ready for the new needs of the nation. The future of our
428 economy is at stake and is -- and our constituents are
429 counting on us.

430 And I yield back.

431 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there anyone
432 on the Republican side?

433 Seeing none, the gentlelady from Texas is recognized for
434 five minutes to speak on the bill.

435 *Mrs. Fletcher. Well, thank you, Chairman Guthrie, and
436 I want to thank Ranking Member Castor and Congressman Evans
437 for their leadership on the Ratepayer Protection Act. I am

438 proud to support this legislation that protects the existing
439 ratepayers. That is, the people in our communities that are
440 already paying the bills and -- to do the work to protect
441 them from -- and making sure that, you know, large new loads
442 bear the costs that they impose on the system that we use to
443 get our electricity.

444 In Texas we have seen similar actions from state
445 regulators, and I am really glad that we are talking about
446 these principles and ideas at the Federal level. In Texas we
447 have seen dramatic data center development and planned
448 development. The Texas Tribune recently reported that there
449 are 582 operating and planned data centers across Texas,
450 potentially adding more than 400,000 megawatts of demand to
451 the grid. And so this just really rapid and totally
452 unprecedented growth in power demand has left many of the
453 people that I represent concerned about access to reliable
454 and affordable energy, and I know that is true for people
455 across the country.

456 But certainly after our experience with Winter Storm
457 Uri, reliability is top of mind for people across the State
458 of Texas, and affordability is also top of mind for everyone
459 everywhere. I think that this bill is really an important
460 first step to address these concerns, but there are
461 additional opportunities for the committee to strengthen the
462 grid while keeping costs down.

463 And so I have heard from my constituents a lot of the
464 innovative ideas and things that people are talking about in
465 Texas. There are a broad range of stakeholders that have
466 practical, bipartisan ideas particularly around demand
467 response and innovative load management that I think deserve
468 further exploration from our committee as we continue to
469 address rising energy demand from every possible angle. So I
470 hope we will continue exploring policies on this committee
471 and in this Congress that encourage demand flexibility and
472 other innovative solutions that can protect ratepayers from
473 high costs.

474 Thank you. With that I yield back.

475 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
476 there anyone on the Republican side?

477 The gentlelady from California is recognized for five
478 minutes to speak on the bill.

479 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the
480 Ratepayer Protection Act because it recognizes an important
481 principle, and that is that families and small businesses
482 should not be forced to subsidize the energy demands of AI
483 data centers.

484 Now, requiring states to consider whether data center
485 developers should bear the costs for the electric grid is a
486 meaningful first step toward protecting ratepayers, but
487 Congress must build on this work. This is not going to be

488 enough. We need to do more to ensure that families are
489 protected from higher electricity costs while also addressing
490 the health and the environmental impacts that the rapid
491 growth of AI data centers can cause in communities.

492 We have seen what has happened in other communities like
493 Memphis and in north Mississippi, where a company brought in
494 methane gas turbines to power its AI data centers. They
495 started running these turbines without any consideration
496 about protecting communities from dangerous air pollution.
497 And Easter Knox, a 76-year-old resident of Boxtown says those
498 consequences are deeply personal. She says that she stopped
499 having to open her windows because the air outside smells
500 like rotten cabbage. This should not happen in our
501 residential neighborhoods if people can't even open up their
502 windows anymore.

503 Another resident, a young Black registered nurse who
504 lives less than a mile from the gas turbines, hears them day
505 and night. She has to wear earplugs to sleep. Imagine that:
506 you have to wear earplugs in your own home to sleep because
507 of the noise from the turbines. And she worries that simply
508 spending time outside means breathing pollution that could
509 one day leave her with asthma or worse.

510 This is an environmental justice issue and a public
511 health crisis that no one should have to face. America can
512 lead in AI and innovation without asking communities to pay

513 the price on their utility bills or with their health. So as
514 we continue this work, Congress must ensure that data center
515 developers bear not just the cost of the electricity they
516 use, but the responsibility to build without sacrificing the
517 health of our communities.

518 I yield back.

519 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is anyone
520 seeking recognition on the Republican side?

521 Seeing none, the gentleman from Louisiana is recognized
522 for five minutes.

523 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

524 *The Chair. To speak on the bill.

525 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I am proud to support the
526 Ratepayer Protection Act, a bill to help protect American
527 families from paying the cost of energy and grid upgrades
528 required for new data centers.

529 We are witnessing something transformative in my home
530 state of Louisiana, where Meta recently announced that its
531 planned Hyperion data center in Richland Parish has grown
532 from a \$10 billion project to a supercluster now topping \$50
533 billion. Once complete, it will be one of the largest data
534 center projects in the world, with capacity to draw five
535 gigawatts of power at full operation, roughly the equivalent
536 of powering four million homes. That kind of investment can
537 deliver real, tangible benefits, such as thousands of

538 construction and operation jobs and new tax revenue windfalls
539 to fund 50,000 bonuses for Richland Parish teachers and
540 overdue infrastructure for improvements. But these projects
541 only work for communities if long term they are built on a
542 fair foundation.

543 When a single customer needs as much power as a major
544 city, someone has to pay for the transmission lines,
545 substations, and generation capacity to serve them. Those
546 shouldn't fall on retired residents on a fixed income or
547 small businesses in their town. That is exactly why the
548 Ratepayer Protection Act addresses these issues so finely.
549 It has established -- establishes a Federal standard for
550 utility regulators to apply when these hyper-scale projects
551 come before them for approval, helping ensure that owners of
552 these large-scale projects pay the full cost of the grid
553 upgrades of their -- that their operations require, not
554 passed on to families and small businesses.

555 And importantly, this isn't Washington dictating
556 outcomes to Louisiana. This bill doesn't force state
557 regulators to adopt any specific rate structure; it sets a
558 Federal standard for state utility commissions to consider.
559 This -- then use their own judgment to decide whether and how
560 to apply it. As a former utility regulator, I can certainly
561 appreciate the significance of this tool. Local officials
562 know the needs of their area better than anyone else. This

563 bill gives them a strong framework and a starting point from
564 which to operate while preserving the flexibility to tailor
565 solutions that fit each community's unique mix of growth,
566 infrastructure, and ratepayers.

567 Many Americans are understandably concerned about the
568 growth of data centers, in part because of how these projects
569 affect their monthly utility bills. Passing this measure is
570 small -- is a small but a proactive step for Congress to
571 ensure that companies profiting from these projects not only
572 enjoy the largesse, but that everyday ratepayers do not foot
573 the bill.

574 Mr. Chairman, I yield.

575 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
576 there anyone on the Republican side?

577 Seeing none, the gentlelady from -- well, the Republican
578 side, we do have one.

579 [Laughter.]

580 *The Chair. The gentlelady from North Dakota -- I was
581 looking to my right, sorry -- the gentlelady from North
582 Dakota, the gentlelady from North Dakota is recognized for
583 five minutes for the -- to speak on the bill.

584 *Mrs. Fedorchak. It is okay, Mr. Chairman. I am
585 sitting on the other side. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

586 First I want to thank my friends, Gabe Evans and Kathy
587 Castor, for their bipartisan work on the bill, the Ratepayer

588 Protection Act.

589 This legislation is an important step towards protecting
590 American families from increased electricity costs attributed
591 to growth in data centers other -- and other hyperscalers.
592 At its core, this issue comes down to a very simple
593 principle: Those who cause costs should pay for those costs
594 on our transmission grid and our energy systems. For decades
595 regulators, utilities, and consumer advocates have agreed on
596 this principle. If a customer or class of customers creates
597 a need for a new infrastructure, the costs associated with
598 serving that demand should be borne by those customers and
599 those who benefit from it, not shifted on to everybody else.

600 That principle is especially important today as we see
601 unprecedented growth in large loads across our country. We
602 want manufacturing, innovation, artificial intelligence, and
603 economic growth, but we must pursue that growth in a way that
604 protects families and small businesses from subsidizing
605 infrastructure that is primarily needed to serve others.

606 Thankfully, the states are on the front of this
607 conversation: 36 states, including D.C., have already
608 finished or are in the process of filing methods to ensure
609 that these large-load customers pay their fair share when
610 joining our electric grid. These actions are protecting
611 American families and the economic prosperity of the nation
612 we all call home because, if done correctly, new large loads

613 can provide real benefits to our society.

614 If done correctly, large loads can lower costs for our
615 families and make vital new investments in our grid, our
616 roads, and our schools. New load can strengthen the system,
617 improve asset utilization, and help lower costs for existing
618 customers rather than increasing them. In my home state of
619 North Dakota we have worked carefully to structure rates for
620 customers and large-load customers so that they cover the
621 costs -- the large loads cover the costs that they cause.
622 Through this, we have -- in one project alone we have saved
623 customers \$30 million. But that only works when we maintain
624 the principle that cost causers pay.

625 Families should not be asked to subsidize infrastructure
626 built to serve some of the largest and most sophisticated
627 companies in the world. Likewise, businesses making major
628 investments deserve transparency and certainty about the
629 costs that they will bear. Getting cost allocation right
630 protects hard-working Americans, supports economic
631 development, and helps build the infrastructure needed to
632 meet the growing demand. What we are considering today is an
633 important step.

634 We can and should follow this with additional work to
635 guide and direct cost allocation for transmission lines to
636 protect ratepayers and promote affordability. I look forward
637 to working with my colleagues and the committee staff in that

638 end, and I appreciate the bipartisan work that has gotten
639 this bill forward today.

640 Mr. Chairman, thank you and I yield back.

641 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.

642 The gentlelady from Virginia is recognized for five minutes
643 to speak on the bill.

644 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I am proud
645 to support the Ratepayer Protection Act and thank
646 Representatives Evans and Castor for their leadership on this
647 important issue.

648 Over the past year energy prices have skyrocketed,
649 especially in the wake of the President's war of choice in
650 Iran. And with demand for energy driven by data centers,
651 electrification, and advanced manufacturing, we must
652 fundamentally change how we think about the grid and its
653 reliability, and place renewed urgency on our efforts to
654 rapidly bring more energy online while protecting consumers
655 from the impacts of a rapid build-out of data center
656 infrastructure.

657 Some projections show that data center energy
658 consumption could double or triple by 2028, accounting for up
659 to 12 percent of U.S. electricity use. The current
660 regulatory treatment of these costs is unsustainable.

661 Virginia is the data center capital of the globe, with
662 over 600 operational and over 400 more planned. After over

663 20 years of data center growth, we are grappling with the
664 impact of that status on the grid and on the electric bills
665 of consumers and small businesses. And what Virginia's
666 experience makes clear is that, as we build the
667 infrastructure necessary to support unprecedented electricity
668 demand, we must also ensure that the cost of serving that new
669 demand are borne by those who create it, not consumers and
670 small businesses already struggling to pay for their electric
671 bills.

672 Virginia's utility regulators are actively considering
673 reforms to ensure that the cost of transmission
674 infrastructure, built primarily to serve large-load customers
675 like data centers, are appropriately assigned to those
676 customers, rather than shifted onto residential ratepayers
677 and small businesses. Our state Corporation Commission has
678 already established a separate rate class for Dominion Energy
679 for hyperscale data centers specifically to reduce cost
680 shifting and protect consumers. And that is why I am glad to
681 support this concrete first step in the right direction to
682 ensure that consumers don't subsidize the infrastructure
683 necessary to meet explosive commercial load growth, but
684 rather shift the cost burden to the companies that benefit
685 the most.

686 At the same time, as I have said time and time again, we
687 must also bring new renewable energy sources and battery

688 storage online in a much more significant way than we have
689 this past year. Solar and wind provide a cheap, reliable,
690 and readily available source of energy to meet these growing
691 needs and keep energy prices in check. So while I urge my
692 colleagues to support the Ratepayer Protection Act, this
693 cannot be the final step.

694 I urge the committee to work in a bipartisan fashion to
695 further protect Americans from the increasing impacts of data
696 centers and, with that, I yield back.

697 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
698 further discussion on the bill?

699 The gentleman from California is recognized for five
700 minutes to speak on the bill.

701 *Mr. Obernolte. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am
702 delighted that we are here today debating the Ratepayer
703 Protection Act to --

704 *The Chair. Will the gentleman suspend?

705 We are going to try to fix the mike real quick. I am
706 sorry, I meant to -- I was supposed to wait for them to do --
707 to reset.

708 Okay, the gentleman is recognized.

709 *Mr. Obernolte. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am
710 delighted that we are here today debating the Ratepayer
711 Protection Act which will give Americans some assurances that
712 when an AI data center is constructed it will not drive up

713 their residential electric rates. And there are a couple of
714 important reasons why this is so critical.

715 We all know that building the data centers that provide
716 the compute that make AI run is going to be critical to
717 having the United States maintain its leadership in the
718 development and the deployment of frontier AI, which will
719 probably be the most important tool for driving increased
720 worker productivity in our country and throughout the world
721 that mankind has ever invented. But it is also important
722 because we have a public perception problem, and our
723 geopolitical adversaries such as China and Russia are
724 investing vast sums of money in trying to influence public
725 opinion against data centers.

726 And if anyone here on the panel has doubts about that, I
727 urge you to go to a SCIF, get a classified briefing on this.
728 It is very eye-opening. They are doing this through state
729 media messaging, overtly and also covertly through covert
730 social media operations and covert advocacy networks. What
731 they want is for us to stop building data centers because
732 they think that that is the best way that they can catch up
733 and surpass us in AI development and deployment. So I think
734 it is important to be clear-eyed about this.

735 It is also important that we explain the truth to our
736 constituents, and the truth is, if you are a hyperscaler
737 right now looking to invest 1 to \$10 billion in a new data

738 center, the number-one thing you are worried about is where
739 your power is coming from. And so what you want to do is you
740 want on-site generation that is behind the meter that you
741 control. And if you can't get that, you want a local
742 provider to build new generation and dedicate it to you. And
743 either one of those things, you want to pay for that to make
744 sure that you have access to 100 percent reliable baseload
745 energy.

746 In either of those scenarios, if you are bringing
747 generation with you, you are going to size that generation to
748 100 percent of the maximum that you will ever use. And
749 because generation is most efficient when it runs at 100
750 percent maximum load, you are actually going to over-generate
751 when you turn your data center on, and you are going to sell
752 the excess energy back onto the grid. And ironically, folks,
753 that drives down residential electric rates, not up. So that
754 is the reality.

755 And so I am very glad that we are here debating a bill
756 that is going to make it clear to the American public that
757 their rates are not going to go up as a result of data
758 centers, but we need to do more to try and evangelize this,
759 because we have got states like New York who this week
760 imposed a one-year ban, a moratorium on the construction of
761 new data centers in the state.

762 And honestly, I was going to offer an amendment to the

763 bill kind of tongue in cheek today. I am not going to do it
764 because, you know, it is -- we are doing some serious
765 legislating and this was not a lawmaking effort. I was going
766 to offer an amendment that said if you are a state and you
767 are going to impose a moratorium on data center construction,
768 that is fine, you have the right to do that, but guess what?
769 No compute for you, right? Which is fair, because why is it
770 -- why should a state say we want access to all the compute
771 the data centers provide and all the productivity that is
772 going to add to our workforce and the ability to do cloud
773 storage, but we are not going to allow that to be built on
774 state territory. It is just nonsensical.

775 So I am delighted that we are going to pass this today
776 with broad bipartisan support, but I think it is important
777 also that we communicate clearly with the American public
778 what the situation is with data centers and water usage and
779 power usage, and, most importantly, the fact that our
780 geopolitical competitors are actively investing in trying to
781 poison American public opinion against these data centers.

782 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

783 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
784 there any further discussion on the bill?

785 The gentlelady from New York is recognized for five
786 minutes to speak on the bill.

787 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. You know, just as a

788 alternative point of consideration here in terms of New York
789 State's recent moratorium, you know, the kind of thought
790 that, well, you know, if you don't want to build in your
791 backyard then maybe you shouldn't have access to compute, we
792 could say the same thing about Silicon Valley. We could say
793 the same thing about Silicon Valley billionaires that are
794 constructing and pushing and imposing these data centers on
795 communities that are overwhelmingly rural, disenfranchized,
796 poor, and whose own elected officials are not being
797 transparent about how the land use is happening in their own
798 backyard.

799 Because I would reckon -- you look around. Ask Peter
800 Thiel, ask Elon Musk, ask Mark Zuckerberg if they want one of
801 these data centers in their own backyard. Ask any one of us
802 here on this committee. If anyone wants to live right next
803 to one of these data centers here on this committee, please
804 raise your hand because I have been going to -- I have
805 visited Georgia. I was just in Memphis on Friday. There was
806 an xAI graywater treatment plant on one street corner across
807 the street from methane turbines, another -- all within one
808 block -- methane turbines, coal ash, wastewater facilities.
809 And everyone in that area is getting poisoned.

810 I think that so many of us -- at the end of the day,
811 this conversation is not just about technology; it is about
812 people's ability to live without getting cancer, people's

813 ability to have a home that doesn't get cracked up in their
814 foundations because this construction is going on that their
815 city council is not informing them of, that their county
816 commissioners are not being transparent about, and that
817 people aren't voting on. And the idea that that is all just
818 kind of a foreign operation, I think that if you actually
819 talk to these people in these communities they would
820 disagree.

821 Just this -- and on top of that, in New York it is not
822 just the electricity bills, it is the water. We have one of
823 the precious -- most precious and sacred water supplies in
824 the United States. Once you compromise that, it is done.
825 Ask people in Flint. Ask people across the country. When
826 their critical water supplies are compromised, it takes
827 years, if not decades, to clean up again.

828 So I think what people are asking for in their basic
829 protections is not too much to ask. They want to make sure
830 that their water isn't going to be poisoned, which -- these
831 data centers come in, they say it is not going to be a
832 problem, and then you all saw. We brought the well water
833 right here. So we need to have protections in place for
834 people.

835 And when we talk about increased worker productivity,
836 that is because millions of people stand to lose their jobs.
837 And so you have people where -- we are seeing some of the

838 output of AI, increased productivity per role, and we are
839 seeing lots of companies talk about how many people you can
840 lay off with this technology. What is the plan? And I think
841 it is not unreasonable for the working-class people that we
842 are elected to respond to, to ask questions and to deserve
843 and feel entitled to a response from their elected officials.
844 That is all.

845 And with that I yield back.

846 *Mr. Pallone. Would I -- would the gentlewoman yield to
847 me?

848 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Yes.

849 *Mr. Pallone. Let me associate myself with the remarks
850 you made. And I have to say, when I heard the gentleman from
851 the other side of the aisle talk about, you know, China,
852 Beijing, foreign conspiracies -- I don't know exactly what he
853 said -- I assure you that the towns in my district -- one of
854 them decided to get rid -- to not approve a data center.
855 Another one decided to ban data centers. Several have
856 decided to have moratoriums on data centers. They are not
857 being influenced by China and Russia; they are looking at
858 exactly what is happening in their towns, as the gentlewoman
859 from New York said, and they are making these rational
860 decisions, adopting resolutions because they are concerned
861 about the local impact and they are also concerned about the
862 impact on ratepayers and the rates going up.

863 So I am not saying that the gentleman is suggesting --
864 on the other side is suggesting that this is all about, you
865 know, Beijing or whatever. But the bottom line is I want
866 everyone to understand that, when we talk about the need for
867 safeguards and the types of things that my colleague from
868 Florida is putting forth in this legislation, this is coming
869 from the people themselves. This is their concerns over
870 rates, over the environment. This is not Beijing.

871 I yield back to the gentlewoman.

872 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
873 from Alabama is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
874 bill.

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

876 I just want to point out that there are options for
877 building data centers that don't involve building them in
878 neighborhoods or close to neighborhoods. There are 17 coal-
879 fired power plants that have been shut down in New York
880 State. Some of them have been repurposed, but there are
881 still a number of sites that would be available for
882 construction of a data center.

883 In regard to power for those facilities, many of my
884 Democratic colleagues and I are working on small modular
885 nuclear as an option for that so that you can build these
886 facilities behind the meter so that they don't impact the
887 grid.

888 But the thing that I think is most promising about
889 putting these facilities on what was once a coal-fired power
890 plant is the transmission lines remain intact, and many of
891 those are usable. You could not only put a data center on a
892 on a coal-fired -- formerly coal-fired power plant site and
893 power it without connecting to the grid, you could add
894 additional power generation there to increase the baseload
895 power available for communities around which would lower
896 their utility costs.

897 So I think I -- you know, I am in agreement that we
898 don't want to build them next to a subdivision or in a
899 heavily populated area. We don't have to. We have got many
900 options. And it is not just the coal-fired power plant
901 sites; there are other brownfield sites that many states are
902 working very hard to repurpose.

903 And I think we need to come to an agreement in regard to
904 the importance of data centers in the context of the arms
905 race that we are in with China for dominance in artificial
906 intelligence. And I have said this time and time and time
907 again in this committee, that this arms race, whoever wins
908 it, will not be a superpower; they will be the superpower.

909 We are forgetting so many other parts of the value
910 proposition for data centers and what -- the potential for AI
911 in medicine. I made this point in a meeting a couple of days
912 ago and again last night, that we are dealing with diseases

913 like dementia and Parkinson's and other things where an AI-
914 generated medical research effort could do millions of
915 iterations of complex proteins, millions of iterations of
916 molecular DNA, millions of iterations of the make-up of
917 pharmaceuticals that could be done in a matter of minutes so
918 that we could go from treatment to possibly cure.

919 I just think that we lose -- because of the partisanship
920 sometimes and the misinformation, we lose -- we are
921 forgetting the value proposition that is presented by
922 artificial intelligence and the data centers. And we need to
923 be working together to find a way to get these facilities
924 built so that we do not lose the arms race to China.

925 I yield back.

926 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
927 further discussion?

928 The gentlelady from Colorado is recognized for five
929 minutes to --

930 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you.

931 *The Chair. -- speak on the bill.

932 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. There
933 -- I know this bill is trying to begin addressing the issue
934 of data centers, but there are some big gaps in the bill.

935 And the gentlelady from New York talked a little bit
936 about some of the water issues around data centers, and I
937 appreciate that from the standpoint of a New Yorker. I am

938 from Colorado, the West. And in the West we have a chronic
939 shortage of water, but we are also in the middle of a
940 historic drought right now. The bill doesn't even address
941 water usage and water quality, which is going to be a unique
942 concern for Colorado but for the entire West as the drought
943 worsens due to climate change.

944 And also, as the gentlelady mentioned, there are costs
945 associated with water -- wastewater treatment because we need
946 to make sure that the water quality for those communities
947 around data centers continues to have integrity. Otherwise,
948 it will be passed along to the consumers. Let me give just
949 an example.

950 Data centers around Phoenix, Arizona use about 385
951 million gallons of water per year for cooling, and that
952 doesn't even count the water that they are using to generate
953 the electricity they need to operate. The figure will grow
954 more as data centers are built. The facility's direct water
955 consumption may skyrocket to 3.7 billion gallons annually.
956 Just to put it into perspective, that would be enough to
957 supply 34,000 homes.

958 Now, in the cooling process a data center can use up to
959 5 million gallons of water every day, as much as 16,000-plus
960 average U.S. households, according to EPA estimates.
961 Generating the electricity to keep data centers powered up
962 requires additional millions of gallons of water. About two-

963 thirds of the data centers built since 2022 are already
964 expressing water stress, according to Bloomberg News. Data
965 center cooling systems often use chemical additives to
966 prevent corrosion scaling and the growth of algae and
967 bacteria, and also they might have refrigerants and PFAS in
968 them.

969 And finally, a lot of the data centers are just simply
970 hooked up to the local water mains, meaning that the data
971 center's cooling water comes from potable sources like
972 municipal water or groundwater. Eighty to ninety percent of
973 this water is consumed from watersheds like lakes, rivers, or
974 aquifers.

975 There are a number of solutions for addressing water
976 issues like requiring better water use disclosure, reviewing
977 projects by watershed. For example, a gallon of water in
978 Arizona or Colorado is not the same as a gallon of water in
979 Virginia, Georgia, or Pennsylvania. And reviewing water and
980 energy issues together, not as separate issues. And so that
981 is why I say that, as we are looking at how we are going to
982 manage what -- data centers in the vast stretches of the
983 western United States, water is going to be the key component
984 and we need to think about that beforehand, not once those
985 thousands and thousands of homes can't get built or can't get
986 water because of data centers.

987 I yield back.

988 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
989 there any further discussion on the bill?

990 The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for
991 five --

992 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield to the
993 gentleman from Alabama, Mr. Palmer.

994 *Mr. Palmer. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania
995 for yielding.

996 And again, what was just described has been used in the
997 past, but data centers are moving to different technologies
998 for cooling. One of them is a glycol-based heat transfer
999 system that doesn't impact your water system. But what a lot
1000 of them are using now is a closed-loop cooling system that is
1001 recirculating water. It is similar to the radiator in an
1002 automobile, which is a closed-loop system. So you are not
1003 using millions of gallons of water from the local community
1004 for cooling.

1005 I just thought that it might be of interest to point out
1006 those technical aspects, and I yield back to the gentleman.

1007 *Mr. Joyce. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1008 *The Chair. The gentleman from Pennsylvania yields
1009 back. Is there any further discussion?

1010 Seeing no further discussion, are there any amendments?

1011 The gentleman from Colorado is recognized -- for what
1012 purpose does the gentleman from Colorado seek recognition?

1013 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
1014 amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk,
1015 ANS_TARIFF_01_XML.

1016 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

1017 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1018 H.R. 9340 offered by Mr. Evans of Colorado --

1019 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
1020 amendment is dispensed with.

1021 [The amendment of Mr. Evans follows:]

1022

1023 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1024

1025 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Colorado is
1026 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

1027 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a simple
1028 amendment with bipartisan support to ensure that H.R. 9340,
1029 the Ratepayer Protection Act, addresses the understandable
1030 concern Americans have about their electric bills as
1031 utilities race to meet the unprecedented growth in energy
1032 demand.

1033 This amendment just refines the definition of a large
1034 load customer in the proposed Federal standard to narrowly
1035 tailor this bill to address new data centers and hyperscalers
1036 over 100 megawatts of peak demand. It is a direct reflection
1037 of the intent of the bill to respond to community members'
1038 concerns about the costs of data center development and
1039 action policies that address those large loads.

1040 Keeping costs low for ratepayers is essential, and this
1041 amendment ensures just that through refining the language. I
1042 urge bipartisan support of the amendment.

1043 And I yield back.

1044 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
1045 further -- the gentlelady from Florida is recognized to speak
1046 on the amendment.

1047 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
1048 strike the last word in favor --

1049 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

1050 *Ms. Castor. Great, thank you.

1051 Colleagues, I appreciate all of the bipartisan support
1052 for the Ratepayer Protection Act and a lot of the thoughtful
1053 comments during the discussion on the bill today because
1054 electric bills for hard-working Americans are sky high. Just
1055 over the past year and a half they are up, on average, over
1056 18 percent. Folks back home in Florida are really grappling
1057 with skyrocketing electric bills, and now we have these huge
1058 hyperscale data centers that could send bills soaring even
1059 higher unless we act, and that is why I am leading the
1060 Ratepayer Protection Act with my colleague, Representative
1061 Evans of Colorado. And the Act says that if a company wants
1062 to build a data center, the data center should pay for the
1063 power and upgrades that it needs, not families, not farmers,
1064 not small businesses, not communities back home.

1065 When a large data center comes online, it can trigger
1066 massive upgrades: new power plants, transmission lines,
1067 local transformers. And those costs can be passed on to all
1068 ratepayers, and that is not fair. Our neighbors should not
1069 be stuck paying for the energy infrastructure for the
1070 wealthiest companies in the world. The Ratepayer Protection
1071 Act says that the data center pays for its own upgrades, not
1072 the rest of us.

1073 This is about fairness. It is about making sure that
1074 when a data center corporation demands more electricity, they

1075 don't pass the cost on to people who already struggle with
1076 higher bills. It is about protecting our neighbors from
1077 hidden rate hikes and ensuring that the benefits of AI and
1078 innovation are shared by all, not just the corporations and
1079 the big tech companies.

1080 Yes, we are racing to lead the world in AI, but that
1081 race shouldn't come on the backs of families and small
1082 businesses. Instead, AI -- the benefits of AI and more
1083 affordable energy should reach everyone. That is what the
1084 Ratepayer Protection Act does. It makes sure that our grid
1085 serves everyone and that the companies who benefit pay their
1086 fair share.

1087 Now, many states are already acting here. This bill --
1088 or let me highlight a few of them. Many -- Virginia has
1089 established a tariff requiring data centers to cover 85
1090 percent of new transmission and distribution capacity costs.
1091 Minnesota requires data centers to pay into an energy
1092 conservation and weatherization fund to benefit working-class
1093 ratepayers. Kansas incentivizes data centers to participate
1094 in demand response to reduce peak demand. And back home in
1095 Florida, at least 20 counties and municipalities have passed
1096 or discussed a moratorium. But Florida state law now
1097 regulates data center energy and water use, and these actions
1098 are still allowed and they are even encouraged under this
1099 bill.

1100 I heard Representative McClellan from Virginia loud and
1101 clear, too. A lot of these data centers can be powered by
1102 cleaner, cheaper energy. There are -- there is a massive
1103 amount of clean, affordable energy waiting to come onto the
1104 grid. And Congresswoman Fedorchak highlighted the problem
1105 with interconnection. We should be working together now to
1106 unleash a lot of these clean energy resources that would help
1107 lower -- put pressure on lowering electric bills, and I hope
1108 that this bipartisan bill can help us chart a course there,
1109 too. Otherwise, we are going to continue to have this
1110 conflagration as we try to lead the world in AI.

1111 The call on power exceeds what we have, and we have the
1112 technological tools to do this. I am confident in the United
1113 States of America that we can work on upgrading the grid and
1114 bringing a lot of these cleaner, cheaper resources to bear.
1115 We have a partnership with a lot of the innovative companies,
1116 forward-looking regulators. We can use this opportunity to
1117 build a modern energy system that works for everyone.

1118 Our neighbors back home are counting on us to lower
1119 their electric bills and make life more affordable, and this
1120 bipartisan bill is an important first step. But let's keep
1121 going to lower energy bills and ensure that we have a modern
1122 grid to serve everyone.

1123 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I urge a yes vote on H.R.
1124 9340.

1125 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. I
1126 now recognize myself for five minutes to speak on the
1127 amendment, and I support the amendment to H.R. 9340, the
1128 Ratepayer Protection Pledge. I really appreciate the hard
1129 work of the gentleman from Colorado and the gentlelady from
1130 Florida to get us where we are.

1131 This legislation signals the states that they should be
1132 sure individual households are not footing the bill for
1133 massive infrastructure build-out needed to win the race to AI
1134 dominance. The rapid proliferation of new, large-scale
1135 energy consumers connecting to the grid in such a short time
1136 has never been seen before, even exceeding our nation's
1137 response to World War II. But make no mistake, we are in an
1138 era -- a new era for the power sector. Whether you are a
1139 data center, a smelter, or a paper mill connecting new
1140 facilities to the electric system, we need more
1141 infrastructure to provide power for large loads. But in
1142 Congress we also must advance policy to protect reliability
1143 for communities and keep costs affordable.

1144 Importantly, states are also recognizing this reality
1145 and developing large-load tariffs for all kinds of customers
1146 in order to protect households. No matter the state or
1147 district, each of us here has heard concerns about data
1148 centers back home. This amendment takes an important step
1149 toward addressing those concerns.

1150 We have met with numerous stakeholders, including the
1151 data center industry, the big tech, state regulators,
1152 utilities, and others. And a lot of us, when we go home,
1153 hear from the most important stakeholder: our constituents.
1154 But it has become clear that across the entire industry there
1155 is one entity uniquely positioned to stand up for families
1156 and communities who are paying the electricity bills, and
1157 that entity is this committee and our colleagues here in
1158 Congress. President Trump called for this Ratepayer
1159 Protection Pledge, so we are effectively codifying the
1160 principles laid out. And we have come together to agree upon
1161 those principles. And the companies that signed the pledge
1162 agreed to pay for new infrastructure network upgrades needed
1163 to connect the grid, and those costs are not borne by
1164 residential ratepayers.

1165 There is no question that members of this committee have
1166 worked very hard this Congress to advance a pro-innovation
1167 agenda on winning the race for AI dominance, but we are
1168 showing today that on a bipartisan basis we can pursue an
1169 innovation agenda while simultaneously providing guardrails
1170 to protect consumers back home.

1171 As we talked about the race against China, it absolutely
1172 is true we are in a race against China. People estimate we
1173 are probably six months ahead if China is not catching up.
1174 And so, if we did a moratorium -- I think each state has the

1175 right to do what they want to do, each community. But if we
1176 did a nationwide moratorium and we did it for a year until we
1177 were -- China would be ahead, it would be difficult to catch
1178 up. So that is not the answer. But it is the answer to make
1179 sure that communities decide.

1180 In the principles for AI reform, we had the four Cs, one
1181 of them being community. Just like if Ford wants to build a
1182 large battery plant which they built in my district, they
1183 built it in an industrial park. You wouldn't want them to
1184 build it in a -- near -- right next to a neighborhood. There
1185 are local community and zoning laws that absolutely have to
1186 be respected that protect that area.

1187 And in terms of permitting, my friend from Florida has
1188 talked about this quite a bit. And we have to move forward
1189 between now and the end of the year on permit reform. We are
1190 going to make a move forward on that.

1191 But my friend from New York talked about the water that
1192 we had a hearing on in O&I. You know, that was a water
1193 system that had spent seven years working with the National
1194 Park Service to try to get a permit to repair the line that
1195 collapsed.

1196 And so, as we look at -- sometimes protecting things
1197 creates guardrails to fixing things that in the end don't
1198 protect things, and so that is all important.

1199 And I just want to finish with this time by saying I

1200 really appreciate the hard work of every member of this
1201 committee because the most important stakeholder in this
1202 business is our constituents, and we are all listening to
1203 them, we are all responding to them. And that is what this
1204 is about. Our staffs have worked very hard to get to where
1205 we are. I really appreciate it, and I think we are doing
1206 something big.

1207 And I appreciate the time and I will yield back. Is
1208 anyone seeking recognition to speak on the amendment?

1209 The gentleman from New York is recognized for five
1210 minutes to speak on the amendment.

1211 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
1212 last word.

1213 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
1214 amendment.

1215 *Mr. Tonko. I thank you. I appreciate the committee's
1216 effort on this amendment in the nature of a substitute.

1217 At the subcommittee markup I raised two issues that I
1218 perceived with this bill's definition of large-load customer.
1219 First, the definition of large load is set at 100 megawatts,
1220 despite the fact that many states and PJM are opting for 50
1221 megawatts. Second, the definition was not limited to only
1222 data centers and crypto mining facilities, but rather to all
1223 large and non-residential electric consumers, which means
1224 large manufacturers will be captured by this policy.

1225 I have heard Republicans on this committee say over and
1226 over again that we are in a race against China to lead the
1227 world in AI, but we need to appreciate that we are also
1228 competing with the rest of the world to be the leader in many
1229 critical manufacturing industries. And we should be
1230 thoughtful and nuanced about how we tackle these very
1231 different types of businesses because not all loads or
1232 economic development opportunities, for that matter, are the
1233 same.

1234 This is especially true because energy-intensive and
1235 trade-exposed manufacturing like steel and aluminum is
1236 sensitive to electricity costs. Modest changes to energy
1237 prices can make or break a project, determining whether a
1238 company is going to invest in the United States or simply go
1239 elsewhere. And steel and aluminum manufacturing facilities
1240 are commonly larger than the 100-megawatt thresholds included
1241 in the bill.

1242 We are similarly seeing new advanced manufacturing
1243 gigafactories popping up across the country to produce
1244 semiconductors and batteries which can also be above this
1245 threshold. In recent years there have been both Democrats
1246 and Republicans calling for policies to promote reshoring and
1247 expanding of domestic manufacturing. Now that we are seeing
1248 the pay-off of those policies, we should avoid imposing new,
1249 unnecessary costs on these industries, undermining their

1250 ability to compete, and compete globally.

1251 So I appreciate the change in the amendment to address
1252 this second definitional issue. But now that we have
1253 rescoped the definition of "customer'', we should also
1254 reassess the megawatt threshold. Given the initial broad
1255 definition, I understood why the megawatt threshold was set
1256 at 100 rather than 50. That range of 50 to 100 megawatts
1257 would capture many more types of manufacturing facilities.
1258 So if the initial intent was to limit the number of
1259 manufacturers covered by the policy without explicitly
1260 excluding them, the 100-megawatt threshold was a mechanism by
1261 which to do so. But now that we are limiting the policy to
1262 computational loads, it makes sense to embrace the emerging
1263 consensus on the state level of 50 megawatts. Fifty
1264 megawatts is enough to power tens of thousands of homes. Of
1265 course, a 50-megawatt data center could trigger major grid
1266 upgrades and impose costs on ratepayers.

1267 If we really want to protect our constituents, we should
1268 make certain the right projects are covered by this
1269 legislation. While this amendment is a good start at
1270 correcting the initial definition, I encourage us to continue
1271 working to right-size the megawatt threshold.

1272 And with that, Mr. Chair, I thank you and yield back.

1273 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the
1274 gentleman from Ohio is recognized for five minutes to speak

1275 on the amendment.

1276 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
1277 The bill and the ANS that data centers pay the costs of
1278 system upgrades to serve their demand so ratepayers aren't
1279 footing the bill. This is important to address the concerns
1280 of our constituents across the nation.

1281 The ANS provides the key principles for states to
1282 consider when establishing or approving rates for data
1283 centers. It in no way binds a state's hands or compels the
1284 state to undermine their state laws. It recognizes the
1285 states may take their own approach to protecting ratepayers
1286 from the new large loads on the power system. We know that
1287 many states are already doing this. Some are developing
1288 industrial tariffs to address concerns; others are developing
1289 large-load tariffs of different sizes. Others are developing
1290 large-load tariffs with flexibility depending on whether the
1291 customer is a data center or a traditional industrial
1292 facility. Others still are developing tariffs that just
1293 address data centers as a specific rate class, all within
1294 their legal authority.

1295 In Ohio a major tariff was approved last year just for
1296 data centers. In that case the state commission determined
1297 that data centers represent a distinct type of new load, and
1298 set a rate for those facilities as a class, just as it sets
1299 rates for other classes of commercial users. The commission

1300 did this to ensure other ratepayers aren't stuck with the
1301 bill if data centers do not use as much power as they
1302 requested. That is the benefit of state flexibility to find
1303 the best way to protect ratepayers from these large loads.

1304 This amendment and the underlying bill preserve state
1305 flexibility to design rates to cover large load costs and
1306 focus attention where it is needed most, protecting
1307 residential ratepayers. We need to support this ANS, and I
1308 urge a yes vote.

1309 And I yield back the balance of my time.

1310 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there a
1311 discussion on the amendment on the Democrat side?

1312 Seeing none, is there any further discussion -- the
1313 gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for five minutes to
1314 speak on the amendment.

1315 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1316 As we have seen an increased use of AI and, in turn, a
1317 higher demand for the data centers, I continue to hear
1318 concerns from my constituents that the development in their
1319 community will raise their electric rates. We want to remain
1320 competitive and win the AI race with China. That is clear to
1321 all of us. But that cannot come at the expense of
1322 affordable, reliable electricity for every American. That is
1323 why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 9340, the Ratepayer
1324 Protection Act, and support this ANS which would narrow the

1325 original bill to focus on data centers specifically.

1326 If a data center developer works with the local
1327 community and secures the necessary local support to build in
1328 that area, then subsequently the ratepayers should never face
1329 an increased cost due to infrastructure upgrades that would
1330 be necessary to accommodate the project. This bill would
1331 make sure that data centers should shoulder the cost of any
1332 upgrades, and not the consumer. And I urge my colleagues to
1333 support the ANS and to also support the underlying bill, H.R.
1334 9340.

1335 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1336 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
1337 further discussion on the amendment?

1338 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, the vote
1339 occurs on the amendment.

1340 All those in favor shall vote by saying aye.

1341 All those opposed, no.

1342 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

1343 Are there further amendments to the bill?

1344 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
1345 9340, as amended. A roll call has been requested and the
1346 clerk will call the roll.

1347 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1348 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1349 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

1350 Mr. Griffith?
1351 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
1352 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
1353 Mr. Bilirakis?
1354 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
1355 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
1356 Mr. Hudson?
1357 [No response.]
1358 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
1359 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
1360 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
1361 Mr. Palmer?
1362 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1363 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
1364 Mr. Dunn?
1365 [No response.]
1366 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
1367 [No response.]
1368 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
1369 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1370 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
1371 Mr. Weber?
1372 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1373 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
1374 Mr. Allen?

1375 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
1376 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
1377 Mr. Balderson?
1378 [No response.]
1379 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
1380 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1381 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
1382 Mr. Fulcher?
1383 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
1384 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
1385 Mr. Pfluger?
1386 [No response.]
1387 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
1388 [No response.]
1389 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1390 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
1391 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1392 Mrs. Cammack?
1393 [No response.]
1394 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
1395 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
1396 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
1397 Mr. James?
1398 [No response.]
1399 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?

1400 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1401 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1402 Mrs. Houchin?
1403 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
1404 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
1405 Mr. Fry?
1406 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
1407 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1408 Ms. Lee?
1409 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
1410 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
1411 Mr. Langworthy?
1412 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1413 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1414 Mr. Kean?
1415 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1416 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
1417 Mr. Rulli?
1418 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1419 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1420 Mr. Evans?
1421 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
1422 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
1423 Mr. Goldman?
1424 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

1425 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1426 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1427 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1428 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1429 Mr. Pallone?
1430 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1431 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1432 Ms. DeGette?
1433 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1434 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1435 Ms. Schakowsky?
1436 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1437 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1438 Ms. Matsui?
1439 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1440 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1441 Ms. Castor?
1442 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1443 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1444 Mr. Tonko?
1445 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1446 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1447 Ms. Clarke?
1448 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1449 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

1450 Mr. Ruiz?
1451 [No response.]
1452 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
1453 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1454 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1455 Mrs. Dingell?
1456 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1457 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1458 Mr. Veasey?
1459 [No response.]
1460 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
1461 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1462 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1463 Ms. Barragan?
1464 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1465 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1466 Mr. Soto?
1467 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1468 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1469 Ms. Schrier?
1470 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1471 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1472 Mrs. Trahan?
1473 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1474 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

1475 Mrs. Fletcher?
1476 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1477 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1478 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1479 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1480 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1481 Mr. Auchincloss?
1482 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1483 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1484 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1485 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1486 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
1487 Mr. Menendez?
1488 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1489 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1490 Mr. Mullin?
1491 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1492 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1493 Mr. Landsman?
1494 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1495 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1496 Ms. McClellan?
1497 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1498 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1499 Mr. Guthrie?

1500 *The Chair. Aye.

1501 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.

1502 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

1503 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

1504 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.

1505 *Mrs. Cammack. Cammack votes aye.

1506 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

1507 *Mr. James. How is James recorded?

1508 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.

1509 *Mr. James. James is aye.

1510 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

1511 *The Chair. Crenshaw?

1512 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.

1513 *Mr. Crenshaw. Votes aye.

1514 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

1515 *The Chair. Harshbarger?

1516 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger is not recorded.

1517 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

1518 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

1519 *The Chair. Mr. Ruiz?

1520 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is not recorded.

1521 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1522 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

1523 *The Chair. Veasey?

1524 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

1525 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

1526 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

1527 *The Chair. Is anybody else seeking recognition to
1528 answer the roll call?

1529 Seeing none, the clerk will call the roll -- the clerk
1530 will report, I am sorry.

1531 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 52
1532 ayes and 0 noes.

1533 *The Chair. With 52 ayes and 0 nays, the bill is
1534 adopted.

1535 The chair calls up H.R. 6633, and asks the clerk to
1536 report.

1537 *The Clerk. Committee print of H.R. 6633, a bill to
1538 establish --

1539 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
1540 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1541 amendment at any point.

1542 So ordered.

1543 [The bill follows:]

1544

1545 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1546

1547 *The Chair. Does anyone seek recognition to speak on
1548 the bill?

1549 For what purpose does the gentlelady from North Dakota
1550 seek recognition?

1551 You are recognized for five minutes to speak on the
1552 bill. I am sorry.

1553 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking
1554 Member, and subcommittee staff. Thank you for working with
1555 me to include this legislation, the High-Capacity Grid Act,
1556 in this markup.

1557 The High-Capacity Grid Act is a common-sense solution to
1558 modernize America's aging electric grid with new, innovative
1559 technologies. This bill will increase capacity, reduce
1560 costs, and foster a new age of energy affordability for
1561 American families.

1562 Members of this Congress, including those in this
1563 committee, often cite the sudden rise in demand due to
1564 electrification, large loads, and onshoring manufacturing
1565 across the country. At the same time, permitting backlogs
1566 prevent us from building new transmission lines, the lines we
1567 need to meet this demand. On average, it takes more than
1568 four years to -- just to permit a new transmission line, and
1569 sometimes more than a decade. This is before a single shovel
1570 hits the ground. We simply can't afford to wait that long.

1571 According to the Department of Energy, over 70 percent

1572 of our transmission lines are more than 25 years old. They
1573 are still relying on outdated, inefficient technologies.
1574 This directly leads to power outages and capacity
1575 limitations, driving up costs for the families that we
1576 represent. To fix this we should make use of the valuable
1577 infrastructure we already have. Meeting growing demand means
1578 increasing capacity and efficiency across our grid.
1579 Innovative technologies like advanced conductors can maximize
1580 the value of infrastructure, the infrastructure we already
1581 have in the ground. This sets our grid up for long-term
1582 success without waiting years for new lines to be permitted
1583 or built. That is why my bill, the High-Capacity Grid Act,
1584 is important.

1585 Under the bill, utilities replacing or constructing new
1586 transmission lines would deploy the most efficient, highest
1587 capacity, and most cost-effective conductors available. This
1588 reduces outages, optimizes existing infrastructure, and
1589 supports increasing demand in a pragmatic manner. The
1590 result? Lower costs and greater reliability for American
1591 families.

1592 I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member
1593 again, and urge my colleagues to support the High-Capacity
1594 Grid Act.

1595 And I yield back.

1596 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

1597 discussion on the bill, further discussion on the bill?

1598 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

1599 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Yes.

1600 *The Chair. For what purpose does the gentlelady from
1601 North Dakota have -- seek recognition?

1602 *Mrs. Fedorchak. I would like to offer an amendment to
1603 H.R. 6633, Mr. Chairman.

1604 *The Chair. Identify the amendment at the desk and the
1605 clerk will -- do you have the amendment? The clerk can
1606 report.

1607 *The Clerk. Amendment to the committee print for H.R.
1608 6633 offered by --

1609 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
1610 amendment is dispensed with, and the gentlelady is recognized
1611 for five minutes in support of the amendment.

1612 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you, Chairman Guthrie. I am
1613 pleased to offer an amendment to my bill, the High-Capacity
1614 Grid Act, that will address concerns from both sides of the
1615 aisle.

1616 The amendment modifies the bill to provide exemptions
1617 when the use of advanced conductors would be unsafe for
1618 American families or for the electric grid. Furthermore, it
1619 provides utilities flexibility during reconductoring or new
1620 construction when advanced conductors are cost prohibitive or
1621 unnecessary to increase the system capacity or efficiency.

1622 While advanced conductors can increase capacity and
1623 efficiency across the grid, they are not always necessary.
1624 This amendment recognizes that reality. In doing so it
1625 provides the experts enough flexibility to build today's grid
1626 to meet tomorrow's need while protecting American families
1627 and affordability.

1628 I thank Chairman Guthrie and the committee staff for
1629 their work on this bill and the amendment, and I urge my
1630 colleagues to support it.

1631 And I yield back.

1632 *The Chair. Is there further discussion? The
1633 gentlelady yields back. Is there further discussion on the
1634 amendment?

1635 Seeing none, are there further amendments?

1636 Yes, that is right. So if there is no further
1637 discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment offered by the
1638 gentlelady from North Dakota.

1639 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

1640 All opposed, say nay.

1641 The ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to. Are
1642 there any further amendments to the bill?

1643 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
1644 633 (sic), as amended. A roll call has been requested, and
1645 the clerk will call the roll.

1646 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1647 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1648 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
1649 Mr. Griffith?
1650 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
1651 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
1652 Mr. Bilirakis?
1653 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
1654 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
1655 Mr. Hudson?
1656 [No response.]
1657 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
1658 [No response.]
1659 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
1660 [No response.]
1661 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
1662 [No response.]
1663 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1664 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
1665 Mr. Dunn?
1666 [No response.]
1667 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
1668 [No response.]
1669 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
1670 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1671 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

1672 Mr. Weber?

1673 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

1674 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

1675 Mr. Allen?

1676 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

1677 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

1678 Mr. Balderson?

1679 [No response.]

1680 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?

1681 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

1682 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

1683 Mr. Pfluger?

1684 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

1685 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

1686 Mrs. Harshbarger?

1687 [No response.]

1688 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

1689 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

1690 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

1691 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

1692 [No response.]

1693 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

1694 [No response.]

1695 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?

1696 [No response.]

1697 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
1698 *Mr. James. Aye.
1699 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
1700 Mr. Bentz?
1701 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1702 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1703 Mrs. Houchin?
1704 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
1705 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
1706 Mr. Fry?
1707 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
1708 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1709 Ms. Lee?
1710 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
1711 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
1712 Mr. Langworthy?
1713 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1714 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1715 Mr. Kean?
1716 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1717 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
1718 Mr. Rulli?
1719 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1720 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1721 Mr. Evans?

1722 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
1723 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
1724 Mr. Goldman?
1725 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1726 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1727 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1728 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1729 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1730 Mr. Pallone?
1731 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1732 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1733 Ms. DeGette?
1734 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1735 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1736 Ms. Schakowsky?
1737 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1738 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1739 Ms. Matsui?
1740 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1741 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1742 Ms. Castor?
1743 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1744 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1745 Mr. Tonko?
1746 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

1747 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1748 Ms. Clarke?
1749 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1750 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1751 Mr. Ruiz?
1752 [No response.]
1753 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
1754 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1755 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1756 Mrs. Dingell?
1757 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1758 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1759 Mr. Veasey?
1760 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
1761 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1762 Ms. Kelly?
1763 [No response.]
1764 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
1765 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1766 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1767 Mr. Soto?
1768 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1769 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1770 Ms. Schrier?
1771 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

1772 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1773 Mrs. Trahan?
1774 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1775 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
1776 Mrs. Fletcher?
1777 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1778 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1779 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1780 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1781 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1782 Mr. Auchincloss?
1783 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1784 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1785 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1786 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1787 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
1788 Mr. Menendez?
1789 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1790 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1791 Mr. Mullin?
1792 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1793 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1794 Mr. Landsman?
1795 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1796 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

1797 Ms. McClellan?

1798 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

1799 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

1800 Chairman Guthrie?

1801 *The Chair. Aye.

1802 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

1803 *The Chair. So I can call out your name and just vote.

1804 So we got Mrs. Miller-Meeks.

1805 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

1806 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes --

1807 *The Chair. Mr. Carter?

1808 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

1809 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

1810 *The Chair. Mr. Balderson?

1811 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

1812 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

1813 *The Chair. Okay. Mr. -- Dr. Ruiz?

1814 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1815 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

1816 *The Chair. Ms. Kelly?

1817 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

1818 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

1819 *The Chair. I almost said Ms. Robin.

1820 Seeing no further people here to answer the roll call,

1821 the clerk will report.

1822 [Pause.]

1823 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 49
1824 ayes and 0 noes.

1825 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

1826 The chair calls up H.R. 9335 and asks the clerk to
1827 report.

1828 *The Clerk. H.R. 9335, a bill to direct the Secretary
1829 of Energy to establish a clearing --

1830 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
1831 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1832 amendment at any point.

1833 So ordered.

1834 [The bill follows:]

1835

1836 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1837

1838 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
1839 bill?

1840 The gentleman from Texas is recognized to speak on the
1841 bill.

1842 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1843 Grid congestion is a hidden tax on every American family
1844 and business. My bipartisan bill, the Advanced Transmission
1845 Technology to Reduce Rates Act, cuts that tax by making our
1846 electric grid smarter and more efficient without mandates,
1847 without Federal overreach, and without waiting on Washington.

1848 Texas is growing fast, and our grid is being asked to do
1849 more than ever. In fact, yesterday it is estimated that it
1850 hit its all-time capacity record. Congestion drives up the
1851 cost of energy for utilities, and ultimately for ratepayers.
1852 My bill addresses that head on by expanding access to
1853 advanced transmission technologies, tools like advanced
1854 conductors and dynamic line ratings that move more
1855 electricity across the lines we already have.

1856 It is a common-sense, three-part bill, a public DoE
1857 clearinghouse on advanced transmission projects, voluntary
1858 technical assistance for utilities and state regulators, and
1859 voluntary best practices to reduce wildlife -- wildfire risk,
1860 and it targets NEPA review for these specific, DoE-funded
1861 projects so states like Texas aren't stuck waiting on a
1862 lengthy Federal process to deploy technology that already

1863 works.

1864 This bipartisan bill builds on the permitting reform
1865 work House Republicans have led all Congress to cut the red
1866 tape standing between American families and a more reliable,
1867 more affordable grid. I urge my colleagues to support this
1868 legislation.

1869 I thank the chair and I yield back.

1870 *Mr. Latta. [Presiding.] Thank you very much. The
1871 gentleman yields back. The chair now recognizes the
1872 gentleman from New Jersey, the ranking member of the full
1873 committee, for five minutes.

1874 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Chairman Latta. I strongly
1875 support this bill, but I do have an issue with one provision,
1876 and that provision would exclude any Department of Energy
1877 funding for advanced transmission technologies from the
1878 environmental review requirements of the National
1879 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

1880 And my problem is that -- a concerted Republican attack
1881 on our environmental review laws like last year's radical
1882 Republican proposal to completely upend our nation's
1883 environmental reviews. Thankfully, this bill does not go
1884 that far, and NEPA would still apply for any projects that
1885 incorporate broader work that goes beyond advanced
1886 transmission technologies.

1887 DoE regulations already exempt activities relating to

1888 upgrading or rebuilding existing electric power lines from
1889 NEPA, and any project requiring a Federal permit would still
1890 be subject to environmental reviews, just not for the funding
1891 it received from the Department of Energy.

1892 I am frustrated because this provision is simply
1893 unnecessary in an otherwise worthwhile bill. As Democrats
1894 have noted for years, we desperately need to expand our grid
1895 to help make it more reliable and affordable in the face of
1896 increasing electricity demand, and advanced transmission
1897 technologies are a key component of that grid expansion and
1898 have the potential to help us get some of the biggest bang
1899 for our buck.

1900 So because I strongly support advanced transmission
1901 technologies and the benefits they bring to the grid, I will
1902 support the bill today.

1903 And thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

1904 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
1905 back. Is there any further discussion on the bill?

1906 Hearing none, are there any amendments on the bill?

1907 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 9335. A roll
1908 call has been requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

1909 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1910 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1911 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

1912 Mr. Griffith?

1913 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
1914 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
1915 Mr. Bilirakis?
1916 [No response.]
1917 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?
1918 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
1919 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
1920 Mr. Hudson?
1921 [No response.]
1922 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
1923 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
1924 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
1925 Mr. Palmer?
1926 [No response.]
1927 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
1928 [No response.]
1929 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
1930 [No response.]
1931 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
1932 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1933 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
1934 Mr. Weber?
1935 [No response.]
1936 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
1937 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

1938 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
1939 Mr. Balderson?
1940 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1941 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
1942 Mr. Fulcher?
1943 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
1944 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
1945 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1946 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
1947 Mrs. Harshbarger?
1948 [No response.]
1949 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1950 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
1951 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1952 Mrs. Cammack?
1953 [No response.]
1954 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
1955 [No response.]
1956 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
1957 *Mr. James. Aye.
1958 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
1959 Mr. Bentz?
1960 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1961 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1962 Mrs. Houchin?

1963 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
1964 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
1965 Mr. Fry?
1966 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
1967 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
1968 Ms. Lee?
1969 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
1970 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
1971 Mr. Langworthy?
1972 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1973 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1974 Mr. Kean?
1975 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1976 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
1977 Mr. Rulli?
1978 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1979 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1980 Mr. Evans?
1981 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
1982 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
1983 Mr. Goldman?
1984 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1985 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
1986 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1987 [No response.]

1988 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
1989 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1990 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1991 Ms. DeGette?
1992 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1993 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1994 Ms. Schakowsky?
1995 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1996 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1997 Ms. Matsui?
1998 *Ms. Matsui. No.
1999 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
2000 Ms. Castor?
2001 *Ms. Castor. No.
2002 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
2003 Mr. Tonko?
2004 *Mr. Tonko. No.
2005 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
2006 Ms. Clarke?
2007 *Ms. Clarke. No.
2008 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
2009 Mr. Ruiz?
2010 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
2011 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
2012 Mr. Peters?

2013 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2014 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2015 Mrs. Dingell?
2016 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2017 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2018 Mr. Veasey?
2019 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
2020 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
2021 Ms. Kelly?
2022 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
2023 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
2024 Ms. Barragan?
2025 *Ms. Barragan. No.
2026 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
2027 Mr. Soto?
2028 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
2029 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
2030 Ms. Schrier?
2031 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2032 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
2033 Mrs. Trahan?
2034 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
2035 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
2036 Mrs. Fletcher?
2037 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2038 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
2039 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
2040 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
2041 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
2042 Mr. Auchincloss?
2043 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
2044 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
2045 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
2046 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
2047 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
2048 Mr. Menendez?
2049 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
2050 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
2051 Mr. Mullin?
2052 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
2053 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
2054 Mr. Landsman?
2055 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
2056 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
2057 Ms. McClellan?
2058 *Ms. McClellan. No.
2059 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
2060 Chairman Guthrie?
2061 *The Chair. Aye.
2062 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

2063 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Is anyone -- the gentleman
2064 from Alabama, Mr. Palmer?
2065 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
2066 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
2067 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
2068 *The Chair. I will call, and you can just do your vote
2069 when I call.
2070 So Mrs. Harshbarger? Aye?
2071 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger is not recorded.
2072 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
2073 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
2074 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw?
2075 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
2076 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
2077 *The Chair. Mr. Weber?
2078 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
2079 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
2080 *The Chair. Mr. Auchincloss?
2081 *Mr. Auchincloss. I would like to change my vote to
2082 aye.
2083 *The Chair. Ms. Kelly?
2084 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss is off no and on aye.
2085 *The Chair. Okay. Ms. Kelly?
2086 [Pause.]
2087 *Ms. Kelly. No.

2088 *The Chair. Did you get Ms. Kelly's vote?
2089 *Ms. Kelly. Ms. Kelly is off aye and on no.
2090 *The Chair. Okay. Ms. DeGette?
2091 *Ms. DeGette. I am also going to go off aye, on no.
2092 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette is off aye and on no.
2093 *The Chair. Anyone else? Is anyone seeking to answer
2094 the roll call?
2095 The gentleman will report. The clerk will report.
2096 [Pause.]
2097 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 39
2098 ayes and 10 noes.
2099 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
2100 The chair calls up H.R. 9338 and asks the clerk to
2101 report.
2102 *The Clerk. H.R. 9338, a bill to amend title --
2103 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
2104 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2105 amendment at any point.
2106 So ordered.
2107 [The bill follows:]
2108
2109 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****
2110

2111 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
2112 bill?

2113 Mr. Weber is recognized -- what -- for five minutes to
2114 speak on the bill.

2115 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
2116 amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk.

2117 *The Chair. The gentleman -- does anybody want to speak
2118 on the bill before we bring up -- or just -- do you want to
2119 speak on the bill or the substitute?

2120 The gentleman -- is there anyone speaking on the bill
2121 before we bring up an amendment?

2122 *Mr. Weber. I will take that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2123 This ANS before us today reflects important updates made
2124 since the Energy Subcommittee markup last month. These
2125 changes fulfill the commitments we made during that markup to
2126 keep working across the aisle toward a strong bipartisan
2127 final product. We listened, we kept our word, and we
2128 tightened the language to protect the First Amendment rights
2129 of lawful protesters while holding those accountable who
2130 knowingly and willfully damage pipeline equipment or disrupt
2131 operations by manipulating a valve.

2132 Throughout this process we have worked closely with
2133 stakeholders across the industry, within the government. We
2134 have worked to develop and refine this legislation. The
2135 result is a stronger bill that gives the Pipeline and

2136 Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, PHMSA, the
2137 resources and direction necessary to continue safeguarding
2138 more than three million miles of pipeline infrastructure
2139 across these great United States.

2140 The bill strengthens the civil penalties for pipeline
2141 safety violations. The bill promotes best practices across
2142 state damage prevention programs, and the bill establishes a
2143 voluntary information-sharing system so lessons learned from
2144 accidents and near misses can help prevent the next one. It
2145 also supports communities working to repair and replace aging
2146 natural gas distribution systems. It sets deadlines for
2147 updated carbon dioxide pipeline safety standards and requires
2148 PHMSA to lay out a plan for completing overdue pipeline
2149 safety rulemakings.

2150 Americans deserve nothing less than our continued effort
2151 to move the needle closer and closer and closer to 100
2152 percent safety, and this legislation actually helps to do
2153 exactly that. Our nation's pipeline infrastructure operates
2154 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to safely deliver the reliable
2155 and affordable energy that power Americans' homes, their
2156 businesses, and industries while supporting our allies around
2157 the world.

2158 Few regions in the country can rival the pipeline
2159 infrastructure along the Texas Gulf Coast, where I represent.
2160 Every day that infrastructure helps produce, refine, process,

2161 and export the energy that powers America, and as well as
2162 supports our allies abroad. In Texas's 14th congressional
2163 district we produce and move more energy than just about any
2164 other district in these good old United States of America.

2165 Few places better illustrate the important role pipeline
2166 infrastructure plays in our everyday lives, whether that
2167 energy originates in the Permian Basin or comes from our
2168 neighbors to the north -- Alberta, Canada -- producing it is
2169 only half of the battle. American energy dominance depends
2170 on our ability to deliver that very energy safely and
2171 reliably to the people, businesses, and industries that, yes,
2172 depend on it every single day.

2173 Mr. Chairman, this bill reflects what dedicated members
2174 of this body and their staff can accomplish when we all come
2175 together to the table to help make America better. I want to
2176 thank them for their hard work, and I urge every member of
2177 this committee to support H.R. 9338 and help move this strong
2178 bipartisan bill one step closer to the House floor.

2179 Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

2180 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2181 further discussion on the bill?

2182 The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for five
2183 minutes to speak on the bill.

2184 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, but I think both
2185 the gentleman from Texas and I are actually talking about the

2186 bill with the changes that are going to be in the ANS, but I
2187 will follow up on what he said. If we do the bill as
2188 amended, we will have made sufficient progress for me to
2189 support the underlying bill.

2190 One of our most important responsibilities as Members of
2191 Congress is to do what we can to protect our constituents.
2192 In the case of pipeline safety legislation, that means
2193 ensuring that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
2194 Administration, or PHMSA, has the resources it needs to hold
2195 unsafe pipeline operators responsible. It also means
2196 ensuring that those operators are assessed fines that
2197 actually hold them financially accountable, rather than
2198 amounting to a slap on the wrist.

2199 Two years ago the bill the majority drafted failed that
2200 test, and so did the bill that was introduced and marked up
2201 by the Energy Subcommittee just last month. But with the
2202 changes, I believe this bill will live up to that obligation,
2203 and I want to detail why.

2204 The first reason is that it gives PHMSA the resources it
2205 needs to enforce its safety rules and ensure that pipeline
2206 operators are abiding by those rules. The core authorization
2207 levels in this bill are roughly \$24 million per year higher
2208 than the levels contained in the introduced bill. That
2209 increase will support vital programs like the State Damage
2210 Prevention Program and pipeline safety information grants to

2211 communities. It will also ensure that PHMSA's primary
2212 enforcement and operation activities get the resources they
2213 deserve, and these levels are essentially identical to the
2214 funding levels put forward by the Transportation Committee
2215 and the Senate Commerce Committee, and they live up to the
2216 nation's pipeline safety needs.

2217 Additionally, this bill fully authorizes a grant program
2218 originally funded in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The
2219 Natural Gas Distribution, Infrastructure Safety, and
2220 Modernization Grant program helps repair leaky distribution
2221 pipelines operated by municipal utilities and cooperatives.
2222 In an era of ever-increasing energy costs driven by President
2223 Trump's disastrous policies, a grant program that helps lower
2224 utility costs by helping ratepayer-owned utilities make
2225 investments, essentially to bring down the cost, is vital.
2226 And the majority's original bill would have let this program
2227 expire, and I am pleased that our compromise amendment today
2228 lets it survive and sets it up for sustainability into the
2229 future.

2230 Finally, the majority's original bill contained language
2231 that would have made it a crime "to impair the operation of a
2232 pipeline'', while leaving that term undefined. At a time
2233 when former Olympians are being arrested on the National Mall
2234 for the crime of looking at the damage the President dealt to
2235 the Reflecting Pool, granting DoJ authority to prosecute

2236 everyday Americans for exercising their First Amendment
2237 rights was completely unacceptable. This compromise
2238 amendment protects the First Amendment by ensuring that only
2239 valve-turning and intentionally causing a defect in the
2240 pipeline is criminalized. With this change, only activities
2241 that present a danger to the safety of others are out of
2242 bounds, and Americans' right to protest and exercise their
2243 free speech remains intact, in my opinion.

2244 And there are other important changes contained in this
2245 amendment protecting PHMSA's consideration of environmental
2246 benefits, instructing PHMSA to finalize the rule regulating
2247 the safety of carbon dioxide pipelines, for example. All
2248 these changes combine to make this a stronger pipeline safety
2249 package, and for that reason I support the amendment and the
2250 bill as amended.

2251 I hope we can continue to improve the bill in
2252 discussions with our colleagues on the House --

2253 *Mr. Weber. Will the gentleman yield back?

2254 *Mr. Pallone. Yes, let me just finish, though.

2255 You know, I know we still have to work with our
2256 colleagues on the House Transportation and the Senate
2257 Commerce Committee -- dare I mention the Senate Commerce
2258 Committee's name -- and that the final product that is signed
2259 into law, I think, will be even better.

2260 So I yield. Do you want me to yield to you?

2261 *Mr. Weber. I do.

2262 *Mr. Pallone. Sure.

2263 *Mr. Weber. I thank the ranking member, Mr. Chairman.

2264 And before I yield back to him I am going to mention this is
2265 an ANS_HR9338_01. So we appreciate that, we appreciate your
2266 position on this, Ranking Member.

2267 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2268 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you.

2269 *The Chair. Can you yield to me, as well?

2270 *Mr. Pallone. Sure.

2271 *The Chair. I just want to say -- and I think the
2272 gentlelady from New York had pointed out -- the issue you
2273 just addressed, and how we all worked together. We withdrew
2274 the amendment on good faith that we would work together, and
2275 thanks for everybody. That doesn't always mean we are going
2276 to get there. We did this time. But we certainly did it in
2277 good faith.

2278 So again, another point to the -- why we have so many
2279 bills today, because we are all working to get these things
2280 done for the American people.

2281 So thank you and I yield back.

2282 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the
2283 bill, as amended, and yield back the balance of my time.

2284 *The Chair. Is there further discussion on the bill?

2285 The gentleman from -- on the bill, or do you want to

2286 wait for the ANS to be adopted or brought forward?

2287 Do you want to call up the amendment, or do you want
2288 first --

2289 *Mr. Mullin. On the bill, Mr. --

2290 *The Chair. Okay, the gentleman from -- well, Mrs.
2291 Fletcher from Texas, do you want to -- so the gentlelady from
2292 Texas is recognized to speak on the bill.

2293 *Mrs. Fletcher. Well, thank you so much, Chairman
2294 Guthrie. This bill is so important to the people that I
2295 represent, and I am so glad that we have made changes in
2296 progress since the subcommittee markup, as you were just
2297 discussing.

2298 I think everyone in here has heard me say this before,
2299 and certainly Mr. Weber and my colleagues from Houston know
2300 that Houston companies control more than 58 percent of U.S.
2301 natural gas pipeline capacity and 33 percent of U.S. crude
2302 oil pipeline capacity and oil pipeline capacity. So, you
2303 know, the people that I represent know that pipeline safety
2304 is paramount, and that it must remain a priority as the
2305 demand for energy grows, which we keep talking about on this
2306 committee, and as the demand for infrastructure to deliver
2307 that continues to grow as well. And we know that that is
2308 PHMSA's job. It is in the name of the agency.

2309 And so I am just really glad that we have come together
2310 as a committee to advance a bipartisan reauthorization of

2311 PHMSA, and it really plays a vital role in working to keep
2312 our communities safe, in working with industry, overseeing
2313 industry as appropriate, but working to make sure that it can
2314 accomplish its mission. But we know that, like so many other
2315 agencies, it has faced a lot of challenges from the Trump
2316 Administration.

2317 And since the beginning of this Administration, more
2318 than half of PHMSA's senior leadership has left several
2319 rulemakings -- major rulemakings have been abandoned, and
2320 this is a problem for everyone. It is a problem for our
2321 communities, it is a problem for the people who are trying to
2322 build and operate the pipelines safely. And so we address a
2323 lot of the challenges that they are experiencing in this
2324 bill, and I think that that is really important.

2325 I think that, you know, this bill is going to provide
2326 \$90 million a year more than the original authorization for
2327 PHMSA for pipeline safety activities, and I hope that those
2328 resources are directed toward retaining staff because that is
2329 a critical issue right now.

2330 The bill also compels PHMSA to release a rule regulating
2331 carbon dioxide pipelines within two years of enactment, and
2332 it requires PHMSA to update Congress on the status of these
2333 outstanding rulemakings that have been abandoned. And this
2334 is critically important because we did a lot of good work in
2335 the last couple of Congresses to try to advance different

2336 programs and policies and technologies. And we are waiting
2337 on rulemakings, like with the carbon dioxide pipelines that
2338 are impeding our ability to achieve our climate goals, that
2339 are impeding our ability to make the progress that we all
2340 should want to make.

2341 And we know in Texas, of course, as carbon capture
2342 projects advance it is really vital that the Federal
2343 Government create standard rules of the road for developers
2344 that will give our communities confidence in the safety of
2345 these projects.

2346 Now, as much as we have done a good job getting to
2347 bipartisan agreement, the bill isn't perfect. And I think we
2348 have to continue to work to ensure that PHMSA is forward-
2349 looking when it comes to pipeline safety, and to ensure that
2350 that meets tomorrow's challenges, not just yesterday's
2351 challenges. And it is why I worked to include the PHMSA
2352 technology pilot program in the 2020 reauthorization bill
2353 back when I was on the T&I Committee.

2354 And I think this technology demonstration program is
2355 really important. That is what I have heard from people who
2356 are doing the work out in the field to operate these
2357 pipelines, that they want to have the most cutting-edge
2358 technology to monitor for corrosion, to make sure that they
2359 are able to test pipelines. And this program is a really
2360 important piece of that, and I am really sorry that it didn't

2361 make it into this bill. I think that it is something that we
2362 need and we should be authorizing, we should be continuing.

2363 And so I am really hopeful that we can work to include
2364 it during the conference process as we move this forward, but
2365 that is one of many things that I would like to see
2366 addressed. So many of the others have been addressed in this
2367 bill, including, I think, the concerns we talked about in the
2368 markup about the importance of finding a balance for safety
2369 of operation. And we do need to make sure that these
2370 pipelines can be operated safety -- safely. That is
2371 paramount, while also recognizing the important
2372 constitutional rights of Americans to express their opinions
2373 and views.

2374 And so I am glad that we were able to do this work
2375 following the last committee markup. I hope we can do just a
2376 little bit more in the conference process, but I support the
2377 bill and look forward to voting for it shortly.

2378 Thank you so much, and I yield back.

2379 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
2380 there further discussion on the bill?

2381 The gentleman from California is recognized on the bill.

2382 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I certainly
2383 appreciate that your team has worked to improve the bill
2384 since subcommittee markup. However, I remain concerned that
2385 this version still includes provisions that would undermine

2386 PHMSA's ability to ensure safety.

2387 As you know, pipeline safety is a particularly salient
2388 issue in my district, given the deadly pipeline explosion in
2389 San Bruno nearly 15 years ago. Specifically, I am concerned
2390 that section 5 places rigid constraints on PHMSA's special
2391 permits. By preventing the agency from requiring other
2392 conditions for special permits, we are tying its hands and
2393 limiting its ability to ensure safety. PHMSA needs the
2394 flexibility to impose strong guardrails when operators seek
2395 to bypass Federal regulations.

2396 So I urge my colleagues to reconsider this provision so
2397 we can advance a reauthorization bill that prioritizes safety
2398 over regulatory shortcuts.

2399 And with that I yield back.

2400 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2401 further discussion on the bill?

2402 Seeing none, are there any amendments?

2403 The gentleman from Texas, you are recognized.

2404 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chairman, yes, I have an amendment in
2405 the nature -- now that I have read the whole thing, it is
2406 ANS_HR9338_01.

2407 And look, I appreciate my colleague from --

2408 *The Chair. The gentleman has to report the amendment.

2409 *Mr. Weber. Thank you.

2410 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to

2411 H.R. 9338 offered by Mr. Weber.

2412 *The Chair. Without objection, the amendment is
2413 dispensed with.

2414 [The amendment of Mr. Weber follows:]

2415

2416 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2417

2418 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Texas is now
2419 recognized for five minutes.

2420 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate all
2421 of the comments and all the discussion that we are having,
2422 because all this stuff is important to us, and I appreciate
2423 us working together. I appreciate the ranking member being
2424 in support of it, and I am looking forward to it passing.

2425 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2426 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2427 discussion of the amendment?

2428 The gentlelady from Washington is recognized to speak on
2429 the amendment in the nature of a substitute for five minutes.

2430 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really
2431 appreciate the efforts of Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member
2432 Pallone to negotiate a robust pipeline safety bill. Congress
2433 last passed a pipeline safety programs bill in 2020, and it
2434 was supposed to be updated and reauthorized in 2023, so we
2435 are overdue.

2436 Pipeline safety is not to be taken for granted. It was
2437 the lethal 1999 Bellingham explosion along the BP Olympic
2438 pipeline that prompted major reforms to protect public health
2439 and safety. But my constituents were reminded just seven
2440 months ago from an oil spill on the same pipeline that there
2441 are still safety gaps that pipeline owners need to address.
2442 The most recent spill was actually discovered by a blueberry

2443 farmer tending his land and not by BP, the operator of the
2444 pipeline. And this spill caused severe jet fuel shortages
2445 canceling flights, resulting in the governor declaring a
2446 state of emergency. And it is not the first time this has
2447 happened. This marked the 26th reportable incident in 13
2448 years.

2449 There is more that I would have liked to see included in
2450 this bill. For example, I would have liked to see
2451 requirements for more technology that makes pipelines safer
2452 and makes any spills smaller, like advanced rupture
2453 mitigation valves. This technology could have reduced the
2454 impact of the 2023 Conway spill, when 21,000 gallons of gas
2455 from the Olympic pipeline went straight into a fish-bearing
2456 stream and temporarily closed a nearby school.

2457 This committee also could have required performance
2458 standards on leak detention -- detection technologies to make
2459 sure that current detection systems really work. The 2025
2460 spill wasn't detected until that blueberry farmer just
2461 happened to see it, and it was a big leak.

2462 So while I will be voting yes due to the urgent need to
2463 authorize and update our pipeline safety programs and I
2464 applaud the bipartisan work to get here, we do need to do
2465 even more to ensure companies like BP are safeguarding their
2466 pipelines for our public health and safety.

2467 Thank you, I yield back.

2468 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
2469 further discussion on the amendment?

2470 Seeing none on the amendment -- the gentleman from
2471 Louisiana is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
2472 amendment.

2473 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2474 I am glad to see the many improvements made in this
2475 amendment of this important pipeline safety bill, including
2476 fully reauthorizing the safety program within the Pipeline
2477 and Hazardous Materials Administration on par with the levels
2478 approved by the other committees of jurisdiction.

2479 Pipeline safety is not a partisan issue, it is a public
2480 safety issue, and Congress has a responsibility to act.
2481 Reauthorizing PHMSA to -- the Federal agency that oversees
2482 pipeline safety nationwide is a regular, reoccurring duty of
2483 Congress. This is how we make sure our pipeline safety
2484 standards and regulations stay current with new technology,
2485 new risks, and the realities of aging infrastructure.

2486 And nowhere are the stakes higher than in my district in
2487 Louisiana. We are one of the most -- we are one of the
2488 nation's leading energy-producing states with a dense network
2489 of natural gas, oil, and petrochemical pipelines connecting
2490 wetlands, refineries, and export terminals along the
2491 Mississippi River and Gulf Coast. This infrastructure is the
2492 circular -- circulatory system of our state's economy, many

2493 -- moving the energy that powers homes, fuels industry, and
2494 keeps America competitive in global energy markets. Failing
2495 to get this bill right puts all of that at risk.

2496 Public safety means worker safety. The men and women
2497 who build, inspect, and maintain this infrastructure work in
2498 demanding, high-risk conditions every day. Modern pipeline
2499 safety standards, corrosion control, leak detection, pressure
2500 monitoring, and rigorous inspection protocols exist because
2501 every worker deserves to come home safely. Strong safety
2502 standards are a baseline commitment to the people who keep
2503 our energy sectors running.

2504 Pipeline safety is also critical for Louisiana's
2505 communities. When pipeline safeties fail, our communities
2506 pay the price through service disruption, evacuations,
2507 environmental damage, or even worse. When we invest in
2508 safety and modernization, those same communities can support
2509 good jobs, more reliable service, and lower long-term costs.
2510 Safety and economic -- economy -- economic competitiveness go
2511 hand in hand. A safe community is needed at all times.
2512 Energy repairs and outages (sic) reassure industry partners
2513 and investors that America's energy infrastructure is
2514 reliable.

2515 Aging infrastructure is a real risk. Like much of the
2516 rest of the nation, some of Louisiana's local gas
2517 distribution infrastructures are decades old. These legacy

2518 pipelines are more prone to leaks, which pose explosion risk,
2519 waste product, and release methane and potential greenhouse
2520 gases into communities that can least afford to have it.
2521 That is why I am happy to see the amendments reauthorize the
2522 natural gas distribution infrastructure safety and
2523 modernization program.

2524 This grant program was created under the Bipartisan
2525 Infrastructure Law, and is designed to provide millions of
2526 dollars in grant funding to small, municipal-owned utilities
2527 to replace high-risk natural gas distribution pipes. In my
2528 district the City of Donaldsonville received a \$20 million
2529 grant to replace 27.3 miles of deteriorating distribution
2530 lines, some of which had been in the ground for decades.
2531 This project eliminated leaks, improved safety, reduced
2532 environmental impact, and lowered energy bills for residents
2533 and businesses alike. This program funded a comprehensive
2534 modernization of small city gas systems that could never have
2535 been afforded on its own. And the countless other
2536 communities in America that benefit from this program in the
2537 future (sic).

2538 This is the right thing to do. Mr. Chairman, I yield
2539 back.

2540 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2541 further discussion on the amendment?

2542 I will recognize myself for five minutes to speak on the

2543 amendment. I won't use all five minutes, I promise.

2544 So I just want to say this bill before us is a product
2545 of extensive bipartisan negotiations and helps bring PHMSA's
2546 safety regulations into the 21st century. I appreciate all
2547 the work of the members and the staffs for doing this.

2548 The committee's narrow and streamlined PHMSA
2549 reauthorization ensures the agency's safety regulations keep
2550 pace with the technological and operational advancements that
2551 have strengthened the safety and security of our nation's
2552 pipeline infrastructure without overreaching. The bill makes
2553 common-sense updates to remove duplicative regulations that
2554 do not meaningfully improve safety. It streamlines certain
2555 permits to reflect relevant safety standards and reinforce
2556 fair process for operators and refocus PHMSA on its mission:
2557 safety.

2558 I would also like to thank my colleagues across the
2559 aisle, particularly Ranking Member Pallone and the committee
2560 staff, for meaningful and robust engagement -- as I talked
2561 during your time -- to make sure we addressed concerns that
2562 were brought up during subcommittee.

2563 So I look forward to getting this bill out of committee
2564 today, and I know we still have work to do with our
2565 colleagues at T&I and the Senate Commerce Committee on a
2566 final package.

2567 And I will yield back. And if there is no further

2568 discussion, we will adopt the amendment.

2569 So the question before the committee is adopting the
2570 amendment. If there is no further discussion, the vote
2571 occurs on the amendment.

2572 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

2573 All those opposed, nay.

2574 The ayes have it. Are there further amendments?

2575 Seeing none, the question occurs on adopting H.R. 9338,
2576 as amended. A roll call has been requested, and the clerk
2577 will call the roll.

2578 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

2579 [No response.]

2580 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

2581 [No response.]

2582 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

2583 [No response.]

2584 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

2585 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

2586 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

2587 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

2588 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

2589 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

2590 Mr. Palmer?

2591 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

2592 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

2593 Mr. Dunn?
2594 [No response.]
2595 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
2596 [No response.]
2597 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
2598 [No response.]
2599 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
2600 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
2601 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
2602 Mr. Allen?
2603 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
2604 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
2605 Mr. Balderson?
2606 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
2607 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
2608 Mr. Fulcher?
2609 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
2610 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
2611 Mr. Pfluger?
2612 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
2613 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
2614 Mrs. Harshbarger?
2615 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
2616 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
2617 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

2618 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
2619 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
2620 Mrs. Cammack?
2621 [No response.]
2622 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
2623 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
2624 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
2625 Mr. James?
2626 *Mr. James. Aye.
2627 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
2628 Mr. Bentz?
2629 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
2630 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
2631 Mrs. Houchin?
2632 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
2633 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
2634 Mr. Fry?
2635 [No response.]
2636 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
2637 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
2638 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
2639 Mr. Langworthy?
2640 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
2641 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
2642 Mr. Kean?

2643 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
2644 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
2645 Mr. Rulli?
2646 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
2647 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
2648 Mr. Evans?
2649 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
2650 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
2651 Mr. Goldman?
2652 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
2653 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
2654 Mrs. Fedorchak?
2655 [No response.]
2656 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
2657 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2658 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
2659 Ms. DeGette?
2660 [No response.]
2661 *Ms. Schakowsky. No, I am sorry.
2662 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
2663 Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
2664 Ms. Matsui?
2665 *Ms. Matsui. No.
2666 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
2667 Ms. Castor?

2668 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
2669 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
2670 Mr. Tonko?
2671 *Mr. Tonko. No.
2672 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
2673 Ms. Clarke?
2674 *Ms. Clarke. No.
2675 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
2676 Mr. Ruiz?
2677 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
2678 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
2679 Mr. Peters?
2680 [No response.]
2681 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
2682 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2683 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2684 Mr. Veasey?
2685 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
2686 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
2687 Ms. Kelly?
2688 *Ms. Kelly. No.
2689 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.
2690 Ms. Barragan?
2691 *Ms. Barragan. No.
2692 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.

2693 Mr. Soto?

2694 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

2695 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

2696 Ms. Schrier?

2697 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2698 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

2699 Mrs. Trahan?

2700 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2701 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

2702 Mrs. Fletcher?

2703 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2704 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

2705 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

2706 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

2707 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

2708 Mr. Auchincloss?

2709 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

2710 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

2711 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

2712 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

2713 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

2714 Mr. Menendez?

2715 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

2716 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

2717 Mr. Mullin?

2718 *Mr. Mullin. No.
2719 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
2720 Mr. Landsman?
2721 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
2722 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
2723 Ms. McClellan?
2724 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
2725 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
2726 Chairman Guthrie?
2727 *The Chair. Aye. Any --
2728 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
2729 *The Chair. All right. So Mr. Latta?
2730 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
2731 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
2732 *The Chair. Mr. Griffith?
2733 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
2734 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
2735 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis?
2736 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
2737 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
2738 *The Chair. Dr. Joyce?
2739 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
2740 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
2741 *The Chair. Mr. Peters?
2742 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?

2743 *Mr. Peters. Votes aye.

2744 *The Clerk. Votes aye.

2745 *The Chair. Mr. -- Dr. Ruiz.

2746 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz off no and on yes.

2747 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is off no and on aye.

2748 *The Chair. Are there any further -- seeing no one
2749 presenting to call the -- answer the roll, the clerk will
2750 report.

2751 [Pause.]

2752 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that --

2753 *The Chair. Before you report, the gentlelady from
2754 Florida, how is she recorded?

2755 *Mrs. Cammack. Yea.

2756 *The Chair. Yea, okay.

2757 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

2758 *The Chair. Okay. The clerk will report.

2759 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 41
2760 ayes and 8 noes.

2761 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
2762 The chair calls up H.R. 9332 and asks the clerk to
2763 report.

2764 *The Clerk. H.R. 9332, a bill to require the Federal --

2765 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
2766 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be up for amendment
2767 at any point.

2768 So ordered.

2769 [The bill follows:]

2770

2771 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2772

2773 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
2774 bill?

2775 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair? Oh, on the bill.

2776 *The Chair. For what purpose does the gentleman from
2777 Ohio seek recognition?

2778 *Mr. Balderson. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
2779 word and speak in support of the bill.

2780 *The Chair. You are recognized for five minutes to
2781 speak on the bill.

2782 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for
2783 holding this markup and including my bill, H.R. 9332, the
2784 Load Forecasting Enhancement Act.

2785 I would also like to thank my colleague from New Jersey,
2786 Congressman Menendez, for working with me on this legislation
2787 and co-leading the bill.

2788 Our electric grid has entered a period of unprecedented
2789 change. Advanced manufacturing, increased electrification,
2790 and the surge of AI data centers have created an historic
2791 increase in electricity demand. We have seen this firsthand
2792 in Ohio's 12th congressional district which has 41 data
2793 centers in operation or being built, the most in the state.
2794 My constituents are seeing these data centers being built in
2795 their neighborhoods and have serious concerns about what this
2796 rapid growth means for their families and their communities.

2797 Congress must do more to help get new generation built

2798 quickly to power this growth and ensure those large-load
2799 customers, not our constituents, are the ones paying for
2800 these upgrades and new costs. At the bare minimum, we should
2801 ensure that grid operators, state utilities, and power
2802 providers are accurately planning for this growth to keep the
2803 grid reliable and protect our constituents.

2804 This bill is about giving states and utilities the tools
2805 necessary to measure load growth so that they can
2806 appropriately plan for new generation and generation
2807 transmission. Accurate load forecasting prevents the under-
2808 building of electrical infrastructure and generation that is
2809 critical to maintaining grid reliability. And just as
2810 importantly, this bill will help prevent the over-building of
2811 unnecessary electric infrastructure for speculative projects
2812 that can end up costing ratepayers.

2813 The Load Forecasting Enhancement Act establishes
2814 regional joint boards to bring state utility regulators and
2815 FERC commissioners together to examine, identify, and report
2816 to Congress the best practices that improve the accuracy,
2817 transparency, and the accountability of projects of new
2818 electrical grid. The bill amends the Public Utility
2819 Regulatory Policies Act to require each state to consider
2820 incorporating the recommendations that lead to better load
2821 forecasting.

2822 Just last month one of the Department of Energy's

2823 national labs released a report showing data centers could
2824 double their share of U.S. power and account for 10 to 15
2825 percent of our electricity use by 2030. Given this
2826 uncertainty with projected demand, utilities and states need
2827 better tools to distinguish between speculative demand
2828 projects and projects that have demonstrated a genuine
2829 commitment to moving forward. Better forecasting means
2830 better planning, and better planning means a more reliable
2831 grid and more responsible investment decisions.

2832 I urge my colleagues on the committee to support this
2833 bill and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

2834 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there anyone
2835 seeking recognition to speak on the bill?

2836 The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for five
2837 minutes to speak on the bill.

2838 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman. I am glad the
2839 committee is advancing a slate of bills that begin to address
2840 challenges to our grid brought on by the growth of AI data
2841 centers, and I am proud to work with Congressman Balderson on
2842 H.R. 9332, the Load Forecasting Enhancement Act.

2843 This bill would enhance our ability to forecast future
2844 demands on our energy grid and improve a vital piece of long-
2845 term planning in our energy systems. Accurate load
2846 forecasting is essential to making sure we have enough power
2847 supply to meet the demands of tomorrow. This bill would push

2848 state utility commissions and investor-owned utilities to
2849 adopt best practices when forecasting demand including large
2850 loads such as AI data centers and, in turn, make sure that we
2851 have an accurate idea of how much energy we will need years
2852 down the line.

2853 Improving load forecasting will help prevent blackouts
2854 and brownouts to make sure our constituents don't experience
2855 drastic spikes in their energy bills. It will help us make
2856 sure we have the energy infrastructure we need to support new
2857 innovations and technology, manufacturing, and keep our homes
2858 cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

2859 This bill and others before the committee today are an
2860 important first step in the right direction, but they are a
2861 first step and we need to use every tool in the toolbox to
2862 address these issues facing our grid and protect our
2863 constituents from rising energy costs and blackouts and
2864 brownouts. That means making sure tech companies that are
2865 developing AI data centers are held accountable for the
2866 impact they have in our communities, and that means fighting
2867 for more transparency on data centers' energy usage, as well
2868 as their environmental and health impacts.

2869 Today's markup is a step in the right direction. I am
2870 proud to work on bipartisan legislation to address these
2871 pressing needs. I encourage my colleagues to continue this
2872 work and vote in support of this bill.

2873 I yield back.

2874 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2875 further discussion on the bill?

2876 The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for five
2877 minutes to speak on the bill.

2878 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
2879 Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Load Forecasting
2880 Enhancement Act.

2881 This legislation offers a real solution to the
2882 unprecedented load growth this country is experiencing.
2883 Under this legislation FERC would convene regional joint
2884 boards with public utility commissions to study and identify
2885 best practices for electric load forecasting. FERC would
2886 then be able to report its findings and recommend how we in
2887 Congress can best improve load forecasting.

2888 Preparing for load growth, which we know is coming, is
2889 an absolute necessity. In our diverse country we have so
2890 many different states with different energy types and energy
2891 needs. Encouraging collaboration, idea sharing, and
2892 recommendations for Congress will ensure state and Federal
2893 leaders alike are prepared to accurately forecast load growth
2894 and prepare for it.

2895 Thank you to Representatives Balderson and Menendez for
2896 introducing this critical bipartisan legislation.

2897 And I yield back.

2898 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2899 further discussion on the bill?

2900 The gentlelady from Virginia is recognized for five
2901 minutes to speak on the bill.

2902 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr.
2903 Chair.

2904 With projections showing that data center energy
2905 consumption could double or triple in the next 2 years,
2906 accounting for up to 12 percent of U.S. electricity use, we
2907 have to work smarter to account for and prepare for the
2908 impact that data centers are having on the grid. The Load
2909 Forecasting Enhancement Act is an important first step to do
2910 just that by requiring FERC to establish regional boards to
2911 study best practices for forecasting power and demand.

2912 In Virginia and across the country, the siting,
2913 planning, and construction of data centers are handled almost
2914 entirely at the local level, with the state playing a role
2915 mostly when it is time to bring the data center online. And
2916 our Virginia localities have tended to prioritize the revenue
2917 impact to their budget over the impact to the grid. Now,
2918 that is understandable when, as one county manager in a rural
2919 part of my district said that the real estate revenue alone
2920 from one data center to looking to locate there could fund
2921 the building of a brand-new school they desperately needed.
2922 And local economic development, planning, and zoning

2923 officials often don't have the expertise to factor in the
2924 impact these data centers will have on the grid.

2925 This fragmented system of planning and approvals makes
2926 it difficult to fully prepare for the impact of the ongoing
2927 rapid build-out of data centers on our grid and its
2928 reliability. This is not sustainable. The Load Forecasting
2929 Enhancement Act seeks to create a more cohesive approach,
2930 where FERC works with states to improve oversight,
2931 accountability, and transparency in load forecasting, and
2932 bring more stakeholders into that process so that we have a
2933 better idea of how to prepare for and mitigate the impact
2934 that data centers will have on the grid and on energy
2935 affordability for American families and small businesses that
2936 are especially feeling the impact. We need to make sure that
2937 local governments are part of that stakeholder process.

2938 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to
2939 continue to work with us on proposals that will increase all
2940 stakeholder engagement and improve coordination at all levels
2941 of government to address the impacts of data center.

2942 Now, I also -- given the discussion earlier today over
2943 public opinion turning against data centers, I do want to
2944 take a moment to connect some dots that explain the hostility
2945 we are seeing in rural localities that show that, while we
2946 legislate in silos, people don't live in silos. In a recent
2947 discussion that I had with some residents in rural

2948 communities, one person made a critically important point:
2949 Why are rural communities bearing the brunt of the economic
2950 and environmental impacts of data centers when they are still
2951 not connected to the internet through broadband? That is a
2952 critically important perspective that we should keep in mind
2953 as we address not only the energy impact of data centers, but
2954 we act to ensure that the benefits of the digital ecosystem
2955 that they support leave no community behind.

2956 And with that I yield back.

2957 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
2958 further discussion on the bill?

2959 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

2960 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair?

2961 *The Chair. The gentleman from New York is recognized
2962 -- for what purpose does the gentleman from New York seek
2963 recognition?

2964 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

2965 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

2966 *The Clerk. TONKO_044, amendment to H.R. --

2967 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
2968 amendment is dispensed with.

2969 [The amendment of Mr. Tonko follows:]

2970

2971 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2972

2973 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five
2974 minutes in support of the amendment.

2975 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I begin by thanking
2976 Representatives Balderson and Menendez for their outstanding
2977 work on this bill.

2978 I want to be clear that I support the underlying bill,
2979 but I do believe that it could be improved upon by explicitly
2980 authorizing the Department of Energy's role in providing
2981 technical assistance to support our nation's load forecasting
2982 needs.

2983 I think we can all agree that there are real challenges
2984 associated with large and uncertain load growth due to the
2985 demand of data centers. And if we fail to accurately plan
2986 for load growth, there will be serious risks to the
2987 reliability and affordability of our electricity system.
2988 Working to harmonize load forecasting methods through
2989 regional boards and leveraging the expertise of our state
2990 commissions, as is done in this bill, is a great step. But
2991 if this is such a big problem, shouldn't we want our nation's
2992 leading minds working on the electricity system to help
2993 address it?

2994 We heard from Secretary Wright at the budget hearing
2995 that the Department of Energy is focused on load forecasting,
2996 and we know there is amazing expertise in the national labs.
2997 So if we are going to make progress in planning for our

2998 future electric demand, we should be utilizing all the tools
2999 in our toolbox, including those that exist at DoE.

3000 This amendment would simply direct DoE to establish a
3001 technical assistance program to provide modeling, analysis,
3002 best practices, and other forms of support to states, grid
3003 operators, utilities, and independent power producers
3004 responsible for electric load growth planning. It would also
3005 explicitly authorize DoE to coordinate with and provide
3006 technical assistance to the regional boards that are
3007 established by the underlying bill. This will allow these
3008 boards to have access to all the data modeling and technical
3009 support possible to help ensure their success.

3010 During the subcommittee markup I emphasized the
3011 importance of technical assistance of this kind that -- and
3012 that it can have a great amount of effort made to support
3013 municipal utilities and rural co-ops that may not have the
3014 capacity to model load growth like their larger utility
3015 peers. But DoE technical assistance should not just be
3016 limited to smaller entities, especially since the goals of
3017 this bill are to broaden coordination amongst all entities
3018 with a responsibility in planning for load growth.

3019 The amendment is simple: it authorizes something that
3020 everyone agrees DoE can and should be doing to help address
3021 an emerging challenge facing our electricity system. It
3022 would provide clear direction that Congress wants the

3023 Department to leverage its expertise to engage further on
3024 this issue, and it would do so by providing support to the
3025 boards that would be created by this bill.

3026 I urge members to support this amendment and authorize
3027 DoE to provide technical assistance to all entities that have
3028 a responsibility in planning for electric load growth, simply
3029 making an outstanding bill even better.

3030 With that, Mr. Chair, I thank you and I yield back.

3031 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
3032 further discussion on the amendment?

3033 The gentleman from Ohio is recognized to speak on the
3034 amendment.

3035 *Mr. Balderson. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last
3036 word and speak --

3037 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
3038 amendment.

3039 *Mr. Balderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and this is
3040 tough. I am opposing my dear friend's amendment. And Mr.
3041 Tonko and I have done a lot of legislation together, but as
3042 currently drafted this amendment would create an open-ended
3043 new program at the Department of Energy on load forecasting.

3044 The underlying bill is an important measure to improve
3045 the accuracy of electricity demand projections. As we have
3046 discussed over the last several months, more accurate
3047 forecasting will lead to more cost-effective investments to

3048 meet a growing electric demand.

3049 The Load Forecasting Enhancement Act, using regional
3050 joint boards and PURPA, encourages a collective --
3051 collaborative, excuse me -- collaborative relationship
3052 between states and the Federal Government to improve our
3053 collective understanding of electrical growth -- demand
3054 growth. Importantly, this bill also provides technical
3055 assistance to state energy offices to work in hand with state
3056 PUCs and utilities for economic development purposes.

3057 However, the amendment being offered by my colleague is
3058 expansive, unnecessary, and needs additional work to ensure
3059 valuable taxpayer resources are protected from abuse. This
3060 amendment would provide sweeping technical assistance
3061 authority to utilities of all types, regardless of size, and
3062 a host of entities involved in the generation, transmission,
3063 and distribution of electricity. This would encompass
3064 thousands of utilities, power generators, transmission
3065 owners, and others.

3066 And while the underlying bill offers a smart and
3067 balanced approach to ensure states are working in harmony
3068 with FERC, this amendment fails to do so. I appreciate the
3069 amendment would direct DoE assistance to the joint boards.
3070 However, the amendment doesn't clarify that DoE's
3071 recommendations or best practices provided to utilities and
3072 more power providers be based on the findings of the joint

3073 boards, the final report in the bill, or state policies
3074 enacted based on these findings. Unfortunately, this could
3075 lead to DoE providing conflicting standards or best
3076 practices, leading to confusion between utilities, power
3077 providers, and states. Additionally, the amendment provides
3078 no clarity on taxpayer dollars being used to fulfill this
3079 expansive new program.

3080 Throughout this process I have worked in good faith with
3081 my Democratic colleagues, including my co-lead, Mr. Menendez,
3082 to advance this policy through full committee. Since our
3083 legislative hearing in April, our side of the aisle has
3084 continued offering to work alongside Mr. Tonko to find a
3085 compromise on ideas for more targeted approach and to address
3086 our concerns of unfunded mandates. Unfortunately, those
3087 offers have been rejected, and I am concerned that this new
3088 policy undermines the bipartisan work of our underlying
3089 legislation. For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to
3090 oppose the amendment.

3091 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

3092 *Mr. Latta. [Presiding.] Thank you. The gentleman
3093 yields back. Is there a further discussion on the amendment?

3094 Hearing none, if there is no further discussion on the
3095 amendment, all those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

3096 Those opposed, nay.

3097 The nays have it.

3098 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I ask for a recorded vote,
3099 please.

3100 *Mr. Latta. And the gentleman asks for a roll call
3101 vote. The -- on -- the clerk will call the roll on the ANS.

3102 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3103 *Mr. Latta. No.

3104 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

3105 Mr. Griffith?

3106 [No response.]

3107 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

3108 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

3109 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

3110 Mr. Hudson?

3111 *Mr. Hudson. No.

3112 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

3113 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3114 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

3115 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

3116 Mr. Palmer?

3117 *Mr. Palmer. No.

3118 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

3119 Mr. Dunn?

3120 [No response.]

3121 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

3122 [No response.]

3123 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
3124 [No response.]
3125 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
3126 *Mr. Weber. No.
3127 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
3128 Mr. Allen?
3129 *Mr. Allen. No.
3130 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
3131 Mr. Balderson?
3132 *Mr. Balderson. No.
3133 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
3134 Mr. Fulcher?
3135 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
3136 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
3137 Mr. Pfluger?
3138 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
3139 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
3140 Mrs. Harshbarger?
3141 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
3142 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
3143 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3144 [No response.]
3145 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
3146 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
3147 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

3148 Mr. Oubernolte?
3149 *Mr. Oubernolte. No.
3150 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes no.
3151 Mr. James?
3152 *Mr. James. No.
3153 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
3154 Mr. Bentz?
3155 *Mr. Bentz. No.
3156 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
3157 Mrs. Houchin?
3158 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
3159 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
3160 Mr. Fry?
3161 [No response.]
3162 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
3163 *Ms. Lee. No.
3164 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
3165 Mr. Langworthy?
3166 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
3167 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
3168 Mr. Kean?
3169 *Mr. Kean. No.
3170 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
3171 Mr. Rulli?
3172 *Mr. Rulli. No.

3173 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
3174 Mr. Evans?
3175 *Mr. Evans. No.
3176 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
3177 Mr. Goldman?
3178 *Mr. Goldman. No.
3179 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
3180 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3181 [No response.]
3182 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
3183 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3184 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3185 Ms. DeGette?
3186 [No response.]
3187 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
3188 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3189 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3190 Ms. Matsui?
3191 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3192 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3193 Ms. Castor?
3194 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3195 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3196 Mr. Tonko?
3197 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

3198 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3199 Ms. Clarke?
3200 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3201 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3202 Mr. Ruiz?
3203 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3204 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3205 Mr. Peters?
3206 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3207 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3208 Mrs. Dingell?
3209 [No response.]
3210 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
3211 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3212 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3213 Ms. Kelly?
3214 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3215 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3216 Ms. Barragan?
3217 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3218 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3219 Mr. Soto?
3220 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3221 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3222 Ms. Schrier?

3223 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3224 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3225 Mrs. Trahan?
3226 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3227 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3228 Mrs. Fletcher?
3229 [No response.]
3230 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3231 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3232 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3233 Mr. Auchincloss?
3234 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3235 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3236 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3237 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3238 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3239 Mr. Menendez?
3240 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3241 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3242 Mr. Mullin?
3243 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
3244 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3245 Mr. Landsman?
3246 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
3247 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

3248 Ms. McClellan?

3249 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

3250 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

3251 Chairman Guthrie?

3252 *The Chair. Aye.

3253 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes --

3254 *The Chair. Oh, I'm sorry, no.

3255 [Laughter.]

3256 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman is off aye and on no.

3257 *Mr. Latta. Are there members wishing to record their

3258 vote?

3259 How is the gentleman from Virginia recorded?

3260 *Mr. Griffith. Griffith is no.

3261 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

3262 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Texas?

3263 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw, no.

3264 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw --

3265 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Pennsylvania?

3266 *The Clerk. -- votes no.

3267 *Mr. Joyce. No.

3268 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

3269 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members?

3270 The clerk will report the result.

3271 [Pause.]

3272 *The Clerk. Chairman, on that vote there were 21 ayes

3273 and 26 noes.

3274 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The amendment is not
3275 agreed to.

3276 Are there further amendments?

3277 Hearing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
3278 9332. A roll call vote has been requested and the clerk will
3279 call the roll.

3280 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3281 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3282 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

3283 Mr. Griffith?

3284 [No response.]

3285 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

3286 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

3287 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

3288 Mr. Hudson?

3289 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

3290 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

3291 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3292 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

3293 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

3294 Mr. Palmer?

3295 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

3296 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

3297 Mr. Dunn?

3298 [No response.]
3299 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
3300 [No response.]
3301 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
3302 [No response.]
3303 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
3304 [No response.]
3305 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
3306 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
3307 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
3308 Mr. Balderson?
3309 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
3310 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
3311 Mr. Fulcher?
3312 [No response.]
3313 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?
3314 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
3315 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
3316 Mrs. Harshbarger?
3317 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
3318 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
3319 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3320 [No response.]
3321 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
3322 [No response.]

3323 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte?
3324 *Mr. Oubernolte. Aye.
3325 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes aye.
3326 Mr. James?
3327 [No response.]
3328 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
3329 [No response.]
3330 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
3331 *Mrs. Houchin. No -- aye.
3332 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
3333 Mr. Fry?
3334 [No response.]
3335 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
3336 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
3337 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
3338 Mr. Langworthy?
3339 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
3340 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
3341 Mr. Kean?
3342 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
3343 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
3344 Mr. Rulli?
3345 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
3346 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
3347 Mr. Evans?

3348 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
3349 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
3350 Mr. Goldman?
3351 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
3352 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
3353 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3354 [No response.]
3355 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
3356 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3357 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3358 Ms. DeGette?
3359 [No response.]
3360 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
3361 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3362 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3363 Ms. Matsui?
3364 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3365 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3366 Ms. Castor?
3367 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3368 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3369 Mr. Tonko?
3370 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3371 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3372 Ms. Clarke?

3373 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3374 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3375 Mr. Ruiz?
3376 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3377 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3378 Mr. Peters?
3379 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3380 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3381 Mrs. Dingell?
3382 [No response.]
3383 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
3384 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3385 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3386 Ms. Kelly?
3387 [No response.]
3388 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
3389 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3390 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3391 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3392 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3393 Mr. Soto?
3394 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3395 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3396 Ms. Schrier?
3397 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

3398 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3399 Mrs. Trahan?
3400 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3401 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3402 Mrs. Fletcher?
3403 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3404 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3405 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3406 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3407 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3408 Mr. Auchincloss?
3409 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3410 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3411 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3412 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3413 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3414 Mr. Menendez?
3415 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3416 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3417 Mr. Mullin?
3418 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
3419 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3420 Mr. Landsman?
3421 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
3422 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

3423 Ms. McClellan?

3424 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

3425 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

3426 Chairman Guthrie?

3427 [No response.]

3428 *Mr. Latta. How is the gentleman from Virginia

3429 recorded?

3430 *Mr. Griffith. No. I mean yes, sorry.

3431 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

3432 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Michigan?

3433 *The Clerk. Mr. James is --

3434 *Mr. James. Aye.

3435 *The Clerk. -- votes aye.

3436 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Texas?

3437 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

3438 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

3439 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Oregon?

3440 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz is not recorded.

3441 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.

3442 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.

3443 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Idaho?

3444 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

3445 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

3446 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady from Florida?

3447 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.

3448 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

3449 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

3450 *Mr. Latta. How is the chairman recorded?

3451 *The Chair. Aye.

3452 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

3453 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Pennsylvania?

3454 *Mr. Joyce. The gentleman is aye.

3455 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

3456 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to

3457 record their vote?

3458 Hearing none, the clerk will report.

3459 *The Chair. Can you do five more minutes? I will be

3460 right back.

3461 *Mr. Latta. Yes, yes.

3462 [Pause.]

3463 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 47

3464 ayes and 0 noes.

3465 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The bill is adopted,

3466 and the clerk -- next, the chair now calls up H.R. 9339 and

3467 asks the clerk to report.

3468 *The Clerk. H.R. 9339, a bill to require the Secretary

3469 of Energy to conduct an assessment --

3470 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the

3471 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

3472 amendment at any point.

3473 So ordered.

3474 [The bill follows:]

3475

3476 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3477

3478 *Mr. Latta. Does any member seek recognition on the
3479 bill?

3480 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Tennessee's
3481 1st district seek recognition?

3482 *Mrs. Harshbarger. To speak on the bill.

3483 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
3484 minutes to speak on the bill.

3485 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3486 Our bulk power supply is aging while energy demand is
3487 skyrocketing. And as we work to bring new generation online,
3488 tools like high-performance computing and AI can help our
3489 existing grid run with greater capacity and reliability.
3490 That is the purpose of my bipartisan legislation, the
3491 Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act, which I introduced
3492 with my colleague, Representative Mullin. It will direct
3493 DoE, in consultation with FERC and NERC, to assess how these
3494 technologies can be deployed to support the bulk power
3495 system.

3496 We are already seeing what is possible because last year
3497 FERC Commissioner Rosner highlighted how one platform was
3498 able to complete an interconnection study in just 10 days.
3499 The manual interconnection study that it was based on took
3500 two years to complete. That is exactly the kind of
3501 efficiency we need to start clearing our backlog to
3502 interconnection queues.

3503 Argonne National Laboratory has also demonstrated how
3504 these tools can support the grid through predictive
3505 maintenance. In one project, Argonne found this approach
3506 reduced total maintenance costs by more than 40 percent and
3507 unnecessary crew visits by more than 60 percent. And by
3508 minimizing downtime and addressing problems before they
3509 escalate, our energy providers can keep the lights on and
3510 plan more effectively for both near and long-term grid needs.

3511 There is enormous potential in these technologies to
3512 help our grid run more efficiently, but we need to get the
3513 details right. A thorough technical assessment from DoE,
3514 FERC, and NERC will be essential to identify where grid
3515 operators and utilities can put these tools to use to
3516 strengthen reliability and affordability for ratepayers.

3517 So I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 9339, the
3518 Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act.

3519 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

3520 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
3521 further discussion?

3522 For what purpose does the gentleman from California's
3523 15th district seek recognition?

3524 *Mr. Mullin. To speak on the bill, Mr. Chair.

3525 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
3526 minutes to speak on the bill.

3527 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3528 Today electricity demand continues to rise, as do bills
3529 for everyday Americans. To protect consumers we need to make
3530 the grid more efficient and get energy connected to the grid
3531 more quickly. I believe we can work towards those goals by
3532 supporting the adoption of leading-edge grid technologies.
3533 That is why I partnered with Representative Harshbarger on
3534 the Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act. This bill would
3535 direct the Department of Energy to study how artificial
3536 intelligence and advanced computing can support the grid.

3537 Right now it takes five years for a new power source to
3538 connect to the grid, but AI can significantly reduce this
3539 timeline without compromising reliability. Every utility in
3540 the country should be figuring out how to responsibly deploy
3541 these technologies. While our committee has missed an
3542 opportunity to mark up Representative Castor's Expediting
3543 Grid Interconnection Procedures Act, which I also support,
3544 the issues facing our grid will not wait. That is why I
3545 encourage my colleagues to support the bill which will spur
3546 innovation for grid efficiency, energy deployment, and lower
3547 costs.

3548 Again, I want to thank Representative Harshbarger for
3549 her leadership and collaboration on this effort.

3550 And with that I yield back.

3551 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
3552 back. Is there further discussion on the bill?

3553 Are there any amendments on the bill?

3554 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.

3555 9339. A roll call vote has been requested and the clerk will

3556 call the roll.

3557 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3558 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3559 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

3560 Mr. Griffith?

3561 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3562 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

3563 Mr. Bilirakis?

3564 [No response.]

3565 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

3566 [No response.]

3567 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3568 [No response.]

3569 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

3570 [No response.]

3571 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

3572 [No response.]

3573 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

3574 [No response.]

3575 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

3576 [No response.]

3577 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

3578 [No response.]

3579 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

3580 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

3581 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

3582 Mr. Balderson?

3583 [No response.]

3584 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?

3585 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

3586 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

3587 Mr. Fulcher?

3588 [No response.]

3589 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?

3590 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

3591 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

3592 Mrs. Harshbarger?

3593 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

3594 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

3595 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

3596 [No response.]

3597 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

3598 [No response.]

3599 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?

3600 [No response.]

3601 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

3602 [No response.]

3603 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
3604 [No response.]
3605 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
3606 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
3607 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
3608 Mr. Fry?
3609 [No response.]
3610 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
3611 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
3612 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
3613 Mr. Langworthy?
3614 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
3615 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
3616 Mr. Kean?
3617 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
3618 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
3619 Mr. Rulli?
3620 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
3621 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
3622 Mr. Evans?
3623 [No response.]
3624 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
3625 [No response.]
3626 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak?
3627 [No response.]

3628 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
3629 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3630 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3631 Ms. DeGette?
3632 [No response.]
3633 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
3634 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3635 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3636 Ms. Matsui?
3637 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3638 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3639 Ms. Castor?
3640 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3641 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3642 Mr. Tonko?
3643 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3644 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3645 Ms. Clarke?
3646 [No response.]
3647 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
3648 [No response.]
3649 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
3650 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3651 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3652 Mrs. Dingell?

3653 [No response.]

3654 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

3655 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

3656 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

3657 Ms. Kelly?

3658 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

3659 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

3660 Ms. Barragan?

3661 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

3662 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

3663 Mr. Soto?

3664 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

3665 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

3666 Ms. Schrier?

3667 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

3668 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

3669 Mrs. Trahan?

3670 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

3671 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

3672 Mrs. Fletcher?

3673 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

3674 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

3675 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

3676 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

3677 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

3678 Mr. Auchincloss?
3679 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3680 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3681 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3682 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3683 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3684 Mr. Menendez?
3685 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3686 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3687 Mr. Mullin?
3688 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
3689 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3690 Mr. Landsman?
3691 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
3692 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
3693 Ms. McClellan?
3694 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
3695 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
3696 Chairman Guthrie?
3697 *The Chair. Aye.
3698 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
3699 *Mr. Latta. Are there any other members wishing to be
3700 recognized?
3701 The gentleman from Florida.
3702 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.

3703 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

3704 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

3705 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from North Carolina?

3706 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.

3707 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

3708 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Georgia?

3709 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

3710 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

3711 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Texas?

3712 *Mr. Weber. Weber votes aye.

3713 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber --

3714 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from New --

3715 *The Clerk. -- votes aye.

3716 *Mr. Latta. I am sorry, from Pennsylvania.

3717 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

3718 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

3719 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from Idaho?

3720 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

3721 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

3722 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady from New York?

3723 *Ms. Clarke. Yvette Clarke votes aye.

3724 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

3725 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from California?

3726 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

3727 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

3728 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady from Michigan?
3729 *Mrs. Dingell. Votes aye.
3730 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3731 *Mr. Latta. Oh, I am sorry, the gentleman from Texas?
3732 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
3733 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
3734 *Voice. Mr. Kean.
3735 *Mr. Latta. And the gentleman from Michigan?
3736 I am sorry. Oh, I thought you said James. I am sorry.
3737 The gentleman from New Jersey?
3738 [Pause.]
3739 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman from California?
3740 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
3741 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
3742 *Voice. Mr. Kean.
3743 *Mr. Latta. Is the -- recorded, thank you. Are there
3744 any other members wishing to record their vote?
3745 Is Mr. Kean recorded?
3746 *The Clerk. Yes, Mr. Kean is recorded as aye.
3747 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. And the gentleman
3748 from Alabama?
3749 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
3750 *Mr. Latta. Yes.
3751 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
3752 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

3753 *Mr. Latta. Are any other members wishing to record
3754 their vote?

3755 Hearing none, the clerk will report.

3756 [Pause.]

3757 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 44
3758 ayes and 0 noes.

3759 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The ayes have it.
3760 The bill is adopted.

3761 Clerk, call -- the chair calls up H.R. 6529 and asks the
3762 clerk to report.

3763 *The Clerk. Committee print of H.R. 6529, a bill to
3764 require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission --

3765 *Mr. Latta. Without objection, the first reading of the
3766 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3767 amendment at any point.

3768 So ordered.

3769 [The bill follows:]

3770

3771 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3772

3773 *Mr. Latta. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?
3774 For what purpose does the gentleman from Ohio's 1st
3775 district seek recognition?

3776 *Mr. Landsman. To speak on the bill.

3777 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
3778 minutes to speak on the bill.

3779 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3780 The Protecting Families from AI Data Centers Energy
3781 Costs Act would require FERC to hold a technical conference
3782 to bring all stakeholders together and produce for us
3783 detailed recommendations, best practices to ensure that
3784 ratepayers are protected, that there isn't a single dime that
3785 they are charged in terms of the data centers' usage of
3786 electricity.

3787 So there, I think, needs to be a lot of work here in
3788 terms of these state regulatory entities and holding and
3789 protecting these communities, ratepayers. But FERC
3790 ultimately has to step up too. I am of the opinion that we
3791 need a national framework, and this gets us to the kind of
3792 Federal leadership that I think most communities are looking
3793 for.

3794 This focuses on costs. There has been a lot of
3795 discussion about the environmental impact. Obviously, that
3796 needs to be taken into account and part of this -- I think
3797 the NDAs have to go. But this is a common-sense approach,

3798 and I appreciate Mr. Griffith for jumping on board. And
3799 hopefully my colleagues will support it.

3800 Again, the bill just requires FERC to bring all of the
3801 key folks together and produce for us detailed
3802 recommendations, best practices to ensure that rising energy
3803 costs from data centers aren't passed on to our communities
3804 or ratepayers.

3805 Thank you, I yield back.

3806 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. For
3807 what purpose does the gentleman from Virginia's 9th district
3808 seek recognition?

3809 *Mr. Griffith. Speaking on the measure.

3810 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
3811 minutes to speak on the bill.

3812 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proud to
3813 be the Republican co-lead on this timely bill of Mr.
3814 Landsman's.

3815 The bill directs the convening of a comprehensive
3816 technical conference at the Federal Energy Regulatory
3817 Commission on ensuring that large loads like data centers pay
3818 their fair share to connect to the electric grid. The bill
3819 reinforces the principle that data centers, not household
3820 ratepayers -- I always refer to them on the stump as ma and
3821 pa farmer because agriculture is a big deal in my district --
3822 they don't -- that farmers and the average household

3823 ratepayers do not need to pay for new transmission lines and
3824 substations as they sign up to connect to the grid -- as the
3825 data centers sign up to connect to the grid and begin ramping
3826 up power use.

3827 FERC and state utility commissioners are already
3828 beginning to -- the work of creating parameters on electric
3829 rate arrangements for large loads. As FERC begins its
3830 proceedings to examine current transmission rules in light of
3831 more large loads connecting to the electric grid under the
3832 Federal Power Act, it is imperative that the commissioners
3833 keep household ratepayers top of their mind.

3834 Just like any other any other businesses, data centers
3835 should be able to connect to the electric grid. However, the
3836 scale of this electric demand over the past few years has
3837 called into question long-time electric rate structures and
3838 rules on how the cost of electric infrastructure should be
3839 charged to the ratepayers. This bill is going -- is about
3840 giving all interested parties, including state regulators and
3841 consumers, a seat at the table as Federal regulators sort out
3842 the best way to make sure power costs are carefully
3843 distributed under the Federal Power Act -- again, as Mr.
3844 Landsman said, to protect the ratepayer, the average
3845 householder.

3846 I believe that this legislation will provide valuable
3847 direction to FERC on their deliberations on this issue and

3848 will help elevate the questions and concerns that I hear
3849 regularly from my constituents -- and I am sure many of you
3850 all are, as well -- on what data centers might mean for their
3851 electric bills.

3852 In addition to informing FERC's proceedings, I believe
3853 that the report required by this bill and the report to this
3854 committee will be useful for informing Congress's work on the
3855 issue as we go forward.

3856 I am glad to be the Republican co-lead on Congressman
3857 Landsman's bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in
3858 favor of reporting this bill.

3859 Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, and with that I yield
3860 back.

3861 *The Chair. [Presiding.] The gentleman yields back. Is
3862 there any further discussion on the bill?

3863 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

3864 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
3865 6529. As amended, right? No amendment. A roll call has
3866 been requested and the clerk will call the roll.

3867 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3868 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3869 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

3870 Mr. Griffith?

3871 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3872 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

3873 Mr. Bilirakis?
3874 [No response.]
3875 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
3876 [No response.]
3877 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
3878 [No response.]
3879 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
3880 [No response.]
3881 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
3882 [No response.]
3883 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
3884 [No response.]
3885 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
3886 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
3887 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
3888 Mr. Weber?
3889 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
3890 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
3891 Mr. Allen?
3892 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
3893 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
3894 Mr. Balderson?
3895 [No response.]
3896 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
3897 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

3898 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
3899 Mr. Fulcher?
3900 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
3901 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
3902 Mr. Pfluger?
3903 [No response.]
3904 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
3905 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
3906 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
3907 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3908 [No response.]
3909 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
3910 [No response.]
3911 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
3912 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
3913 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
3914 Mr. James?
3915 [No response.]
3916 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
3917 [No response.]
3918 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
3919 [No response.]
3920 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3921 [No response.]
3922 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

3923 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
3924 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
3925 Mr. Langworthy?
3926 [No response.]
3927 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
3928 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
3929 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
3930 Mr. Rulli?
3931 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
3932 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
3933 Mr. Evans?
3934 [No response.]
3935 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
3936 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
3937 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
3938 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3939 [No response.]
3940 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
3941 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3942 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3943 Ms. DeGette?
3944 [No response.]
3945 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
3946 *Ms. Schakowsky. Yes.
3947 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

3948 Ms. Matsui?
3949 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3950 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3951 Ms. Castor?
3952 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3953 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3954 Mr. Tonko?
3955 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3956 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3957 Ms. Clarke?
3958 [No response.]
3959 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?
3960 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3961 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3962 Mr. Ruiz?
3963 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3964 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3965 Mr. Peters?
3966 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3967 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3968 Mrs. Dingell?
3969 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
3970 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3971 Mr. Veasey?
3972 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

3973 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3974 Ms. Kelly?
3975 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3976 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3977 Ms. Barragan?
3978 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3979 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3980 Mr. Soto?
3981 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3982 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3983 Ms. Schrier?
3984 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3985 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3986 Mrs. Trahan?
3987 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3988 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3989 Mrs. Fletcher?
3990 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3991 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3992 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3993 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3994 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3995 Mr. Auchincloss?
3996 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3997 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

3998 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3999 [No response.]
4000 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4001 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4002 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4003 Mr. Menendez?
4004 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4005 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4006 Mr. Mullin?
4007 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4008 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4009 Mr. Landsman?
4010 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4011 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4012 Ms. McClellan?
4013 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4014 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4015 Chairman Guthrie?
4016 *The Chair. Aye.
4017 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
4018 *The Chair. All right. Bilirakis?
4019 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.
4020 *Mr. Bilirakis. Votes aye.
4021 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis --
4022 *The Chair. Carter, Georgia.

4023 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

4024 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

4025 *The Chair. Mr. Palmer?

4026 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

4027 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

4028 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

4029 *The Chair. Mr. Langworthy?

4030 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.

4031 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

4032 *The Chair. Mr. James?

4033 *The Clerk. Mr. James --

4034 *Mr. James. Aye.

4035 *The Clerk. -- votes aye.

4036 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack?

4037 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.

4038 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

4039 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

4040 *The Chair. Mr. Pfluger?

4041 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

4042 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

4043 *The Chair. You are good on your side? Okay.

4044 Is anyone else seeking recognition to answer the roll?

4045 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

4046 [Pause.]

4047 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 44

4048 ayes and 0 noes.

4049 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

4050 The chair calls up H.R. 9617 and asks the clerk to
4051 report.

4052 *The Clerk. H.R. 9617, a bill to amend the Solid Waste
4053 Disposal Act to direct the --

4054 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
4055 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
4056 amendment at any point.

4057 So ordered.

4058 [The bill follows:]

4059

4060 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4061

4062 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
4063 bill?

4064 For what purpose does the gentleman from Alabama seek to
4065 be recognized?

4066 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
4067 speak in support of my bill, H.R. --

4068 *The Chair. You are recognized for five minutes to
4069 speak on the bill.

4070 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4071 The Coordinating and Harnessing America's Recovery
4072 Minerals, or CHARM Act, as I discussed yesterday, China has
4073 made a calculated, concerted effort to control the supply
4074 chains of important materials, and have already demonstrated
4075 their willingness to exploit our vulnerabilities. This
4076 problem is too grave to ignore, and solving it requires us to
4077 leverage the expertise of all of our Federal agencies, and
4078 this necessitates coordinated action across agencies.

4079 Throughout this Congress the Subcommittee on Environment
4080 has explored opportunities to recover valuable minerals from
4081 legacy mine sites, coal combustion residuals, electronics
4082 waste, and lithium ion batteries. We have a wealth of non-
4083 traditional critical mineral sources already within our
4084 borders, but we need to implement an intentional strategy to
4085 take advantage of these sources and to identify and remove
4086 unnecessary regulatory barriers that stifle innovation and

4087 deter investment.

4088 The United States has already demonstrated its ability
4089 to scale up efforts to recover valuable materials. For
4090 example, highlighted by the International Energy Agency in a
4091 2024 report, aluminum supply shortages associated with World
4092 War II drove increased attention to organized aluminum
4093 recycling efforts. In 2024 the United States had a
4094 significantly higher share of secondary aluminum supply as a
4095 percentage of its total supply other -- than other advanced
4096 economies.

4097 To further these efforts, this legislation directs the
4098 Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with other
4099 Federal agencies, to develop and carry out a national
4100 critical mineral recovery strategy. This legislation directs
4101 EPA to identify programs both within that agency and within
4102 others that relate to critical mineral recovery. In
4103 formulating this strategy, EPA will identify barriers to
4104 recovering critical minerals from discarded materials,
4105 identify discarded materials that could serve as sources of
4106 recovered critical minerals, and evaluate the role of
4107 recovered mineral -- critical minerals in strengthening our
4108 domestic supply chains.

4109 I want to thank my Democratic colleague, my friend, Mr.
4110 Tonko, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Environment,
4111 for joining me in leading this legislation. I am proud of

4112 the bipartisan work we have done so far this Congress, and
4113 this bill is a great example. I encourage my colleagues to
4114 support this bipartisan legislation.

4115 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

4116 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there a
4117 discussion on the bill?

4118 The gentleman from New York is recognized for five
4119 minutes to speak on the bill.

4120 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
4121 last word.

4122 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
4123 bill.

4124 *Mr. Tonko. Last week the CHARM Act was advanced by the
4125 Environment Subcommittee. I thank and reiterate my gratitude
4126 to Chair Palmer for leading us on this bill. I appreciate
4127 his work and the bipartisan spirit that we both lent to this
4128 bill.

4129 The CHARM Act would direct EPA to develop a national
4130 strategy to support critical mineral recovery. There are
4131 significant amounts of discarded materials that have
4132 potential to be transformed into valuable sources of domestic
4133 critical minerals. But those materials often require
4134 collection, recycling, and perhaps reprocessing. And for a
4135 wide variety of reasons, these materials are often ending up
4136 in landfills rather than being reused.

4137 EPA is in a great position to examine these potential
4138 reasons and to determine where regulatory, technological, and
4139 economic barriers exist. It is my hope that this strategy
4140 will build upon EPA's existing efforts to develop a framework
4141 for end-of-life management of batteries to result in the
4142 responsible collection, the reuse, and recycling of these
4143 mineral-rich technologies.

4144 I do think we can all agree that our critical minerals
4145 supply chain challenges are significant, and I am glad to see
4146 a bipartisan embrace of the role material recovery can play
4147 in meeting our demands. So I thank the majority and minority
4148 staff for working together on this bill, and I encourage
4149 members to support it.

4150 And with that, Mr. Chair, I thank you and yield back.

4151 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
4152 further discussion on the bill?

4153 The gentleman from Florida? The gentleman from Florida
4154 is recognized for five minutes to speak on the bill.

4155 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman. We heard these
4156 bipartisan bills in our subcommittee just a week or so ago.
4157 Critical minerals are in just about everything these days:
4158 cell phones, computers, EVs, hybrids, solar panels,
4159 electronics, and more. Mining is one way to get them,
4160 imports is another. But that is becoming increasingly
4161 difficult, especially with our rival, China, making a lot of

4162 those -- processing a lot of those critical minerals. And so
4163 recycling has to be part of the equation: landfills, coal,
4164 ash, other waste, all rich in critical minerals.

4165 It is essential that we protect public health, first and
4166 foremost. Local communities need to have a big part of this
4167 as well. Using these minerals only once, though, would be a
4168 waste. And so the CHARM Act and the EMRTAI are both
4169 important progress. One would develop a national critical
4170 mineral recovery strategy and the other improves technology
4171 to extract and recycle these critical minerals. So I
4172 encourage my colleagues to vote for this important piece of
4173 legislation, and let's make sure we are improving our ability
4174 to produce and recycle critical minerals at home.

4175 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
4176 further discussion on the bill?

4177 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

4178 Seeing none, the question occurs on adopting H.R. 9617.
4179 A roll call has been requested and the clerk will call the
4180 roll.

4181 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4182 [No response.]

4183 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4184 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

4185 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

4186 Mr. Griffith?

4187 [No response.]
4188 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?
4189 [No response.]
4190 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
4191 [No response.]
4192 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?
4193 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
4194 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
4195 Mr. Palmer?
4196 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
4197 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
4198 Mr. Dunn?
4199 [No response.]
4200 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
4201 [No response.]
4202 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
4203 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
4204 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
4205 Mr. Weber?
4206 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
4207 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
4208 Mr. Allen?
4209 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
4210 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
4211 Mr. Balderson?

4212 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
4213 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
4214 Mr. Fulcher?
4215 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
4216 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
4217 Mr. Pfluger?
4218 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
4219 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
4220 Mrs. Harshbarger?
4221 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
4222 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
4223 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4224 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
4225 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
4226 Mrs. Cammack?
4227 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
4228 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
4229 Mr. Obernolte?
4230 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
4231 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
4232 Mr. James?
4233 [No response.]
4234 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
4235 [No response.]
4236 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?

4237 [No response.]

4238 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

4239 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.

4240 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.

4241 Mr. Fry?

4242 [No response.]

4243 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

4244 *Ms. Lee. Aye.

4245 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.

4246 Mr. Langworthy?

4247 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.

4248 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

4249 Mr. Kean?

4250 *Mr. Kean. Aye.

4251 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

4252 Mr. Rulli?

4253 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.

4254 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.

4255 Mr. Evans?

4256 *Mr. Evans. Aye.

4257 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.

4258 Mr. Goldman?

4259 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

4260 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

4261 Mrs. Fedorchak?

4262 [No response.]

4263 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

4264 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

4265 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

4266 Ms. DeGette?

4267 [No response.]

4268 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

4269 *Ms. Schakowsky. Yes.

4270 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

4271 Ms. Matsui?

4272 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

4273 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

4274 Ms. Castor?

4275 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

4276 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

4277 Mr. Tonko?

4278 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

4279 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

4280 Ms. Clarke?

4281 [No response.]

4282 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

4283 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

4284 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

4285 Mr. Peters?

4286 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

4287 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4288 Mrs. Dingell?
4289 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
4290 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4291 Mr. Veasey?
4292 [No response.]
4293 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
4294 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4295 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4296 Ms. Barragan?
4297 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4298 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4299 Ms. Barragan?
4300 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4301 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4302 Mr. Soto?
4303 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4304 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4305 Ms. Schrier?
4306 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4307 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4308 Mrs. Trahan?
4309 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4310 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4311 Mrs. Fletcher?

4312 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4313 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4314 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4315 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4316 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4317 Mr. Auchincloss?
4318 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4319 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4320 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4321 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4322 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4323 Mr. Menendez?
4324 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4325 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4326 Mr. Mullin?
4327 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4328 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4329 Mr. Landsman?
4330 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4331 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4332 Ms. McClellan?
4333 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4334 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4335 Chairman Guthrie?
4336 *The Chair. Aye.

4337 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
4338 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to --
4339 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
4340 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
4341 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
4342 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis?
4343 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
4344 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
4345 *The Chair. Mr. Hudson?
4346 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.
4347 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
4348 *The Chair. Ms. Clarke?
4349 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke is not recorded.
4350 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
4351 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4352 [Pause.]
4353 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 47
4354 ayes and 0 noes.
4355 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
4356 The chair calls up H.R. 9616, and asks the clerk to
4357 report.
4358 *The Clerk. H.R. 9616, a bill to --
4359 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
4360 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
4361 amendment at any point.

4362 So ordered.

4363 [The bill follows:]

4364

4365 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4366

4367 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
4368 bill?

4369 The gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes
4370 to speak on the bill.

4371 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I do, in
4372 fact, speak in support of my bill, H.R. 9616, the
4373 Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Technology
4374 Assessment Initiative, or EMRTAI, Authorization Act of 2026.

4375 Critical materials are essential to some of the most
4376 important technologies and products in the communications,
4377 energy, defense, and transportation sectors. However, their
4378 supply chains are vulnerable to disruption, and we rely on
4379 other nations, including adversaries such as China, for many
4380 of these. China is currently responsible for over 70 percent
4381 of global rare earth metal production, and refines up to 87
4382 percent of the world's supply of critical minerals. Unless
4383 we develop more domestic sources for critical materials, we
4384 will remain at the mercy of our enemies.

4385 Fortunately, cutting-edge technologies are emerging to
4386 identify and take advantage of unconventional sources of
4387 critical minerals right here at home. In my home state of
4388 Texas, researchers and companies are exploring ways to
4389 recover lithium and other critical minerals from produced
4390 water generated during oil and gas production. The Permian
4391 Basin alone generates millions of barrels of produced water

4392 every day, one of the largest produced water streams in the
4393 world, and the sheer volume of that water presents challenges
4394 but also creates an opportunity to recover valuable critical
4395 minerals from a resource that has historically been treated
4396 as a waste stream.

4397 There are thousands of contaminated sites across the
4398 United States, including over 1,300 of the EPA's national
4399 priority list of the country's most contaminated sites.
4400 Additionally, on Federal lands alone the Federal Government
4401 has spent over \$100 million remediating contamination from
4402 abandoned hardrock mine sites. However, while these sites
4403 are a threat to health and to the environment, they can also
4404 be potential sources of critical materials.

4405 The EMRTAI Authorization Act of 2026 directs EPA to
4406 stand up a program to support methods to identify and recover
4407 critical materials at these sites, contributing to the
4408 development of new domestic sources and encouraging the
4409 remediation of these sites. EPA already has experience
4410 funding such projects. Addressing our supply chain
4411 vulnerability is a daunting challenge, but creative solutions
4412 that leverage technological innovation play a major role in
4413 solving it.

4414 I am grateful that we could work across the aisle to
4415 advance this legislation, and I specifically thank my
4416 colleague from Ohio, Representative Landsman, for joining me

4417 in leading this endeavor. I encourage my colleagues to
4418 support this bipartisan legislation.

4419 And I yield back.

4420 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman
4421 from -- is there anyone seeking recognition to speak on the
4422 bill?

4423 The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for five minutes
4424 to speak on the bill.

4425 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Pfluger
4426 said, the bill would stand up a grant program to identify and
4427 recover critical minerals at contaminated sites.

4428 There are countless abandoned mines, Superfund and other
4429 industrial sites across the country. And while we clean them
4430 up through public funds, we can also help to replenish our
4431 domestic supply of critical minerals for clean and cheap
4432 renewable energy. This program would give a critical
4433 lifeline to entities that are working on new and innovative
4434 technologies to extract critical minerals from contaminated
4435 sites. It will help them to advance their technologies while
4436 getting both critical minerals and contamination out of these
4437 sites.

4438 I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and with that
4439 I yield back.

4440 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
4441 further discussion on the bill?

4442 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

4443 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.

4444 9616. A roll call has been requested and the clerk will call
4445 the roll.

4446 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4447 [No response.]

4448 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

4449 [No response.]

4450 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

4451 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes.

4452 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

4453 Mr. Hudson?

4454 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

4455 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

4456 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

4457 [No response.]

4458 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

4459 [No response.]

4460 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

4461 [No response.]

4462 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

4463 [No response.]

4464 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

4465 [No response.]

4466 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?

4467 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
4468 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
4469 Mr. Allen?
4470 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
4471 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
4472 Mr. Balderson?
4473 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
4474 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
4475 Mr. Fulcher?
4476 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
4477 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
4478 Mr. Pfluger?
4479 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
4480 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
4481 Mrs. Harshbarger?
4482 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
4483 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
4484 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4485 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
4486 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
4487 Mrs. Cammack?
4488 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
4489 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
4490 Mr. Obernolte?
4491 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

4492 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes aye.
4493 Mr. James?
4494 *Mr. James. Aye.
4495 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
4496 Mr. Bentz?
4497 [No response.]
4498 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
4499 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
4500 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
4501 Mr. Fry?
4502 [No response.]
4503 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
4504 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
4505 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
4506 Mr. Langworthy?
4507 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
4508 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
4509 Mr. Kean?
4510 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
4511 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
4512 Mr. Rulli?
4513 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
4514 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
4515 Mr. Evans?
4516 [No response.]

4517 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
4518 [No response.]
4519 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak?
4520 [No response.]
4521 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
4522 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4523 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4524 Ms. DeGette?
4525 [No response.]
4526 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
4527 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4528 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4529 Ms. Matsui?
4530 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4531 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4532 Ms. Castor?
4533 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4534 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4535 Mr. Tonko?
4536 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4537 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4538 Ms. Clarke?
4539 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
4540 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4541 Mr. Ruiz?

4542 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4543 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4544 Mr. Peters?
4545 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4546 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4547 Mrs. Dingell?
4548 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
4549 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4550 Mr. Veasey?
4551 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4552 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4553 Ms. Kelly?
4554 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4555 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4556 Ms. Barragan?
4557 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4558 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4559 Mr. Soto?
4560 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4561 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4562 Ms. Schrier?
4563 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4564 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4565 Mrs. Trahan?
4566 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

4567 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4568 Mrs. Fletcher?
4569 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4570 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4571 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4572 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4573 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4574 Mr. Auchincloss?
4575 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4576 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4577 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4578 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4579 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4580 Mr. Menendez?
4581 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4582 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4583 Mr. Mullin?
4584 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4585 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4586 Mr. Landsman?
4587 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4588 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4589 Ms. McClellan?
4590 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4591 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

4592 Chairman Guthrie?
4593 *The Chair. Aye.
4594 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
4595 *The Chair. Mr. Latta?
4596 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
4597 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
4598 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
4599 *The Chair. Mr. Carter?
4600 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
4601 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.
4602 *The Chair. Mr. Palmer?
4603 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
4604 *The Chair. Mr. --
4605 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
4606 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
4607 *The Chair. Mr. Goldman?
4608 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
4609 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
4610 *The Chair. Mr. Evans?
4611 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
4612 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
4613 *The Chair. Mr. Griffith?
4614 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
4615 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
4616 *The Chair. Dr. Joyce?

4617 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

4618 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

4619 *The Chair. On the Democrat side is anyone seeking
4620 recognition?

4621 Seeing no one else seeking recognition to answer the
4622 roll call, the clerk will report.

4623 [Pause.]

4624 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 48
4625 ayes and 0 noes.

4626 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
4627 The chair calls up H.R. 9393 and asks the clerk to
4628 report.

4629 *The Clerk. H.R. 9393, a bill to promote price
4630 transparency --

4631 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
4632 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
4633 amendment at any point.

4634 So ordered.

4635 [The bill follows:]

4636

4637 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4638

4639 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
4640 bill?

4641 So the gentleman from Florida is recognized for five
4642 minutes to speak on the bill.

4643 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. I appreciate, Mr. Chairman.
4644 I rise in support of the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act,
4645 legislation that I am proud to co-lead along with my
4646 colleagues, Representatives Panetta, Pfluger, Pappas,
4647 Fitzgerald, and Ross.

4648 Xylazine is a veterinary sedative used to treat large
4649 animals, as you know. Drug traffickers are increasingly
4650 mixing it with fentanyl and other illicit drugs, making an
4651 already dangerous drug supply even more deadly. This
4652 legislation places Xylazine in schedule 3, strengthens law
4653 enforcement's ability to track and combat its diversion into
4654 the illicit market, all while preserving access for
4655 veterinarians, farmers, ranchers, and others who rely on it
4656 for legitimate animal care.

4657 As drug traffickers continue to adapt and evolve,
4658 Congress must ensure that our lives -- again, our laws -- and
4659 enforcement tools remain effective. So I urge my colleagues
4660 to support this particular bill.

4661 And I yield back the balance of my time.

4662 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. I know there
4663 are several people who want to speak on the bill. We are

4664 going to call up an ANS on the bill. Did anybody want to
4665 speak on the bill or wait until the amendment in the nature
4666 of a substitute?

4667 But I do have one amendment filed to the bill, even
4668 though we are going to pass an ANS. But -- so the gentleman
4669 from Georgia has an amendment filed to the bill.

4670 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an
4671 amendment at the desk.

4672 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

4673 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 9393 offered by Mr.
4674 Carter of --

4675 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
4676 amendment is dispensed with, and the gentleman is recognized
4677 for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

4678 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am
4679 proud to offer this amendment.

4680 The amendment features two key pieces of our
4681 legislation, the DOC Access Act, that are broadly supported
4682 on a bipartisan basis, aimed to boost transparency in the
4683 vision benefits market and help lower costs for eye and
4684 vision care consumers.

4685 Right now the vision benefits market is largely
4686 dominated by two vertically integrated vision benefit
4687 managers that provide vision insurance coverage to nearly 200
4688 million Americans. These two VPMS (sic) -- and notice I say

4689 VPMS (sic) -- V, as in vision; not P, as in pharmacy, but it
4690 is very, very similar to a PBM -- these two VPMS are not only
4691 the overwhelming provider of vision benefits in America, but
4692 they also manufacture and sell nearly all eyeglass frames and
4693 lenses on the market, nearly all of it made in China. Nearly
4694 all of it made in China.

4695 They also owned thousands of retail optical locations
4696 around the country. They own nearly all optical laboratories
4697 that produce finished prescription eyewear, and they are
4698 aggressively acquiring independent eyecare practices
4699 nationwide at an astonishing pace. These two dominant VPMS
4700 have successfully consolidated the coverage market, and now
4701 they have their sights set on dominating every other aspect
4702 of vision care in America. Did you all catch that? "Sights
4703 set on''? Just -- okay, I just wanted to make sure.

4704 They use this market dominance to keep prices high, to
4705 limit consumer choices, to dictate care, and to --

4706 *The Chair. Will the gentleman suspend?

4707 Let's get the committee to order. So the gentleman
4708 deserves to be heard.

4709 The gentleman is recognized.

4710 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. They use this market dominance
4711 to keep prices high, to limit consumer choices, to dictate
4712 care, and to force doctors and patients to buy the products
4713 they make and use the services they own and operate. Our

4714 amendment aims to confront these abuses, and it is time for
4715 this committee to act.

4716 This amendment is focused on shining the light on and
4717 preventing VPMs from using their market power to steer
4718 patients toward affiliated providers and products. Right now
4719 these VPMs force patients to use optical laboratories that
4720 are owned or under the direct control of their VPM. This
4721 amendment would prevent VPMs from mandating use of one or --
4722 of their subsidiary businesses: their optical lab. Patients
4723 would still have the choice to use the VPM lab if that is
4724 what they wanted, but our amendment would also give them the
4725 freedom to choose another lab that worked best for them based
4726 on cost, quality, and convenience.

4727 Without this fix, patients will continue to face higher
4728 costs, inferior products, and production, and an
4729 unnecessarily long wait times for a finished pair of
4730 prescription eyeglasses.

4731 While we have been working on this issue for years,
4732 states like Georgia, New York, Kentucky, New Jersey,
4733 Illinois, Louisiana, Colorado, Texas, and dozens of others
4734 are passing tough new laws to address a wide range of VBM
4735 abuses. Congress has a responsibility to act, as well,
4736 particularly because millions of Americans receive vision
4737 coverage through federally-regulated plans that fall outside
4738 the reach of many state protections.

4739 Just a few weeks ago the Government Accountability
4740 Office released a report requested by Chairman Guthrie that
4741 highlighted the extraordinary concentration that exists in
4742 the vision benefits marketplace and the challenges it poses
4743 for consumers, independent providers, and all of our
4744 communities. Consumer advocates and patient organizations
4745 are demanding reform. Groups such as Patients Rising and the
4746 National Consumers League have called for greater scrutiny of
4747 VPMs and stronger protections for patients, including those
4748 found in our amendment. Their message is clear: patients
4749 and consumers deserve transparency, competition, choice, and
4750 greater affordability.

4751 We cannot continue to ignore one of the most
4752 concentrated and least transparent segments of the health
4753 care system. By pulling back the curtain on costly,
4754 controlling, and care-limiting VPM practices, we can help
4755 millions of Americans access more affordable vision care,
4756 preserve independent providers, and ensure that patients, not
4757 corporate middlemen, remain at the center of important health
4758 care decisions.

4759 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to continuing
4760 to work with you and my colleagues on both sides of this
4761 aisle to advance meaningful VPM reforms, and I yield back.

4762 *The Chair. If the gentleman would yield before you
4763 yield back?

4764 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I yield.

4765 *The Chair. So we are dedicated to working -- the bill
4766 that you have before us. I know we are waiting for a CBO
4767 score. We are -- technical assistance. And I just -- I
4768 broke my glasses on July the 2nd. I could see my optometrist
4769 within 24 hours. It took me until yesterday to get -- and
4770 the only ones they had. So if you like my glasses or not,
4771 that is what -- that was my option. So it was frustrating to
4772 go a couple of weeks before you could get something fixed.
4773 So I see your point, and we are going to figure out a path
4774 forward.

4775 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Well --

4776 *The Chair. But we do need the score and we do need
4777 technical assistance, so I appreciate --

4778 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Understanding that, Mr.
4779 Chairman, I thank you for your cooperation and for your
4780 commitment to make sure that we do address this before the
4781 end of this session, and I will withdraw this amendment.

4782 *The Chair. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman
4783 withdrawing the amendment.

4784 Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

4785 I have an amendment at the desk. It is an amendment in
4786 the nature of a substitute.

4787 Are we going to speak on the -- oh, you want to speak on
4788 his amendment? Oh, okay. Okay, I am sorry. Well, he

4789 withdrew it, but I will go ahead.

4790 So the gentlelady is recognized for five minutes to
4791 speak on the withdrawn amendment.

4792 *Ms. Clarke. I appreciate that.

4793 *The Chair. Okay. We will be deferential.

4794 *Ms. Clarke. I appreciate the gentleman for extending
4795 himself. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

4796 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

4797 *Ms. Clarke. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Chairman Guthrie
4798 and Ranking Member Pallone, for bringing -- thank you both
4799 for bringing forth H.R. 9393, the Lower Cost, Lower
4800 Transparency Act, to address transparency within health care.
4801 I am pleased to support my colleague and offer this amendment
4802 alongside him, Congressman Buddy Carter, to address an issue
4803 that has affected Americans for far too long.

4804 The health care marketplace has experienced significant
4805 consolidation and vertical integration, reducing transparency
4806 and limiting patient choice particularly for those seeking
4807 vision care. Today the vision insurance market is one of the
4808 most consolidated in the country, with just two national
4809 vision benefit managers, VBMs, covering more than 80 percent
4810 of Americans with vision benefits. This level of market
4811 concentration raises serious concerns about competition,
4812 accountability, and consumer protection.

4813 Americans deserve a vision care system where patients

4814 and families have the information and options they need to
4815 make informed decisions about their care, and that is why
4816 Congressman Buddy Carter and I introduced H.R. 1521, the
4817 Dental and Optometric, DOC, Access Act, bipartisan
4818 legislation that shines a light on opaque business practices,
4819 increases transparency, protects patient choice, and helps
4820 curb anti-competitive behavior that harms consumers.

4821 By advancing this bipartisan legislation, which was
4822 withdrawn, we can help lower the cost and promote
4823 transparency within vision care and ensure that patients, not
4824 profits, come first.

4825 With that, I am going to yield some time to my
4826 colleague, Congresswoman Castor of Florida.

4827 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Rep. Clarke. I wanted to
4828 speak in favor. And I hope, Mr. Chairman, we can see a way
4829 forward on the Carter-Clarke amendment to address vision lab
4830 choice and evergreen contracts. These are two practices that
4831 have contributed to anti-competitive behavior in the vision
4832 insurance marketplace.

4833 For more than a decade patients and providers and
4834 employers have sought meaningful reforms. And as a cosponsor
4835 of the DOC Access Act, I think that the amendment before us
4836 is a narrowly tailored approach that would address
4837 longstanding concerns about consolidation, vertical
4838 integration, and patient choice in the vision benefits

4839 market.

4840 While I understand the amendment has been withdrawn and
4841 won't move forward today, I appreciate the committee's
4842 willingness to keep working on this and to pass necessary
4843 reforms in this space.

4844 Thank you, and I yield back.

4845 *Ms. Clarke. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
4846 my time.

4847 *The Chair. Thank you. To finish the gentlelady from
4848 Florida's pun, we see a path forward. We will see a path
4849 forward. So thank you.

4850 So are there any further discussions on the amendment
4851 from the gentleman from Georgia?

4852 Seeing none, I have an amendment at the desk, an
4853 amendment in the nature of a substitute.

4854 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
4855 H.R. 9393 offered by Mr. Guthrie of Kentucky.

4856 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
4857 amendment is dispensed with.

4858 [The amendment of The Chair follows:]

4859

4860 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4861

4862 *The Chair. And I will recognize myself for five
4863 minutes in support of my amendment.

4864 So I offer my strong support for the amendment to H.R.
4865 9393, the Lower Cost, More Transparency Act of 2026, which
4866 incorporates numerous bipartisan priorities of the members of
4867 this Committee and for the underlying bill, and I urge all of
4868 my colleagues to support it.

4869 H.R. 9393 is the accumulation of many months of work by
4870 this committee to assess health care affordability challenges
4871 and identify opportunities to lower costs for American
4872 families. I was proud to introduce this legislation with my
4873 good friend, Ranking Member Pallone.

4874 In just the last seven months we have held hearings with
4875 the insurance CEOs, members of the drug supply chain,
4876 hospitals, and doctors. We have conducted critical oversight
4877 of waste, fraud, and abuse in the health care system, and we
4878 have assessed opportunities to enhance transparency for
4879 consumers. The ANS which we are considering today takes
4880 lessons from those -- each of those hearings, and creates a
4881 comprehensive health care package that will strengthen health
4882 care price transparency, hold insurers accountable to their
4883 patients, lower drug prices, and expand access to care.

4884 This bill improves price transparency across the health
4885 care system by codifying and building on the Trump
4886 Administration's historic price transparency regulation, and

4887 extends these requirements to lab tests and imaging services,
4888 as well as ambulatory surgical centers. This will give
4889 consumers and employers the tools they need to find the
4890 highest quality of care at the lowest price.

4891 This package will also hold insurers accountable by
4892 requiring insurers to publish their overhead costs and claims
4893 payments and information about how they employ prior
4894 authorization. This information will help consumers better
4895 shop for care and find the best plan for their family.

4896 This bill will lower drug prices by creating -- by
4897 cutting unnecessary red tape that has allowed consumers --
4898 that has slowed consumer access to lower-cost alternatives
4899 for biosimilars and over-the-counter medications.

4900 This bill also expands access to care by ensuring that
4901 behavioral and mental health and substance use disorder
4902 services are available at community health centers and by
4903 helping integrate evidence-based nutrition education and
4904 counseling into primary care delivery and workforce training
4905 at federally-qualified health centers.

4906 Ultimately, this bill delivers on its title and serves
4907 the American people by lowering costs and driving increased
4908 transparency across the health care system. While there is
4909 more work to be done as we continue our efforts to improve
4910 this bill through the legislative process, I am extremely
4911 proud of the bipartisan work that we have done here to make

4912 our health care system work better for patients across the
4913 country. That brings us all together on this committee,
4914 ensuring that our constituents has access to the best care at
4915 the best price.

4916 And with that I strongly urge my colleagues on both
4917 sides of the aisle to support this amendment and the
4918 underlying bill, and I will yield back, and I will recognize
4919 the gentleman from New Jersey for five minutes to speak on
4920 the amendment.

4921 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
4922 strike the last word.

4923 *The Chair. The gentleman is authorized to speak on the
4924 amendment.

4925 *Mr. Pallone. The Lower Cost, More Transparency Act
4926 will improve transparency in our health care system, lower
4927 Americans' drug costs, and expand access to mental and
4928 behavioral health care at community health centers, and I am
4929 proud of the work we have done together and the investments
4930 we are making in community health centers.

4931 Despite the fact that the hospital and transparency and
4932 coverage requirements went into effect over five years ago,
4933 some consumers still cannot obtain price information in
4934 advance. Too many patients are forced to wait until after
4935 they receive care and have the medical bill to fully
4936 understand how much they owe. And lack of transparency into

4937 health care prices makes it difficult for consumers to make
4938 informed decisions.

4939 It also makes it challenging for employers to negotiate
4940 more competitive prices. This bill strengthens and expands
4941 access to price information across the health care industry
4942 including hospitals, laboratories, insurance companies,
4943 ambulatory surgical centers, and imaging providers. Greater
4944 transparency will empower both employers and consumers by
4945 helping them compare prices and achieve savings.

4946 I am also pleased that the bill includes a proposal that
4947 will require hospitals to disclose ownership data. I thank
4948 the chairman for working together on this proposal. The bill
4949 will help increase transparency of hospital ownership and
4950 provide a greater insight into hospital consolidation.

4951 Additionally, I am glad the bill includes several
4952 proposals to increase transparency in the Medicare Advantage
4953 program. Representative McClellan's bill will require MA
4954 insurance companies to report data on supplemental benefits,
4955 and will provide important information to regulators and
4956 policy-makers to help us conduct oversight and assess the
4957 program's performance. Several other policies will hold MA
4958 insurance companies accountable and increase transparency of
4959 the prior authorization process in the MA program.

4960 I am concerned about MA plans' misuse of prior
4961 authorization requirements and the negative impacts that

4962 these practices have on patients accessing timely care, but
4963 this bill will ensure our seniors are receiving timely,
4964 medically necessary care without unwarranted barriers.

4965 I am very pleased also that we have included language to
4966 expand access to mental and behavioral health care community
4967 health centers. This bill includes dedicated funding to
4968 expand access to these services. With this investment it is
4969 estimated that community health centers will be able to
4970 expand behavioral health services to about 150,000 more
4971 patients.

4972 And finally, our version, you know, with the ANS,
4973 includes several important policies that will promote drug
4974 competition and lower drug prices for Americans, specifically
4975 the language which codified the FDA's approach to designating
4976 biosimilar drugs as interchangeable, and also allow for FDA
4977 to approve a biosimilar without additional clinical studies
4978 if current scientific evidence is already sufficient. These
4979 policies would reduce development time and cost to more
4980 quickly bring additional options to patients.

4981 The language would also implement important reforms to
4982 preventing gaming of citizen petitions by brand name drug
4983 companies. For years I fought for this policy to prevent
4984 companies from filing such petitions for the primary purpose
4985 of delaying generic drugs from coming to market, and I am
4986 glad that we are including this common-sense proposal here

4987 today, as well.

4988 And finally, the language also establishes a designation
4989 process for FDA to more quickly review applications to safely
4990 bring certain drugs to market for over-the-counter use, which
4991 I hope will improve patient access to safe medications.

4992 So I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in
4993 supporting this bill, as amended.

4994 And thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

4995 *The Chair. Thank you. I appreciate that. I know a
4996 lot of members have bills within this bill, and so we are
4997 going to have a lot of discussion. I appreciate that.

4998 I will go to the gentleman from Ohio for five minutes to
4999 speak on the bill -- on the amendment.

5000 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
5001 move to strike the last word in support of the ANS to H.R.
5002 9393, which includes my legislation, the Non-Prescription
5003 Drug Innovation Act that I introduced with our colleague from
5004 Ohio's 1st district.

5005 Over-the-counter, OTC, medicines are one of the most
5006 effective tools we have to improve access to care. They
5007 provide safe, convenient, and lower-cost treatment options
5008 that Americans manage common health conditions with the time
5009 and expense of obtaining a prescription (sic). This
5010 bipartisan piece of legislation will establish an expedited
5011 FDA review pathway for certain OTC drugs that address unmet

5012 health needs and encourage innovation in promising
5013 therapeutic areas where consumers currently have few or no
5014 non-prescription treatment options.

5015 This legislation also builds on the bipartisan reforms
5016 Congress enacted through the most recent reauthorization of
5017 the Over-the-Counter Monograph User Fee Program, OMUFA,
5018 reforms that I was proud to lead. Those reforms strengthened
5019 FDA's review of non-prescription drugs and improved the
5020 agency's engagement with sponsors to support the development
5021 of new OTC products.

5022 The Non-Prescription Drug Innovation Act represents the
5023 next step. It creates a pathway to help bring innovative,
5024 non-prescription therapies to patients more efficiently while
5025 preserving FDA's rigorous standards for safety and
5026 effectiveness. At a time when Americans continue to face
5027 rising health care costs, we should be looking for
5028 opportunities to expand access to safe, effective, and
5029 affordable treatment option. This legislation does exactly
5030 that.

5031 I urge my colleagues to support the ANS and I yield back
5032 the balance of my time.

5033 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
5034 from Colorado is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
5035 amendment -- or the bill in the nature of a substitute.

5036 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, and

5037 thank you for bringing this ANS up.

5038 The Lower Cost, More Transparency Act is legislation
5039 that we, frankly, have been working on as a committee to get
5040 signed into for laws (sic).

5041 On the margin, price transparency helps consumers. But
5042 the system-wide transparency which this bill takes a concrete
5043 step towards, will help payers, providers, policy-makers, and
5044 researchers get a better handle on exactly how money flows in
5045 our too-complex health care system, and provides tools for us
5046 to bring down costs. I just have to highlight two major
5047 improvements to this legislation that are contained in the
5048 ANS.

5049 First, it includes my bill with Representative Joyce,
5050 the Medicare Advantage Cost Transparency Act, which will
5051 shine light on pricing practices for seniors on Medicare
5052 Advantage plans. Specifically, it will require MA plans to
5053 report their encounter data, cost sharing, and pricing data,
5054 and, critically, information on their use of in-home health
5055 assessments.

5056 A 2024 inspector general report found that every year
5057 taxpayers fund billions of dollars in overpayments to MA
5058 companies based on unsupported diagnoses from home health
5059 assessments, which rarely result in the seniors receiving
5060 follow-up care. It also found that a fraction of MA plan
5061 sponsors drove 80 percent of those over-payments. This bill

5062 will help reveal any bad actors and the extent of their
5063 practices, as well as other information on pricing to give
5064 Congress a better picture of costs in MA.

5065 And I want to thank my friend, Dr. Joyce, for partnering
5066 with me on this issue.

5067 Second, this ANS incorporates portions of the ownership
5068 transparency amendment I offered in subcommittee. It
5069 requires hospitals and other health care providers to report
5070 information on their ownership structure, mergers,
5071 acquisitions, and consolidation, providing the Federal
5072 Government and consumers vital information because mounting
5073 evidence shows that consolidation and private equity
5074 investments in health care are major drivers of cost in the
5075 system, and in some cases there are correlations with
5076 ownership structures and quality, as well.

5077 Unfortunately, the language does not ensure the ultimate
5078 owners of a given provider entity will be revealed -- only
5079 the immediate parent company, rather than any companies that
5080 own the parent company. I don't understand why it is such a
5081 fight to get that information about the ultimate owners. I
5082 hear people say it is burdensome for hospitals to have to
5083 report on their ultimate parent company rather than their
5084 immediate parent company. But I have got to tell you, I
5085 think that is ridiculous. You are telling me that a hospital
5086 might not know who ultimately owns it?

5087 The only explanation is that some people are fighting
5088 very hard to obscure what is happening in the health care
5089 system. I know you will all be shocked to hear that. If
5090 private equity and other owners are so good for providers and
5091 patients, they should be proud to say so. That they prefer
5092 secrecy speaks volumes.

5093 Thanks to the leadership of Representatives Schakowsky
5094 and Bilirakis on this issue, many of us voted for these
5095 provisions on a bipartisan basis last Congress. I think
5096 there is more we can do now, so I hope to see that the
5097 ownership transparency portions of the bill will be further
5098 strengthened before it passes the House, and I will look
5099 forward to working with you and the chairman of the Health
5100 Subcommittee to make this happen. And moving forward I hope
5101 the bill will give Congress the information we need to curb
5102 monopolistic power and truly lower costs for patients.

5103 For those reasons I urge everybody to support the ANS
5104 and I yield --

5105 *The Chair. Would you yield?

5106 *Ms. DeGette. I would be happy to yield.

5107 *The Chair. You are always good to work with, and you
5108 were working with Fred Upton, the previous chairman of this
5109 committee, and completely changed the way we do health care
5110 in this country by --

5111 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you.

5112 *The Chair. -- the Cures Act, and brought treatments to
5113 the marketplace quicker during our last pandemic. It
5114 wouldn't have happened without your leadership.

5115 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you.

5116 *The Chair. Thank you for that. And I will yield back
5117 to you --

5118 *Ms. DeGette. Let's do some more before this Congress
5119 ends.

5120 [Applause.]

5121 *The Chair. And you have already approached me. There
5122 is more to do in the next few weeks or months together.

5123 *Ms. DeGette. Yes, there sure is.

5124 *The Chair. I appreciate that very much. Thanks for
5125 your hard work. It really is a legacy. Thank you.

5126 I yield back to you and yield back to me, so now I will
5127 recognize the gentleman from -- anybody?

5128 The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for five
5129 minutes to speak on the ANS.

5130 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do wish to
5131 speak in support of this ANS, which, as Representative
5132 DeGette just pointed out, includes H.R. 9392, the Medicare
5133 Advantage Cost Transparency Act.

5134 And thank you, Congresswoman DeGette. Thank you for
5135 partnering on this important bipartisan legislation, and
5136 thank you for the leadership that you have shown this

5137 committee throughout your time here.

5138 This bill represents an important step in the right
5139 direction in improving encounter data submissions made by
5140 Medicare Advantage plans to ensure that they account for the
5141 total allowable cost for items and services and include the
5142 amount of cost sharing imposed on the beneficiary for such
5143 services. This higher level of transparency will help inform
5144 both the public and policy-makers as we further evaluate the
5145 Medicare Advantage programs with more objective data.

5146 Thank you, Chairman Guthrie and Chairman Griffith, for
5147 including this important piece of legislation as part of this
5148 broader transparency package. And I, along with
5149 Representative DeGette, encourage all of my colleagues to
5150 support the ANS and support the underlying bill.

5151 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

5152 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair now
5153 recognizes the gentlelady from California for five minutes to
5154 speak on the -- are those votes?

5155 Okay, so votes were just called. And obviously, we are
5156 not going to get through all of this, but let's do a couple
5157 more. And we are not going to have a vote before votes,
5158 before -- so we will reconvene five minutes after the last
5159 vote is called.

5160 *Ms. Matsui. Okay.

5161 *The Chair. And so -- and I think there is going to be

5162 a lot of discussion, so just know that. But -- so we won't
5163 have any -- for your time we won't have any vote for -- after
5164 votes.

5165 All right, the gentlelady from California.

5166 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and
5167 Ranking Member Pallone, for bringing this important
5168 legislation to us. I rise today to speak in support of the
5169 Lower Cost, More Transparency Act.

5170 This bill would expand nutrition, education, mental
5171 health, and substance use treatment services at community
5172 health centers. We know these expansions lead to more people
5173 getting the care they need. I have long championed greater
5174 access to mental health services and clinics within our
5175 community. I led the movement to expand participation in
5176 certified community behavioral health clinics, or CCBACs, a
5177 Medicaid demonstration program to any state that wanted to
5178 participate. We expanded the CCBAC demonstration model from
5179 8 states in 2017 to 31 states today. And along with the
5180 expanded use of Medicaid demonstration models, we now have
5181 CCBAC programs in 46 states. This has been a huge increase
5182 in affordable mental health services directly into
5183 communities that need them the most.

5184 This legislation builds on that work. It continues the
5185 patterns of expanding mental health and substance use
5186 services into community health centers, where millions of

5187 Americans already access their care. Every year over 52
5188 million Americans visit a health center, and 14 percent of
5189 patients receive their primary care at these clinics. For
5190 many patients, especially those in rural and underserved
5191 communities, health centers are the only place they can
5192 access any care. This bill will help ensure that these
5193 patients can access the full scope of health care services
5194 directly in their communities.

5195 Additionally, this bill provides funding for community
5196 health centers to deliver nutrition education and chronic
5197 disease prevention workforce training for their clinics.
5198 Nutrition is a crucial piece of health care that is often
5199 forgotten inside the walls of a clinic. For diseases like
5200 diabetes and heart disease, two of the leading causes of
5201 death in the United States, adhering to a healthy diet can
5202 help control or, in some cases, reverse disease progression.
5203 Proper diet and exercise can also help prevent the
5204 development of some chronic diseases, resulting in longer and
5205 healthier lives.

5206 If we want health centers to provide high-level
5207 nutrition education and training for the workforce, we must
5208 provide the funding for them to do so. In the wake of the
5209 devastating cuts from H.R. 1, health centers are already
5210 stretched to continue to provide standard health care
5211 services. Knowing that, I am happy to see that this bill

5212 includes \$125 million in funding per year to implement these
5213 new services and to train the health center workforce.

5214 Additionally, this bill authorizes \$250 million per year
5215 for expanding mental health and substance use treatment. If
5216 we want health centers to provide high-level care, we must
5217 ensure they have the proper funding to do so. I commend my
5218 colleagues for bringing forward this legislation and for
5219 continued push for increased access to care for all
5220 Americans.

5221 I strongly support this legislation and the underlying
5222 ANS, and will work with my colleagues to ensure that adequate
5223 funding is appropriated yearly to continue to support
5224 community health centers, mental health and substance use
5225 services, and nutrition education for all communities.

5226 And with that I yield the balance of my time.

5227 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back, and we will do
5228 one more speaker so everybody didn't have to get up and leave
5229 in the middle of a speaker. So we will have one more speaker
5230 and then we will recess for votes.

5231 So Mr. Pfluger is next.

5232 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will make
5233 it quick, but this is exactly the kind of common-sense,
5234 bipartisan work the committee should be doing. I am so very
5235 proud to join in on this. I have two bills to talk about.

5236 The first is the Premium Transparency Act that I am

5237 leading with representative Moran. And Americans deserve to
5238 know where their health insurance dollars are actually going.
5239 Insurers are required to spend at least \$0.80 to \$0.85 of
5240 every premium dollar on patient care, but right now that
5241 information is buried in regulatory filings that almost
5242 nobody ever sees. This bill brings it out into the open in
5243 plain language that any patient, any family, any person, any
5244 employer can understand.

5245 And what Americans -- when Americans have that
5246 information in hand, they can start demanding real value for
5247 their health care dollar, and that is where the market starts
5248 working for patients instead of against them. President
5249 Trump's Great American Healthcare Plan puts patients first,
5250 and this bill helps codify that promise.

5251 Transparency is only half the equation, however. And
5252 the other is making sure that bureaucratic red tape does not
5253 stand in the way of Americans accessing lower-cost options.
5254 That is what the Biosimilar Red Tape Elimination Act does for
5255 prescription drugs, legislation that I am proud to lead
5256 alongside my colleague, Representative Greg Landsman.

5257 Expensive biologic medications make up just 5 percent of
5258 prescriptions in the U.S., but 51 percent of drug spending.
5259 Biosimilars are the safe, effective, lower-cost alternatives.
5260 And since entering the market in 2015, they have already
5261 saved patients more than \$56 billion. But Federal law has

5262 not caught up to the science, and current law maintains an
5263 outdated statutory distinction between biosimilar and
5264 interchangeable similar, products that is not based on any
5265 clinical or scientific difference. That unnecessary
5266 distinction is exactly what keeps Americans from accessing a
5267 less expensive version of their drugs, medicine.

5268 The FDA in both the Biden and the Trump Administrations
5269 has repeatedly affirmed that there is no meaningful
5270 difference in safety or efficacy between the two categories,
5271 with the Trump Administration making strides to accelerate
5272 biosimilar development. However, they need Congress to
5273 finish the job. The Biosimilar Red Tape Elimination Act
5274 offers a straightforward, science-based fix. The bill would
5275 deem all FDA-approved biosimilars interchangeable with their
5276 reference products. By aligning Federal law with the FDA's
5277 scientific recommendation, the legislation will reduce
5278 regulatory red tape, strengthen biosimilar competition, and
5279 deliver lower prices.

5280 Mr. Chairman, thanks for having this markup, and I yield
5281 back.

5282 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. And so I will
5283 come back. As soon as the last votes call I will come
5284 straight back, and we can get more discussion started.

5285 A Democrat will be up next, and we will recess until
5286 call of the chair. Hopefully, five minutes after the last

5287 vote.

5288 [Recess.]

5289 *The Chair. All right, the committee will come to
5290 order. Thanks, everybody, for prompt returning.

5291 We were speaking on the Lower Cost, More Transparency
5292 bill and on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, and
5293 it was time for the other side. The gentleman from -- the
5294 gentlelady from Massachusetts, or gentleman -- I can start
5295 with the gentleman from Massachusetts, if you like.

5296 The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for five
5297 minutes to speak on the bill.

5298 *Voice. On the ANS.

5299 *The Chair. To speak on the amendment in the nature of
5300 a substitute.

5301 *Mr. Auchincloss. Yes, thank you, Chairman. I want to
5302 talk about the two biosimilar bills that we have in this ANS,
5303 the Biosimilar Red Tape Elimination Act and the Expedited
5304 Access to Biosimilars Act.

5305 These are just two big bipartisan wins for innovation
5306 and affordability. They are meeting the moment when it comes
5307 to just the really staggering amount of invoice spend in this
5308 country on biologics that could have a competitor on the
5309 market but do not, something like \$100 billion. And both of
5310 them are pro-competitive ways of getting more biosimilars to
5311 market faster, and it really underscores to me that

5312 competition is always the best way to lower drug prices and
5313 to reduce costs in the health care system. And as a
5314 committee, we should be working on more bipartisan drug
5315 pricing proposals that expedite competition, strengthen
5316 competition like these two biosimilar bills.

5317 And there is two or three other, I think, complementary
5318 measures that I would hope this committee would consider, as
5319 well, that would induce more competition in the biosimilars
5320 market. One of them would be the sequel to the PBM reform
5321 that we did at the beginning of this term, which is one
5322 fiduciary status for pharmacy benefit managers under ERISA;
5323 and two is really cracking down on PBMs' use of white
5324 labeling and rebates to keep biosimilars off market. We are
5325 seeing really anti-competitive practices that are, one, a
5326 violation of a fiduciary status by a PBM to their employer
5327 when they are keeping that employer paying more for biologics
5328 when there could be a biosimilar on the market but they are
5329 using rebates to keep that biosim off the market.

5330 And so those two bills are complementary. Those two
5331 policies are complementary. One, tell the PBMs you have got
5332 to do what is in the best interest of your plan sponsor and
5333 employees; and two, you can't use rebates to try to keep
5334 competitors off the market. So I would encourage the
5335 committee to be considering those two proposals for
5336 biosimilars, as well.

5337 And I think we should also be looking at whether there
5338 are improvements we can make within part B so that, as
5339 biologics come up for consideration for price negotiation
5340 under the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation program, that
5341 potential competition from biosimilars is allowed to flower
5342 before that price negotiation sets in because, again, the
5343 best way to lower prices and deliver the highest quality
5344 product to people is competition, and we want to allow that
5345 biosims market to be able to compete, including with
5346 biologics that are coming up on their price negotiation
5347 period.

5348 I think that is it for me, Chair, I will yield back.

5349 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
5350 further discussion on the bill?

5351 The gentleman from New York is recognized for five
5352 minutes to speak on the amendment.

5353 *Mr. Langworthy. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the
5354 last word.

5355 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
5356 amendment.

5357 *Mr. Langworthy. I want to thank Chairman Guthrie for
5358 including my bill, H.R. 9661, the Expedited Access to
5359 Biosimilars Act, in today's amendment in the nature of a
5360 substitute.

5361 I would also like to thank my colleague, Representative

5362 Kim Schrier, for partnering with me on this common-sense
5363 bipartisan legislation.

5364 No matter where we go in our districts, we hear the same
5365 thing: prescription drugs simply cost too much. That is
5366 especially true for patients who rely on biologic medicines
5367 to treat cancer and other serious chronic illnesses. These
5368 medicines have changed countless lives, but they are also
5369 some of the most expensive prescriptions on the market, and
5370 that is where biosimilars can make a real difference. They
5371 offer patients a lower-cost alternative to many of those
5372 treatments. And as more patients rely on these medicines,
5373 making sure those low-cost options reach the market without
5374 unnecessary delays becomes even more important.

5375 Today biosimilars typically cost 15 to 35 percent less
5376 than comparable brand-name biologics. In one recent study
5377 patients using biosimilars paid about \$200 less out of
5378 pocket, on average, than patients using the reference
5379 biologic. That is real money for families already juggling
5380 doctor's appointments, treatments, and everything else that
5381 comes with a serious illness.

5382 Now, unfortunately, patients don't always get access to
5383 those savings as quickly as they should because regulatory
5384 delays can slow that process. Every unnecessary delay is
5385 another day patients are forced to wait for more affordable
5386 treatment options. That is exactly what this legislation is

5387 designed to fix.

5388 The Expedited Access to Biosimilars Act, it cuts
5389 regulatory red tape while preserving the FDA's authority to
5390 require additional studies whenever the science actually
5391 supports doing so. If additional studies are necessary, the
5392 FDA can require them; but if they aren't, patients shouldn't
5393 have to wait longer or pay more because of unnecessary
5394 bureaucracy. This is a common-sense reform that helps get
5395 safe, lower-cost medicines to patients faster without cutting
5396 corners on the science. It lowers prescription drug costs,
5397 it expands patient choice, and it ensures red tape doesn't
5398 stand in the way of treatment.

5399 I urge my colleagues to support the amendment in the
5400 nature of a substitute.

5401 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

5402 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
5403 further discussion on the amendment in the -- the gentlelady
5404 from Washington is recognized for five minutes to speak on
5405 the bill.

5406 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also move to
5407 strike the last word.

5408 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five
5409 minutes.

5410 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you. I wanted to just take a
5411 moment to talk about two of the excellent bills in this

5412 package, the Prior Authorization Accountability Act and the
5413 Expedited Access to Biosimilars Act.

5414 I hear from constituents all the time about how fed up
5415 they are with their health insurance company. They pay a lot
5416 of money for peace of mind and for real coverage, and then
5417 their insurance company delays or denies care due to really
5418 abusive prior authorization tactics. That is why I am a
5419 proud cosponsor of the Prior Authorization Accountability Act
5420 which is included in this ANS.

5421 This bill requires commercial health plans to make
5422 information regarding their prior authorization requirements
5423 public, like what services are being pre-authed and how
5424 frequently; how frequently they are denying care; how many of
5425 those denials are appealed; and then how many of those
5426 denials are ultimately approved. Patients deserve this
5427 information so they know what they are signing themselves up
5428 for, and lawmakers need this insight so that we can prevent
5429 this abuse in the system.

5430 For example, if plans have high prior authorization
5431 approval rates, are they necessary in the first place? Or is
5432 the insurance plan just creating more red tape for patients
5433 to jump through? Lots of studies. If lots of studies or
5434 procedures are denied and then they are ultimately approved
5435 after appeals, then why weren't they approved in the first
5436 place? These are really important questions that have to be

5437 answered so that patients can get better, more timely care
5438 and so we can cut red tape, bring down costs, and help our
5439 health care system really take care of people's health. And
5440 it is the first step toward more substantive prior
5441 authorization reform that benefits patients, not large
5442 insurance companies trying to pad their own pockets.

5443 I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on the underlying
5444 ANS, and I want to talk about one other bill about the
5445 expedited biosimilars.

5446 With regard to biosimilars, two things can be true:
5447 innovation is critical to the American economy, and every
5448 American should be able to afford their medications. And one
5449 way that our current system balances these two ideals is with
5450 generics and with biosimilars, which are drugs that come to
5451 the market after patents have expired and are essentially
5452 identical to their name-brand counterparts. Generics and
5453 biosimilars increase competition in the market, providing
5454 more options and lowering costs for patients. That is why
5455 last week I introduced with Mr. Langworthy the Expedited
5456 Access to Biosimilars Act which makes it easier for these
5457 low-cost drugs to come to market, and I am really grateful
5458 for that bipartisanship and partnership.

5459 For patients with chronic conditions like autoimmune
5460 diseases or diabetes or cancer, there are biosimilars on the
5461 market that cost significantly less than their name brand

5462 biologic counterparts. My bill streamlines the approval
5463 process for biosimilars by eliminating requirements for
5464 unnecessary and duplicative clinical studies while still
5465 maintaining FDA's authority to require additional studies if
5466 and when they are really needed. This is an important step
5467 toward lowering costs for patients, and I encourage all of my
5468 colleagues to vote yes on the underlying ANS.

5469 Thank you, and I yield back.

5470 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
5471 discussion on -- further discussion on the amendment in the
5472 nature of a substitute on the Republican side?

5473 Seeing none, the gentlelady from Massachusetts is
5474 recognized for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

5475 *Mrs. Trahan. I move to strike the last word.

5476 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized to speak on
5477 the amendment.

5478 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Chairman.

5479 I am glad that this legislation is finally moving
5480 forward, and I am especially pleased to see that the
5481 ownership transparency bill was included in the ANS. This is
5482 a common-sense, long-overdue reform, and I am grateful to my
5483 colleagues on both sides of the aisle for getting us here.

5484 As I have raised in this committee time after time over
5485 the years, it is long past due that we shine a light on
5486 private equity's role in our health care system. Steward

5487 Health Care's collapse should have been the warning bell.
5488 After buying up distressed community hospitals in
5489 Massachusetts, Steward's opaque ownership structure let its
5490 owners get away with shocking financial management and
5491 patient neglect, all while they turned a massive profit.
5492 Communities in the state that I represent are still reeling.
5493 Two hospitals closed outright, a third was forced to shutter
5494 essential services. And one of those closures, Nashoba
5495 Valley Medical Center, left a gap in emergency care that we
5496 are still working to fill.

5497 And I am not the only member of this committee with
5498 stories like this. Steward ravaged hospitals in Texas.
5499 Prospect ran hospitals into the ground in Rhode Island and
5500 Connecticut. Pipeline did the same in Chicago. Nursing
5501 homes across the country have been pillaged, too. These
5502 repeated disasters have left patients, families, and entire
5503 communities devastated in their wake.

5504 Meanwhile, private equity keeps gobbling up distressed
5505 providers. In fact, over the past decade PE firms have spent
5506 more than \$1 trillion buying up health care businesses. And
5507 in 2025 they were involved in nearly half of the largest
5508 health care bankruptcies in the country. Yet up until now
5509 nothing had been done here in Congress to stop it from
5510 happening again. But today we are finally stepping up and
5511 increasing transparency into who actually owns our health

5512 care facilities.

5513 This provision isn't new. This committee already voted
5514 for this exact language last Congress as part of our
5515 bipartisan negotiated health transparency package. And this
5516 time I hope we can all commit to getting it done. We know
5517 what the evidence shows, we know what happened to communities
5518 like mine, and we know what is bound to happen to other
5519 communities if we fail to get this done. So let's get this
5520 common-sense policy across the finish line.

5521 I want to thank you, and I yield back the balance of my
5522 time. Thanks.

5523 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
5524 further discussion on the bill?

5525 Seeing no discussion on the bill on our -- on the
5526 Republican side, so the gentleman from Florida is recognized
5527 for five minutes to speak on the amendment in the nature of a
5528 substitute.

5529 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman. We need more price
5530 transparency in health care for hospitals, clinics, surgical
5531 centers, labs, and imaging. Patients deserve no less.

5532 We have great hospitals, great health care institutions
5533 in central Florida, yet I have still heard this story
5534 countless times: patients going in for emergency procedures
5535 or other types of medical procedures and have no idea what it
5536 will cost. Some will be covered by health insurance, and we

5537 passed the No Surprises law just a few years ago to make sure
5538 that those with health insurance don't get caught in the
5539 middle of disputes between health insurance companies and
5540 health providers. And we need more work on that new law.
5541 And some of the costs will be out-of-pocket expenses. This
5542 is where patients need to know exactly what they are getting
5543 into and know what they are going to be paying for.

5544 But also, there is -- it is especially acute with those
5545 without insurance, because they will be paying all of this
5546 out of pocket. And it is an important time to remind
5547 ourselves that 2 million Floridians have lost their health
5548 insurance over this past year because of ACA and Medicaid
5549 cuts, including 150,000 in our district. And so price
5550 transparency is very important. This committee must also
5551 address this health care crisis to lower health care costs
5552 for Floridians and folks across the nation.

5553 With that I yield back.

5554 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
5555 speakers on the amendment in the nature of a substitute on
5556 the Republican side?

5557 Seeing none, the -- are there any further speakers on
5558 the Democratic side?

5559 The gentlelady from Michigan is recognized for five
5560 minutes to speak on the amendment.

5561 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike

5562 the last word.

5563 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

5564 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5565 We continue to hear from our constituents in communities
5566 across the country that the price of health care is just too
5567 high, putting important and often lifesaving care out of
5568 reach. Patients are already navigating a complicated health
5569 care system and paying ridiculously expensive bills that
5570 often don't reflect the level of the care they receive.
5571 Total health care spending and insurance premiums continue to
5572 rise, putting families in the impossible decision to either
5573 get the care they need or put food on the table.

5574 As we continue working to lower costs, it is critical
5575 that price transparency remain at the forefront. Price
5576 transparency empowers patients to make informed decisions.
5577 When patients can see prices before receiving care, they are
5578 better equipped to compare options, plan for expenses, and
5579 avoid unexpected medical bills. Patients deserve the same
5580 access to pricing information that they expect in nearly
5581 every sector of the economy. No patient should avoid going
5582 to the doctor or seeking medical care because they fear being
5583 stuck with an outrageous bill they never saw coming. They
5584 deserve to know the cost of care before they receive it, not
5585 weeks later when the bill arrives in the mail.

5586 Transparency does something even more important. It

5587 promotes competition. When hospitals, insurance, pharmacy
5588 benefit managers, and other health care entities are required
5589 to disclose prices, the market works. It works effectively
5590 to drive down costs and improve the value for patients. But
5591 transparency, as my other colleagues have discussed, alone is
5592 not enough if the marketplace itself is becoming less
5593 competitive.

5594 We are seeing major corporations buy up different parts
5595 of the health care supply chain such as insurers acquiring
5596 physician practices, pharmacy benefit managers owning the
5597 pharmacies, and large systems consolidating hospitals and
5598 providers. This growing vertical integration allows
5599 companies to consolidate power, game the system, inflate
5600 costs, and too often prioritize profits over patients. It is
5601 harming patients, taxpayers, and independent doctors and
5602 pharmacists who can't compete with conglomerates. So if we
5603 truly want transparency to work, we must also ensure there is
5604 meaningful competition in the health care marketplace.

5605 In this ANS we are also taking an important step towards
5606 addressing the growing concern surrounding the use of prior
5607 authorization requirements in Medicare Advantage plans by
5608 adding the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act. Too
5609 often these bureaucratic requirements create unnecessary
5610 delays, administrative burdens, and, most importantly,
5611 barriers to treatment for seniors who need timely access to

5612 important medical care.

5613 More than 33 million Americans are enrolled in Medicare
5614 Advantage plans, including more than 650,000 seniors in
5615 Michigan. The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act
5616 would modernize and streamline the prior authorization system
5617 by requiring Medicare Advantage plans to establish an
5618 electronic prior authorization process. We are increasing
5619 transparency by requiring Medicare Advantage plans to report
5620 information about their use of prior authorizations,
5621 including the rate of approvals or, more importantly,
5622 denials.

5623 We will also be taking another important step, changing
5624 that -- by ensuring community health centers are equipped to
5625 provide behavioral health, mental health, and substance use
5626 disorder services as part of the comprehensive care by adding
5627 the Expanding Community Access to Health Services Act in this
5628 package. For many individuals community health centers are
5629 the only places that they can receive affordable primary care
5630 close to home. But too often mental health care and
5631 substance use disorder treatment remain difficult to access,
5632 fragment (sic), or simply unavailable.

5633 Recent studies found that the need for behavioral health
5634 center care has increased in recent years while providers
5635 continue to face staffing shortages and burnout. At a time
5636 when communities are grappling with rising mental health

5637 needs, substance abuse challenges, and barriers to care, we
5638 need to be strengthening these community health centers that
5639 patients already trust and rely on.

5640 I urge my colleagues to support the policies that expand
5641 health care price transparency, expand access to care,
5642 strengthen competition, and make health care more affordable
5643 for Americans.

5644 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

5645 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Are there any
5646 speakers on the amendment on the Republican side?

5647 Seeing none, on the Democrat side?

5648 The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for five minutes
5649 to speak on the amendment.

5650 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I want to
5651 thank you and the ranking member, everyone that -- you put a
5652 ton of work into this bill, the Lower Cost, More Transparency
5653 Act.

5654 I want to lift up three aspects of the bill and, again,
5655 thank you for including these. One is the Biosimilar Red
5656 Tape Elimination Act that would simplify the FDA's approval
5657 process and provide lifesaving medications at a lower cost
5658 for patients. The second is language that requires the FDA
5659 to take steps to speed up the process to bring over-the-
5660 counter drugs to market. And then finally, we have language
5661 in this bill that will require executives of health insurance

5662 plans, hospitals, laboratories, imaging services, and
5663 ambulatory surgical centers to attest that all of the pricing
5664 information they publish is complete and accurate.

5665 We have pushed for transparency before, and sometimes
5666 these providers will provide that transparency in a really
5667 complicated, convoluted way. It is Excel spreadsheets. It
5668 doesn't really work for patients. And so this would require
5669 the CEOs of these providers to be accountable for what they
5670 publish. Even when price data, as I mentioned, is available,
5671 it is often buried in thousands and thousands of pages of
5672 Excel sheets that are missing key details, impossible for
5673 patients to navigate.

5674 We must hold health care executives accountable to the
5675 price transparency information that they publish, and our
5676 amendment which is now in the bill ensures that the burden of
5677 transparency is on the executives of these organizations.
5678 The accountability for health care prices belongs at the top.
5679 This will engage -- ensure health care entities provide
5680 clear, reliable information that patients can actually use to
5681 make informed decisions.

5682 Thank you for your work on this, for including this
5683 important language, and I yield back.

5684 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Are there
5685 further speakers on the bill on the Republican side?

5686 Seeing none, any -- the gentlelady from Virginia is

5687 recognized for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

5688 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to
5689 thank you and Ranking Member Pallone for your work on this
5690 important bill, the Lower Cost, More Transparency Act, and
5691 thank you for including my bill to increase data transparency
5692 for supplemental benefits under Medicare Advantage.

5693 Every fall millions of seniors sit at their kitchen
5694 table and flip through a stack of Medicare Advantage
5695 brochures, each one promising different supplemental
5696 benefits. In Virginia alone, seniors can choose from 143
5697 Medicare Advantage plans. These plans are sold with promises
5698 of benefits ranging from dental, vision, and hearing to even
5699 gym membership and grocery cards. But we can't tell our
5700 seniors how much of that promise has actually been delivered
5701 to them, and at what cost.

5702 In 2025, MedPAC found that Medicare paid MA plans nearly
5703 \$86 billion in rebates to fund these supplemental benefits,
5704 yet the agency had no reliable data on how many seniors
5705 actually used them or their real value. Seniors are making
5706 enrollment decisions based on these supplemental benefits
5707 with no certainty whether the plan that looks best on paper
5708 will actually deliver what they need when they need it the
5709 most.

5710 At the same time, Medicare Advantage beneficiaries, who
5711 now make up more than half of all Medicare beneficiaries, are

5712 navigating rising costs and a mountain of prior
5713 authorizations, putting prescriptions and treatments out of
5714 reach. Seniors need adequate information about benefits, not
5715 more obstacles to receiving the care they need. And my bill,
5716 which is now included in this one, would require MA plans to
5717 disclose exactly which supplemental benefits are offered, how
5718 seniors are utilizing them, and how much they cost.

5719 With greater transparency around Medicare Advantage
5720 supplemental benefits, seniors will be better equipped to
5721 make medical decisions amid the ongoing affordability crisis.
5722 If Medicare Advantage is going to remain the choice for more
5723 than half of America's seniors, Congress and CMS need real
5724 data to ensure that the program delivers on its promises.

5725 I am also happy to see the committee move bipartisan
5726 legislation, the H.R. 3514, the Improving Seniors' Timely
5727 Access to Care Act, through this ANS.

5728 Prior authorization, which requires health plans to
5729 approve a service before the provider can even deliver it,
5730 poses a significant barrier to timely care, particularly to
5731 women of all ages. In my district I hear from young women
5732 who wait weeks for cervical cancer screenings to be approved,
5733 mothers who are denied hypertension medication mid-pregnancy,
5734 and older women who were denied osteoporosis treatment until
5735 after a preventable fracture. I hear the same frustration
5736 from providers and hospitals who watch a 15-minute prior

5737 authorization request balloon into hours of paperwork, phone
5738 calls, and appeals.

5739 Medicare Advantage, a type of Medicare plan that
5740 contracts with the private insurers to deliver care, is
5741 responsible for an overwhelming majority of prior
5742 authorization requests, with nearly 53 million in 2024
5743 compared to just 600,000 in traditional Medicare. The
5744 Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care portion of this bill
5745 will require these plans to adopt standardized electronic
5746 prior authorization systems to expedite the processing of
5747 these requests so that providers can focus where they need
5748 to: on patients, not paperwork.

5749 And while the bill modernizes the prior authorization
5750 process for Medicare Advantage plans specifically, this is
5751 only the start because women deserve the same efficiency no
5752 matter where they get their health care coverage and no
5753 matter how old they are. So I am proud to cosponsor that
5754 portion of the bill, as well, and I look forward to working
5755 with the committee on getting the full bill through the
5756 floor.

5757 And with that I yield back.

5758 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
5759 further discussion on the amendment?

5760 Seeing no discussion, are there any amendments to the
5761 amendment?

5762 Are there any amendments to the amendment?

5763 Seeing none, no amendments to the amendment?

5764 *Mr. James. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
5765 desk.

5766 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized. The clerk
5767 will report the amendment.

5768 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
5769 a substitute to H.R. 9393 offered by Mr. James --

5770 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
5771 amendment is dispensed with.

5772 [The amendment of Mr. James follows:]

5773

5774 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5775

5776 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Michigan is
5777 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

5778 *Mr. James. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really
5779 appreciate your efforts here, and your leadership, but still
5780 at this point this bill is missing one of the most important
5781 parts, the part where patients get to see in advance how much
5782 they will get to pay before choosing where to get their
5783 medical care.

5784 Patients Deserve Price Tags will require hospitals to
5785 make their prices easy to find, easy to understand. This
5786 simple change will save patients money by doing what people
5787 already do in every other aspect of their lives: compare
5788 prices and choose the best options for themselves and their
5789 families. A simple explanation of what patients are being
5790 charged: this idea isn't radical, it is not controversial.
5791 No one in this committee has argued against this bill on its
5792 merits.

5793 Patients Deserve Price Tags passed this committee under
5794 suspension of the rules last term, and the ranking member
5795 supported the legislation. It passed the House, full House,
5796 by a vote of 320 to 71. There is an identical version in the
5797 Senate that already has 11 Republicans and 13 Democrat
5798 cosponsors. The White House supports it, HHS supports it,
5799 Secretary Kennedy supported it -- which might actually be a
5800 problem for some of my colleagues.

5801 But by the way, this also helps us stop fraud, waste,
5802 and abuse by increasing transparency and giving control back
5803 to the consumer. Just today I learned that Patients Deserve
5804 Price Tags got a non-partisan CBO score of 122 billion and up
5805 to possibly 270 billion over 10 years. This eclipses the
5806 savings covered under reconciliation, but instead in a
5807 bipartisan way, in a bipartisan vehicle while increasing
5808 choice, while increasing affordability for Americans. This
5809 is why we need to do more.

5810 Hospitals have hidden their prices for far too long and
5811 made billions, billions off of sick Americans, taking
5812 advantage of people who can't comparison shop because it is
5813 too difficult. Hospitals are operating as a confusopoly,
5814 where prices are intentionally hard to find. As a result,
5815 patients can pay hundreds of thousands of dollars more for
5816 the exact same services and pay -- and get the same quality
5817 of care, if not worse, with the exact same billing codes,
5818 depending on where they go.

5819 Our choice is simple, Mr. Chairman: strengthen this
5820 bill to help patients save money or protect a system that is
5821 intentionally confusing and hard to navigate. Protect
5822 patients or protect hospital profits. The American people
5823 want and expect Congress to do more to lower health care
5824 costs, and increase affordability, and cut fraud, waste, and
5825 abuse. Patients Deserve Price Tags will do all three. It

5826 will lower health care costs by requiring hospitals to
5827 clearly label prices so patients can make informed decisions
5828 about where they spend their money and how they get treated,
5829 which is why I am excited to continue my work with you and
5830 your team, Mr. Chairman, to include key protections to
5831 strengthen the final bill.

5832 The chairman has given me his word as a fellow West
5833 Point graduate and as a good friend that we will continue to
5834 strengthen this bill, and I am excited to continue our work
5835 because this is popular, it is bipartisan, it is bicameral,
5836 and it is the right thing to do. I urge the rest of the
5837 committee to support, and I will be withdrawing my amendment
5838 and working to include the strength in the final underlying
5839 bill, Mr. Chairman.

5840 *The Chair. All right, the gentleman withdraws his
5841 amendment?

5842 *Mr. James. I withdraw my amendment, and I cede the
5843 rest of my time, sir.

5844 *The Chair. Without objection, the amendment is
5845 withdrawn.

5846 Are there further amendments to the amendment in the
5847 nature of a substitute?

5848 Seeing -- the question before the Committee is adopting
5849 the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

5850 All in favor, say aye.

5851 All opposed, no.

5852 Are there any further amendments?

5853 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.

5854 9393, as amended. A roll call vote has been requested -- and

5855 I really appreciate everybody's work, this means a lot today

5856 so thank you very much -- and the clerk will call the roll.

5857 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5858 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

5859 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

5860 Mr. Griffith?

5861 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

5862 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

5863 Mr. Bilirakis?

5864 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

5865 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

5866 Mr. Hudson?

5867 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

5868 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

5869 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

5870 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

5871 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

5872 Mr. Palmer?

5873 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

5874 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

5875 Mr. Dunn?

5876 [No response.]
5877 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
5878 [No response.]
5879 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
5880 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
5881 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
5882 Mr. Weber?
5883 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
5884 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
5885 Mr. Allen?
5886 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
5887 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
5888 Mr. Balderson?
5889 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
5890 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
5891 Mr. Fulcher?
5892 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
5893 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
5894 Mr. Pfluger?
5895 [No response.]
5896 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
5897 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
5898 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
5899 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5900 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.

5901 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
5902 Mrs. Cammack?
5903 [No response.]
5904 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
5905 [No response.]
5906 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
5907 *Mr. James. Aye.
5908 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
5909 Mr. Bentz?
5910 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
5911 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
5912 Mrs. Houchin?
5913 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
5914 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
5915 Mr. Fry?
5916 [No response.]
5917 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
5918 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
5919 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
5920 Mr. Langworthy?
5921 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
5922 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
5923 Mr. Kean?
5924 [No response.]
5925 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?

5926 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
5927 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
5928 Mr. Evans?
5929 [No response.]
5930 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
5931 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
5932 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
5933 Mr. Goldman?
5934 [No response.]
5935 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak?
5936 [No response.]
5937 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?
5938 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
5939 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
5940 Ms. DeGette?
5941 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
5942 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
5943 Ms. Schakowsky?
5944 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
5945 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
5946 Ms. Matsui?
5947 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
5948 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
5949 Ms. Castor?
5950 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

5951 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
5952 Mr. Tonko?
5953 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
5954 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
5955 Ms. Clarke?
5956 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
5957 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
5958 Mr. Ruiz?
5959 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
5960 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
5961 Mr. Peters?
5962 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
5963 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
5964 Mrs. Dingell?
5965 [No response.]
5966 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
5967 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
5968 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
5969 Ms. Kelly?
5970 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
5971 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
5972 Ms. Barragan?
5973 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
5974 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
5975 Mr. Soto?

5976 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
5977 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
5978 Ms. Schrier?
5979 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
5980 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
5981 Mrs. Trahan?
5982 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
5983 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
5984 Mrs. Fletcher?
5985 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
5986 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
5987 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
5988 [No response.]
5989 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?
5990 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
5991 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
5992 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
5993 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
5994 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
5995 Mr. Menendez?
5996 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
5997 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
5998 Mr. Mullin?
5999 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
6000 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

6001 Mr. Landsman?

6002 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

6003 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

6004 Ms. McClellan?

6005 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

6006 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

6007 Chairman Guthrie?

6008 *The Chair. Aye.

6009 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

6010 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking -- Fedorchak? Mrs.

6011 Fedorchak, I am sorry.

6012 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak is not recorded.

6013 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

6014 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

6015 *The Chair. Mr. Obernolte?

6016 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

6017 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.

6018 *The Chair. On the Democrat side, anyone?

6019 Maybe another minute or second, just to see. This is a

6020 big vote. Does anybody know somebody coming for this?

6021 All right, anybody on your side, do you think?

6022 *Voice. Mrs. Dingell.

6023 *The Chair. All right, seeing no one else.

6024 [Pause.]

6025 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

6026 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 45
6027 ayes and 0 noes.

6028 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
6029 I thank everybody for their hard work.

6030 The chair calls up H.R. 9390. I will say that again,
6031 9390, and asks the clerk to report.

6032 *The Clerk. H.R. 9390, a bill to amend title --

6033 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
6034 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
6035 amendment at any point.

6036 So ordered.

6037 [The bill follows:]

6038

6039 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6040

6041 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
6042 bill?

6043 For what purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek
6044 recognition?

6045 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this
6046 bill is well intended --

6047 *The Chair. You are recognized for five minutes to
6048 speak on the bill.

6049 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you. I know this bill is well
6050 intended, but I want to speak in opposition.

6051 While I believe patients deserve transparency in the
6052 prices they pay for health care, I am very concerned that the
6053 bill will cause more confusion for consumers and become a
6054 barrier to care.

6055 And I also have strong concerns about the practicality
6056 of this proposal. The bill requires all hospitals,
6057 ambulatory surgical centers, laboratories, and imaging
6058 providers to post cash prices for health care services in
6059 publicly-accessible locations, and this includes hundreds and
6060 possibly thousands of procedure codes that providers would be
6061 required to post somewhere in their facilities, including on
6062 their walls. And I am concerned that requiring hospitals to
6063 post cash prices would deter patients from seeking care,
6064 particularly patients who qualify for financial assistance or
6065 who may be enrolled in health care coverage.

6066 According to a recent survey by the Kaiser Family
6067 Foundation, consumers already face significant barriers when
6068 trying to understand the out-of-pocket costs associated with
6069 their coverage. Requiring hospitals and providers to post
6070 cash prices, I think, is going to create more confusion for
6071 patients with health care coverage who may not fully
6072 understand their financial responsibilities or the
6073 implications of choosing to pay the cash price. Patients who
6074 choose to pay the cash price may also not realize that they
6075 are foregoing the Affordable Care Act's consumer protections
6076 such as the maximum out-of-pocket limit.

6077 Additionally, I am concerned about the practicality.
6078 Medical care is, frankly, complex and patients may face a
6079 variety of costs associated during the course of treatment.
6080 The final out-of-pocket cost will depend on a variety of
6081 factors, including the patient's diagnosis and their health
6082 insurance coverage. Even for patients who decide to pay the
6083 cash price, they are going to need to determine which
6084 procedure codes apply to them, and then they will have to
6085 determine which procedure and billing codes will be furnished
6086 as part of the service. The bill creates, I think, a false
6087 sense of transparency that will make it even more difficult
6088 for consumers who are already struggling to navigate and
6089 understand the costs of a health care procedure.

6090 Now, again, don't misunderstand. I know this is well

6091 intentioned, but I think that patients need transparency and
6092 it is unacceptable that some consumers are not able to easily
6093 obtain price information in advance. But I believe a more
6094 useful approach would be the policies in H.R. 393, and that
6095 is the one that requires hospitals and insurance companies to
6096 display charges online in a consumer-friendly way, including
6097 for shoppable services. And I think that ensures that
6098 patients have a clear understanding of their out-of-pocket
6099 costs before receiving care.

6100 So I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 393, obviously,
6101 and vote no on this bill. Thank you.

6102 *The Chair. Are there any further discussion on the
6103 Republican side?

6104 Seeing none, are there any amendments?

6105 The gentlelady from Iowa is recognized -- oh, for what
6106 purpose does the gentlelady from Iowa seek recognition?

6107 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I --

6108 *The Chair. Do you have an amendment at the desk?

6109 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at
6110 the desk with the file name H9390-EC-FC-ANS_01_XML.

6111 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

6112 *The Clerk. The amendment in the nature of a substitute
6113 to H.R. --

6114 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
6115 amendment is dispensed with.

6116 [The amendment of Mrs. Miller-Meeks follows:]

6117

6118 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6119

6120 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
6121 minutes in support of the amendment.

6122 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would
6123 like to speak in support of both the ANS to H.R. 9390, the
6124 Prices on the Wall Act of 2026, and the underlying bill.

6125 For most purchases Americans make every day, the price
6126 comes first. Whether you are buying groceries, filling your
6127 gas tank, even if you are getting your car repaired, you know
6128 what something costs before you decide it. And it seems to
6129 me that the technology in a smartphone and the pricing is a
6130 lot more challenging than this. Health care should not be an
6131 exception.

6132 As a physician, I have seen firsthand how uncertainty
6133 over medical bills creates unnecessary stress for patients
6134 and their families. Too often, people receive care without
6135 having any meaningful idea of what it will cost until the
6136 bill arrives weeks or even months later. The Prices on the
6137 Wall Act addresses that problem with a simple, practical
6138 solution: starting in 2028 hospitals, ambulatory surgery
6139 centers, laboratory, and imaging providers with -- post
6140 pricing information for commonly shoppable services in
6141 locations where patients can easily see it before receiving
6142 care. Facilities would display discounted cash prices
6143 whenever available, or other clear, consumer-friendly pricing
6144 information.

6145 This legislation does not ask patients to search through
6146 complicated websites or decipher technical billing data. It
6147 puts useful pricing information where it belongs: in front
6148 of patients when they are making decisions about their care.

6149 Greater transparency benefits everyone. Patients are
6150 better equipped to compare options, providers have greater
6151 incentives to compete on value, and our health care system
6152 becomes much more accountable to the people it serves. This
6153 is a straightforward reform built on a principle Americans
6154 already expect through the rest of the economy: consumers
6155 deserve to know the price before they make a purchase.

6156 I appreciate the committee's consideration of this
6157 legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9390,
6158 the Prices on the Wall Act.

6159 And I yield back.

6160 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
6161 further discussion?

6162 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment.

6163 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

6164 Those opposed, no.

6165 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to. Are
6166 there any further amendments?

6167 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
6168 9390, as amended. A roll call has been requested and the
6169 clerk will call the roll.

6170 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
6171 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
6172 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
6173 Mr. Griffith?
6174 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
6175 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
6176 Mr. Bilirakis?
6177 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
6178 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
6179 Mr. Hudson?
6180 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
6181 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
6182 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
6183 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
6184 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
6185 Mr. Palmer?
6186 [No response.]
6187 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
6188 [No response.]
6189 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
6190 [No response.]
6191 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6192 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
6193 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
6194 Mr. Weber?

6195 [No response.]
6196 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
6197 [No response.]
6198 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
6199 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
6200 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
6201 Mr. Fulcher?
6202 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
6203 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
6204 Mr. Pfluger?
6205 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
6206 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
6207 Mrs. Harshbarger?
6208 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
6209 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
6210 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6211 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
6212 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
6213 Mrs. Cammack?
6214 [No response.]
6215 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
6216 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
6217 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
6218 Mr. James?
6219 *Mr. James. Aye.

6220 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
6221 Mr. Bentz?
6222 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
6223 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
6224 Mrs. Houchin?
6225 [No response.]
6226 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
6227 [No response.]
6228 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
6229 [No response.]
6230 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
6231 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
6232 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
6233 Mr. Kean?
6234 [No response.]
6235 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
6236 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
6237 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
6238 Mr. Evans?
6239 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
6240 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
6241 Mr. Goldman?
6242 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
6243 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
6244 Mrs. Fedorchak?

6245 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
6246 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
6247 Mr. Pallone?
6248 *Mr. Pallone. No.
6249 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
6250 Ms. DeGette?
6251 *Ms. DeGette. No.
6252 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
6253 Ms. Schakowsky?
6254 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
6255 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
6256 Ms. Matsui?
6257 *Ms. Matsui. No.
6258 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
6259 Ms. Castor?
6260 *Ms. Castor. No.
6261 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
6262 Mr. Tonko?
6263 *Mr. Tonko. No.
6264 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
6265 Ms. Clarke?
6266 *Ms. Clarke. No.
6267 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
6268 Mr. Ruiz?
6269 *Mr. Ruiz. No.

6270 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
6271 Mr. Peters?
6272 *Mr. Peters. No.
6273 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
6274 Mrs. Dingell?
6275 [No response.]
6276 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
6277 [No response.]
6278 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
6279 *Ms. Kelly. No.
6280 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.
6281 Ms. Barragan?
6282 *Ms. Barragan. No.
6283 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
6284 Mr. Soto?
6285 *Mr. Soto. No.
6286 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.
6287 Ms. Schrier?
6288 *Ms. Schrier. No.
6289 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
6290 Mrs. Trahan?
6291 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
6292 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.
6293 Mrs. Fletcher?
6294 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

6295 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
6296 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6297 [No response.]
6298 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?
6299 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
6300 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
6301 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6302 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.
6303 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
6304 Mr. Menendez?
6305 *Mr. Menendez. No.
6306 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
6307 Mr. Mullin?
6308 *Mr. Mullin. No.
6309 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
6310 Mr. Landsman?
6311 *Mr. Landsman. No.
6312 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.
6313 Ms. McClellan?
6314 *Ms. McClellan. No.
6315 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
6316 Chairman Guthrie?
6317 *The Chair. Aye.
6318 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
6319 *Mr. Weber. How is Mr. Weber --

6320 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber is not recorded.
6321 *Mr. Weber. Weber votes aye.
6322 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
6323 *The Chair. Mrs. Houchin?
6324 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin is not recorded.
6325 *Mrs. Houchin. Houchin votes aye.
6326 *The Chair. How is Mr. Palmer --
6327 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
6328 *The Chair. -- of Alabama recorded?
6329 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
6330 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
6331 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
6332 *The Chair. Is there anyone on your side?
6333 [Pause.]
6334 *The Chair. How is Mr. Allen recorded?
6335 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is not recorded.
6336 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
6337 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
6338 *The Chair. The clerk will -- seeing no others for --
6339 being in the roll call, the clerk will report.
6340 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 24
6341 ayes and 21 noes.
6342 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
6343 The chair calls up H.R. 1266, and asks the clerk to
6344 report.

6345 *The Clerk. H.R. 1266, a bill to prohibit certain uses
6346 of Xylazine, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the
6347 Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of
6348 America and Congress assembled. Section 1, short title.
6349 This title may --

6350 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
6351 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
6352 amendment at any point.

6353 So ordered.

6354 [The bill follows:]

6355

6356 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6357

6358 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
6359 bill?

6360 The gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes
6361 to speak on the bill.

6362 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes, Mr. Chair, I do have an amendment.
6363 I am sorry, are we at that point? An amendment to
6364 H1266_FCR_ANS?

6365 *The Chair. So no one to speak on the bill, so there --
6366 we will speak on the ANS. So the gentleman -- we can call up
6367 the ANS.

6368 Do you want to speak on the -- so we are going to speak
6369 on the ANS as the bill. Is that okay? That is fine. So the
6370 gentleman -- the clerk will report.

6371 Everybody will have their chance to speak.

6372 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
6373 H.R. 1266 offered by Mr. Pfluger of Texas.

6374 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
6375 amendment is dispensed with.

6376 [The amendment of Mr. Pfluger follows:]

6377

6378 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6379

6380 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five
6381 minutes in support of the amendment. The gentleman is
6382 recognized.

6383 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6384 Moving this bill has been a top priority alongside
6385 Congressman Panetta since 2023. And after three years of
6386 work, I am proud to see that this is moving in a bipartisan
6387 way.

6388 We all know that the drug crisis in this country is
6389 becoming more and more tragic, with traffickers turning to an
6390 important veterinarian tranquilizer to make drugs more
6391 addictive and more deadly. Xylazine has emerged as an
6392 increasingly popular substance to cut fentanyl with to
6393 intensify drug effects and to lower the cost. But because
6394 Xylazine is not currently scheduled under the Controlled
6395 Substances Act, dealers and traffickers can purchase it
6396 online for as little as \$6 per kilogram.

6397 The effects of Xylazine are devastating, including
6398 several skin wounds that often lead to amputation and severe
6399 withdrawal symptoms that leave users trapped in a vicious
6400 cycle of addiction. According to a recent CDC report,
6401 Xylazine was involved in over 6,000 drug poisoning deaths in
6402 2023, making it the fourth most common substance in drug
6403 poisoning fatalities in this country. DEA labs shows
6404 Xylazine present in over 25 percent of fentanyl powder

6405 exhibits, and over 8 percent of all pill exhibits. And
6406 because Xylazine is not an opioid, Naloxone cannot reverse
6407 its effects when someone overdoses.

6408 Despite these alarming trends, Federal, state, and local
6409 law enforcement do not have the necessary tools to
6410 effectively track Xylazine or crack down on traffickers using
6411 it to increase their profits. Twenty-nine states have
6412 already considered restrictions on Xylazine, and sixteen have
6413 enacted their own, creating a growing patchwork of
6414 inconsistent laws that actually hurts the effects of law
6415 enforcement, as well as veterinarians. Only Congress can fix
6416 this with a uniform national framework.

6417 Our bill permanently places illicit Xylazine under
6418 schedule 3 of the Controlled Substances Act, giving law
6419 enforcement the tools to track distribution and crack down on
6420 trafficking, while carefully preserving the critical role it
6421 plays in veterinarian medicine. Veterinarians, farmers,
6422 ranchers, and wildlife personnel all rely on Xylazine, but
6423 for cattle specifically there is simply no safe, practical
6424 alternative at all.

6425 This is not a bill we wrote in a vacuum. It reflects
6426 three years of direct work with DEA, DoJ, and HHS under two
6427 different administrations. And without the statutory changes
6428 in our bill, DEA cannot amend the ultimate user definition to
6429 protect veterinarians, farmers, and ranchers, and cannot

6430 bring Xylazine into ARCOS reporting, their automated,
6431 comprehensive drug reporting system that tracks every step of
6432 the supply chain from manufacturing to point of sale.

6433 Administrative scheduling alone cannot get the job done.
6434 Congressional action now is the only path forward. The
6435 fentanyl crisis has already inflicted significant damage on
6436 our treatment clinics, our public health agencies, and our
6437 entire medical system. The addition of yet another highly
6438 toxic substance to illicit drug supply has only escalated
6439 this crisis. That is why this bill has earned support from
6440 the DEA, the FDA, and both the previous and the current
6441 administrations, nearly 80 percent of state attorneys
6442 general, and all 50 state veterinarian medical associations,
6443 and the American Farm Bureau.

6444 I want to thank Congressmen Panetta and Bilirakis for
6445 their partnership in this effort. Scheduling Xylazine while
6446 protecting its critical veterinarian use is a responsible
6447 approach, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

6448 I yield back.

6449 *Mr. Griffith. [Presiding.] Is anyone else speaking to
6450 the amendment?

6451 I recognize the gentlelady from Massachusetts, Mrs.
6452 Trahan.

6453 *Mrs. Trahan. I am sorry, I am waiting for the
6454 amendment to be offered. I will speak on that.

6455 *Mr. Griffith. You are waiting for the additional
6456 amendment?

6457 *Mrs. Trahan. Yes.

6458 *Mr. Griffith. Okay, fair enough. I recognize the
6459 gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter.

6460 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
6461 you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
6462 word.

6463 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman is recognized to speak on
6464 the amendment in the nature of substitute.

6465 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I speak today in
6466 strong support of the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act,
6467 legislation that I am proud to have originally cosponsored.

6468 As a pharmacist, I have spent my career focused on
6469 protecting patients, ensuring medications are used safely and
6470 appropriately. Unfortunately, criminals have taken a
6471 veterinary medicine that serves an important purpose and
6472 turned it into another deadly weapon in illicit drug supply.
6473 Communities across Georgia and across our nation are seeing
6474 the consequences firsthand. First responders, emergency
6475 physicians, and law enforcement officers are confronting
6476 overdoses that are more difficult to treat while families
6477 continue to lose loved ones to an increasingly toxic and
6478 unpredictable drug supply.

6479 We cannot afford to stand by while traffickers exploit

6480 another loophole to make their poison even deadlier. The
6481 Combating Illicit Xylazine Act targets those who manufacture,
6482 import, and trafficking illicit Xylazine while preserving
6483 access for veterinarians, ranchers, livestock producers.

6484 We should never force our agriculture community to bear
6485 the burden of criminal misuse, and this legislation ensures
6486 that they won't have to.

6487 This bill also gives Federal law enforcement another
6488 important tool to disrupt the criminal organizations
6489 responsible for flooding our communities with dangerous
6490 synthetic drugs. We know these organizations constantly
6491 adapt, looking for new substances to increase addiction,
6492 stretch their supply, and maximize profits. Congress must be
6493 just as determined to stay ahead of them.

6494 I am especially proud that this legislation reflects a
6495 bipartisan commitment to addressing the opioid crisis with
6496 practical, targeted solutions. This is not about creating
6497 unnecessary regulations; it is about recognizing a growing
6498 threat and responding before even more lives are lost.

6499 I know medications can save lives when used
6500 appropriately, but in the hands of drug traffickers
6501 substances like Xylazine become instruments of tragedy. As
6502 Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to stop the
6503 criminal diversion of these drugs while protecting legitimate
6504 medical and veterinary use.

6505 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I
6506 yield back.

6507 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
6508 else speaking to the ANS?

6509 I recognize the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Carter.

6510 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I move to strike the last
6511 word. Chairman, the gentleman -- I would like to speak in
6512 support of H.R. 1266, the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act, led
6513 by Representatives Panetta and Pfluger.

6514 I am proud to represent New Orleans, home of world-class
6515 institutions like Tulane University, LSU Health, and many
6516 others, where groundbreaking biomedical research is happening
6517 every day. Xylazine plays a critical role in that work,
6518 serving as one of the most used injectable sedatives in
6519 transitional medicine. Any disruption in the availability of
6520 this FDA-approved drug or its removal from the market would
6521 complicate ongoing research studies happening at leading
6522 research institutions in my district and across the United
6523 States.

6524 Limiting its use would also slow down scientific
6525 progress, and researchers look to alternatives and the -- and
6526 assess the impacts of changes in the studies that are
6527 currently ongoing. I believe in -- Combating Illicit
6528 Xylazine Act targets the illegal use of Xylazine while
6529 maintaining access for veterinarians and researchers to use

6530 the drug for legitimate medical and research purposes that
6531 help drive innovation and improve health outcomes in the
6532 United States. If Congress does not step in, this puts
6533 animal welfare and humans at -- safety at risk.

6534 Lastly, the bill would also provide regulatory clarity
6535 and uniformity for manufacturers, distributors, and
6536 veterinarians who are navigating a complicated patchwork of
6537 state laws to regulate Xylazine.

6538 I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this
6539 legislation.

6540 Thank you, I yield back.

6541 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
6542 else speaking to the ANS?

6543 All right. Seeing none, we can -- there is amendment.
6544 Do we do that before we vote on it? Okay. So we now have --
6545 we will entertain amendments to the amendment in the nature
6546 of a substitute, and I recognize the gentlelady from
6547 Illinois, Ms. Kelly.

6548 *Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6549 *Mr. Griffith. Please identify your amendment first.

6550 *Ms. Kelly. Oh, sorry.

6551 *Mr. Griffith. My fault. I should have -- I recognized
6552 you to speak on it, but we haven't identified it yet.

6553 Can the clerk identify Ms. Kelly's amendment?

6554 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of

6555 a substitute to H.R. 1266 offered by Ms. Kelly of Illinois.

6556 [The amendment of Ms. Kelly follows:]

6557

6558 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6559

6560 *Mr. Griffith. The gentlelady may state her amendment.

6561 *Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6562 I filed this amendment in collaboration with
6563 Congresswoman DeGette, who has worked tirelessly to improve
6564 our public health response to substance use and the opioid
6565 epidemic. This amendment would move Xylazine to a schedule 5
6566 drug under the Controlled Substances Act, rather than a
6567 schedule 3 drug, where the current legislation has it placed.

6568 As many of you are aware, schedule 3 drug possession
6569 carries felony charges and up to 10 years of prison time,
6570 whereas a schedule 5 drug possession charge is a misdemeanor.
6571 This difference cannot be understated (sic) when it comes to
6572 helping people with substance use disorders. While I support
6573 the bipartisan effort of this committee and Congress to
6574 remove a dangerous substance off our streets while protecting
6575 its appropriate veterinary uses, higher penalties for those
6576 with addiction will only exacerbate our drug problems.

6577 We know that criminalization of drug use does not reduce
6578 drug use. It can even disrupt the evidence-based harm
6579 reduction drug -- harm reduction strategies and behaviors
6580 that actually help our communities, especially people of
6581 color. This attempted increase in drug use criminalization
6582 is occurring all while the current Administration is rolling
6583 back funding for harm reduction and substance use treatment
6584 across the country.

6585 Xylazine can be incredibly dangerous to the people that
6586 use drugs, especially when unknown to drug users. It is
6587 mixed in with fentanyl, which occurs in more than 99 percent
6588 of instances. However, fentanyl use already carries schedule
6589 2 penalties. A change in scheduling is common sense and
6590 based on scientific evidence. An unreleased HHS review
6591 recommended that Xylazine be classified as a schedule 5 drug,
6592 which was mentioned by my colleague, Congresswoman DeGette,
6593 in the subcommittee markup. Excluding this science-based
6594 recommendation could lead to more harm than good.

6595 This amendment is an appropriate change to keep our
6596 community safe and helping those with drug addiction. Now
6597 more than ever we must continue to follow evidence-based
6598 science to make everyone safe and healthy.

6599 Thank you, and I yield --

6600 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentlelady yield?

6601 *Ms. Kelly. Yes, I will.

6602 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you. I thank the gentlelady for
6603 offering this amendment. It really puts science before
6604 politics. And as she said, it relieves burdens on the
6605 criminal justice system.

6606 By amending the bill to put Xylazine in schedule 5
6607 instead of schedule 3, it gives the DEA the authority to
6608 track and prosecute illegal drugs while not over-
6609 criminalizing low-level drug offenders.

6610 As the -- as my friend mentioned, HHS and DEA
6611 recommended schedule 5 in their scientific analysis, which
6612 Congress has yet to receive and which we asked for in the
6613 subcommittee hearing. And the reason why they do this
6614 analysis as a pre-requisite to scheduling a substance is
6615 because the cost of over-scheduling takes the form of an
6616 over-burdened judicial system, and it takes real tolls on the
6617 communities across the country.

6618 I support scheduling Xylazine, and I also support a
6619 statutory fix to ensure veterinarians can maintain access to
6620 this essential tranquilizer for legitimate purposes. But I
6621 also -- I served in the state legislature for some time in
6622 Colorado before I came here, and I saw what happened when
6623 people over-schedule or over-penalize offenses, and that is
6624 it just adds to the burdens of our system while not
6625 addressing the real risks.

6626 And so I think what we need to do is to get the actual
6627 study that was done and to base our legislation on science
6628 and facts, and so that is why I support the gentlelady's
6629 amendment.

6630 And I yield back.

6631 *Mr. Griffith. The gentlelady yields back. Does the
6632 gentlelady yield back?

6633 *Ms. Kelly. Yes, I do.

6634 *Mr. Griffith. So the gentlelady yields back to the

6635 gentlelady who yielded back to the chair.

6636 *Ms. DeGette. I yield back to the gentlelady.

6637 *Mr. Griffith. Yes, got it. I now recognize the
6638 gentleman from Texas, Mr. Pfluger.

6639 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes, well, I appreciate my colleague,
6640 Congresswoman Kelly, for -- I think we all believe that this
6641 is -- something that needs to be done. I just kind of want
6642 to, you know, get back to the root of this.

6643 And obviously, I have a strong opposition to this
6644 amendment because I do think it would weaken the bill by
6645 lowering the schedule from 3 to 5. Placing it in schedule 3
6646 has been a product of extensive bipartisan work for many
6647 years -- as I said, three years. And this policy is
6648 supported by both HHS and DEA, and it has received support
6649 from both the Biden and the Trump Administrations, those
6650 entities in both Administrations.

6651 In fact, the Biden Administration repeatedly called for
6652 Xylazine to be placed at schedule 3, not schedule 5. And
6653 several years ago HHS also considered schedule 5 as part of
6654 its 8-point scheduling process. The previous administration
6655 moved past that early thought, and then ultimately endorsed
6656 our bill's schedule 3 approach. The Biden Administration's
6657 own detect-and-defeat proposal included the same schedule 3
6658 language found in this bill, further confirming the schedule
6659 3, not schedule 5, was considered their final position.

6660 So I think, you know, when we are looking at this
6661 amendment, this unfounded, I think, hesitation about placing
6662 it in schedule 3 really could jeopardize what we are trying
6663 to do here, which is solve a problem that is pretty complex.

6664 And I want to enter a letter into the record, Mr.
6665 Chairman, from the HHS Assistant Secretary for Legislation.
6666 It is the position of HHS that they believe "legislatively
6667 scheduling Xylazine into schedule 3 is appropriate to
6668 institute clear, meaningful controls, given the dangers posed
6669 by Xylazine as an adulterant in the illicit market''.

6670 *Mr. Griffith. And the date of the letter is?

6671 *Mr. Pfluger. I don't have the date of the letter, but
6672 I will get the date to you.

6673 *Mr. Griffith. All right.

6674 *Mr. Pfluger. So --

6675 *Mr. Griffith. Without objection? Is there an
6676 objection?

6677 You want to know the date.

6678 *Ms. DeGette. Reserving the right to object.

6679 *Mr. Griffith. We will hold it.

6680 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you.

6681 *Mr. Griffith. We will hold it until both sides have
6682 had a chance to look at it --

6683 *Ms. DeGette. I can sense --

6684 *Mr. Griffith. -- and see the letter.

6685 *Ms. DeGette. -- the chairman wants the date, so --

6686 *Mr. Griffith. I do. I generally like the date, you
6687 are right.

6688 *Mr. Pfluger. Okay.

6689 *Mr. Griffith. Sorry.

6690 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you. Back to the point, moving
6691 Xylazine to schedule 5 would do nothing but weaken the tools
6692 that prosecutors and law enforcement need to go after
6693 traffickers, and that only helps the people profiting off
6694 this crisis. Yes, some similar drugs are listed as schedule
6695 5, but scheduling isn't just about which category a drug
6696 falls into. It is also about how dangerous a drug is. And
6697 Xylazine's abuse and dependency risk is exactly why it
6698 belongs in schedule 3.

6699 Given that Xylazine is now found in 49 of 50 states and
6700 in nearly one-third of all fentanyl powder seized by DEA, my
6701 bill as drafted will help lead to safer communities across
6702 the U.S., and I think that this amendment would only
6703 undermine that bipartisan work that we have done to ensure
6704 that DEA has the ability to combat the increasing threat of
6705 Xylazine.

6706 Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to vote no on
6707 this amendment, but to vote in the affirmative on the
6708 schedule 3.

6709 I yield back.

6710 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Are there
6711 others wishing to address the amendment, the Kelly amendment?

6712 Is anyone else wanting to address the Kelly amendment?

6713 I recognize Mrs. Trahan of Massachusetts for her time to
6714 talk on the amendment.

6715 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6716 I am glad that this committee is coming together in a
6717 bipartisan way in support of the Combating Illicit Xylazine
6718 Act. It is an Act that I cosponsor, and I am proud to do it.

6719 Xylazine is a genuine and growing danger in the illicit
6720 drug supply. It heightens the sedation and respiratory
6721 depression caused by opioids. It makes emergency overdose
6722 reversal drugs like Naloxone less effective, and it causes
6723 severe necrotic wounds that too often end in amputation.

6724 Xylazine has already reshaped the drug supply back home
6725 in Massachusetts. State data shows Xylazine turned up in
6726 roughly one in five tested street drug samples last year, and
6727 the Merrimack Valley, which I hail from, has felt it. Our
6728 local law enforcement has been blowing the whistle on
6729 Xylazine for years, a warning I raised in this committee
6730 three years ago.

6731 This drug is actively making the overdose crisis harder
6732 to survive and harder to treat. A threat like that, it just
6733 demands a scheduling decision matching its severity. And
6734 that is why I support the bill as written, and why I will be

6735 voting against the amendment, because I just want us to
6736 consider the alternative: schedule 5 covers products like
6737 Robitussin, medicines with limited abuse potential and
6738 minimal public health risks. Xylazine, by every measure we
6739 have just discussed, is not that. Placing it in the same
6740 tier as cough syrup would understate the danger it poses on
6741 our streets today.

6742 And it is true that President Biden's HHS initially
6743 recommended schedule 5, but that recommendation was one step
6744 in an evolving, iterative process. It wasn't the final word.
6745 The Office of National Drug Control Policy under the same
6746 administration called for schedule 3. And when HHS and DoJ
6747 took up the question again under this Administration, they
6748 too arrived at schedule 3.

6749 So given the dangers Xylazine presents to our
6750 communities, I think the bill before us gets it right. And
6751 that is why I will be voting to support the bill and to
6752 preserve the schedule 3 classification.

6753 *Ms. Barragan. Will the gentlewoman yield?

6754 *Mrs. Trahan. Happily, yes.

6755 *Ms. Barragan. I want to associate my remarks with your
6756 remarks and your reasoning on why I also will be voting no on
6757 the amendment. Thank you.

6758 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you.

6759 I yield back.

6760 *Mr. Griffith. The gentlelady yields back, and I now
6761 recognize the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter.

6762 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I want to call on
6763 my experience as a pharmacist for over 40 years in the State
6764 of Georgia. A schedule 5 drug can be signed for in the State
6765 of Georgia. This would be a terrible idea to classify this
6766 as schedule 5, and I hope everyone realizes that, and I hope
6767 that we will vote this amendment down because this is not
6768 what we are trying to do here in addressing this serious
6769 problem that is afflicting our communities, and it needs to
6770 be addressed.

6771 So I encourage everyone to vote against this amendment,
6772 and I yield back.

6773 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back.

6774 I now have the letter dated March 24, 2026 addressed to
6775 the Honorable Brett Guthrie from the Department of HHS, and
6776 signed by Gary Andres. Is there any objection to that being
6777 entered into the record?

6778 *Ms. DeGette. I withdraw my reservation.

6779 *Mr. Griffith. The gentlelady withdraws her
6780 reservation, and it is admitted into the record without
6781 objection.

6782

6783

6784

6785 [The information follows:]

6786

6787 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6788

6789 *Mr. Griffith. Is anyone else wishing to speak to the
6790 amendment?

6791 Seeing none, all those in favor of the amendment, say
6792 aye.

6793 All opposed, no.

6794 The noes have it. The amendment is defeated.

6795 Now we have to vote on the amendment in the nature of a
6796 substitute, assuming there are no other amendments.

6797 Seeing none, all right, we will now vote on the
6798 amendment in the nature substitute and -- no, we vote on the
6799 amendment in the nature of a substitute, the language.

6800 So all those in favor, say aye.

6801 All opposed, no.

6802 The amendment in the nature of a substitute is adopted.

6803 Now we vote on the underlying bill, as amended. A roll
6804 call has been requested. The clerk will please call the
6805 roll.

6806 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6807 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

6808 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

6809 Mr. Griffith?

6810 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

6811 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

6812 Mr. Bilirakis?

6813 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

6814 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
6815 Mr. Hudson?
6816 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
6817 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
6818 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
6819 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
6820 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
6821 Mr. Palmer?
6822 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
6823 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
6824 Mr. Dunn?
6825 [No response.]
6826 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
6827 [No response.]
6828 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6829 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
6830 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
6831 Mr. Weber?
6832 [No response.]
6833 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
6834 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
6835 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
6836 Mr. Balderson?
6837 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
6838 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

6839 Mr. Fulcher?
6840 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
6841 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
6842 Mr. Pfluger?
6843 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
6844 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
6845 Mrs. Harshbarger?
6846 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
6847 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
6848 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6849 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
6850 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
6851 Mrs. Cammack?
6852 [No response.]
6853 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
6854 [No response.]
6855 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
6856 *Mr. James. Aye.
6857 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
6858 Mr. Bentz?
6859 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
6860 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
6861 Mrs. Houchin?
6862 [No response.]
6863 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

6864 [No response.]

6865 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

6866 *Ms. Lee. Aye.

6867 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.

6868 Mr. Langworthy?

6869 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.

6870 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

6871 Mr. Kean?

6872 *Mr. Kean. Aye.

6873 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

6874 Mr. Rulli?

6875 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.

6876 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.

6877 Mr. Evans?

6878 *Mr. Evans. Aye.

6879 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.

6880 Mr. Goldman?

6881 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

6882 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

6883 Mrs. Fedorchak?

6884 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

6885 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

6886 Mr. Pallone?

6887 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

6888 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

6889 Ms. DeGette?
6890 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6891 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6892 Ms. Schakowsky?
6893 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6894 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6895 Ms. Matsui?
6896 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6897 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6898 Ms. Castor?
6899 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6900 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6901 Mr. Tonko?
6902 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
6903 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
6904 Ms. Clarke?
6905 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
6906 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
6907 Mr. Ruiz?
6908 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6909 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6910 Mr. Peters?
6911 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6912 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6913 Mrs. Dingell?

6914 [No response.]

6915 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

6916 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

6917 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

6918 Ms. Kelly?

6919 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

6920 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

6921 Ms. Barragan?

6922 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

6923 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

6924 Mr. Soto?

6925 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

6926 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

6927 Ms. Schrier?

6928 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

6929 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

6930 Mrs. Trahan?

6931 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

6932 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

6933 Mrs. Fletcher?

6934 [No response.]

6935 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

6936 [No response.]

6937 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?

6938 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

6939 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
6940 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6941 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
6942 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
6943 Mr. Menendez?
6944 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
6945 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
6946 Mr. Mullin?
6947 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
6948 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
6949 Mr. Landsman?
6950 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
6951 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
6952 Ms. McClellan?
6953 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
6954 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
6955 Chairman Guthrie?
6956 *The Chair. Aye.
6957 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
6958 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Is there anyone seeking
6959 recognition for the purpose -- the gentleman from Texas, Mr.
6960 Crenshaw?
6961 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
6962 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
6963 *The Chair. Crenshaw. Mr. Weber, where is he?

6964 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

6965 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

6966 *The Chair. He is sitting right there.

6967 Mrs. Houchin?

6968 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.

6969 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.

6970 *The Chair. Anyone else?

6971 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

6972 [Pause.]

6973 *The Chair. And Mr. Obernolte?

6974 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

6975 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.

6976 *The Chair. Kean, did -- is Mr. Kean recorded? Okay.

6977 [Pause.]

6978 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 48

6979 ayes and 0 noes.

6980 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

6981 The chair calls up H.R. 2004 and asks the clerk to

6982 report.

6983 *The Clerk. H.R. 2004, a bill to direct the Secretary

6984 of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether

6985 hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl

6986 testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an

6987 overdose, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the --

6988 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

6989 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
6990 amendment at any point.

6991 So ordered.

6992 [The bill follows:]

6993

6994 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6995

6996 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
6997 bill?

6998 For what purpose does the gentleman from Ohio seek
6999 recognition?

7000 *Mr. Latta. To speak on the bill, Mr. Chairman.

7001 *The Chair. You are recognized for five minutes to
7002 speak on the bill.

7003 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

7004 Currently, many drug screenings that are available in
7005 emergency rooms only test for certain drug classes, and often
7006 do not include synthetic drugs like -- synthetic opioids like
7007 fentanyl. Unfortunately, this turned fatal for 19-year-old
7008 Tyler Shamash. The night before Tyler passed from consuming
7009 fentanyl he was sent to a hospital with a suspected overdose.
7010 The hospital staff conducted the routine drug screening, and
7011 it came back negative. After he passed away, Tyler's family
7012 found that the screening did not detect fentanyl because it
7013 is not a synthetic opioid -- since it is a -- because it is a
7014 synthetic opioid. Had the drug screening detected fentanyl,
7015 he may have been able to receive a higher level of care.

7016 Tyler's Law would require the Department of Health and
7017 Human Services to conduct a study and issue guidance to
7018 hospital emergency rooms on fentanyl testing to ensure that
7019 this will never happen again. I am very proud that this
7020 committee is taking up this legislation.

7021 And I want to thank Tyler's mother, Julie, for all of
7022 her work and her advocacy on behalf of her son, and also for
7023 supporting this legislation. I want to thank Julie for
7024 joining us today in committee.

7025 Mr. Chairman, this is a very important piece of
7026 legislation, and I would ask for the committee to pass the
7027 legislation.

7028 *The Chair. Will the gentleman yield?

7029 *Mr. Latta. And I yield to the chairman.

7030 *The Chair. Thank you for yielding, I appreciate it.

7031 And I know, Ms. Shamash, you flew out here believing
7032 this was going to happen, like, I think July the 1st or 2nd,
7033 all the way from California and back again. And I know we
7034 have several parents here that -- would you mind all standing
7035 and just be recognized with your loved one, your parents or
7036 siblings? So thank you so much for -- thank you for your --

7037 [Applause.]

7038 *The Chair. We are so sorry for your loss, but your
7039 advocacy is a way to prevent other parents and family members
7040 from going through this, and is a testimony to your loved
7041 one. We appreciate you all being here. Thank you.

7042 And I will yield back to the gentleman from Ohio.

7043 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chair. And Mr.
7044 Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

7045 *The Chair. Thank you. Does anyone seek recognition on

7046 the bill?

7047 Mr. Carter from Louisiana is recognized for five minutes
7048 to speak on the bill.

7049 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I move to strike the last
7050 word.

7051 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
7052 bill.

7053 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I would like to speak in
7054 support of H.R. 2004, Tyler's Law, led by Representatives
7055 Lieu and Latta.

7056 In New Orleans we have seen a significant decline in
7057 drug overdoses and overdose-related deaths over the past
7058 year. While these -- while this progress is encouraging, the
7059 fight against opioid epidemic is far from over. We must
7060 continue to invest and expand access to harm reduction
7061 services, evidence-based treatment, and community-based
7062 outreach to ensure that individuals can access the support,
7063 treatment, and resources that are urgently needed. That is
7064 why I am proud to support Tyler's Law, which would take an
7065 actionable step -- steps toward preventing fentanyl overdoses
7066 across the United States, including cities like mine, the
7067 City of New Orleans, and close existing gaps in drug
7068 screening and testing.

7069 Currently, emergency departments do not include fentanyl
7070 in the five-panel toxic drug screening. And because the drug

7071 does not show up on rapid drug testing, it can go largely
7072 undetected. Tyler's Law would close this gap by requiring
7073 HHS to complete a study and examine how often hospitals test
7074 patients experiencing an overdose of fentanyl. Using the
7075 data from the study, HHS would also require -- required to
7076 issue guidance on making fentanyl testing routine procedure
7077 in hospital emergency rooms. This legislation will, in fact,
7078 save lives and fill the existing gaps in the current system.

7079 We offer our most heartfelt condolences, sympathies for
7080 your loss. But know that we hear you, we are working, and we
7081 are sympathetic to make sure nobody else has to die. So God
7082 bless you.

7083 And I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes.

7084 Mr. Chairman, I yield.

7085 *The Chair. Is there further discussion on the bill? I
7086 heard "Mr. Chairman'" from somebody. Oh, you said it. Is
7087 there any further discussion on the bill?

7088 Seeing none, are there any amendments on the bill?

7089 Seeing none, the question -- you have been here for two
7090 times across the country, so now here we are -- the question
7091 now occurs on adopting H.R. 2004. A roll call has been
7092 requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

7093 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7094 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

7095 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

7096 Mr. Griffith?
7097 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
7098 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
7099 Mr. Bilirakis?
7100 [No response.]
7101 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
7102 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
7103 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
7104 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
7105 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
7106 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
7107 Mr. Palmer?
7108 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
7109 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
7110 Mr. Dunn?
7111 [No response.]
7112 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
7113 [No response.]
7114 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7115 [No response.]
7116 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
7117 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
7118 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
7119 Mr. Allen?
7120 [No response.]

7121 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
7122 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
7123 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
7124 Mr. Fulcher?
7125 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
7126 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
7127 Mr. Pfluger?
7128 [No response.]
7129 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
7130 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
7131 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
7132 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7133 [No response.]
7134 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
7135 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
7136 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
7137 Mr. Obernolte?
7138 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
7139 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
7140 Mr. James?
7141 *Mr. James. Aye.
7142 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
7143 Mr. Bentz?
7144 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
7145 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.

7146 Mrs. Houchin?
7147 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
7148 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
7149 Mr. Fry?
7150 [No response.]
7151 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7152 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
7153 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
7154 Mr. Langworthy?
7155 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
7156 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
7157 Mr. Kean?
7158 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
7159 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
7160 Mr. Rulli?
7161 [No response.]
7162 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
7163 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
7164 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
7165 Mr. Goldman?
7166 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
7167 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
7168 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7169 [No response.]
7170 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone?

7171 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
7172 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
7173 Ms. DeGette?
7174 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
7175 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
7176 Ms. Schakowsky?
7177 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
7178 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7179 Ms. Matsui?
7180 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
7181 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7182 Ms. Castor?
7183 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7184 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7185 Mr. Tonko?
7186 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7187 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7188 Ms. Clarke?
7189 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
7190 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
7191 Mr. Ruiz?
7192 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7193 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7194 Mr. Peters?
7195 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

7196 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
7197 Mrs. Dingell?
7198 [No response.]
7199 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
7200 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
7201 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7202 Ms. Kelly?
7203 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
7204 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
7205 Ms. Barragan?
7206 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
7207 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7208 Mr. Soto?
7209 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
7210 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7211 Ms. Schrier?
7212 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
7213 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
7214 Mrs. Trahan?
7215 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
7216 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7217 Mrs. Fletcher?
7218 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
7219 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7220 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

7221 [No response.]

7222 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?

7223 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

7224 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

7225 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7226 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

7227 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

7228 Mr. Menendez?

7229 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

7230 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

7231 Mr. Mullin?

7232 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

7233 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

7234 Mr. Landsman?

7235 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

7236 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

7237 Ms. McClellan?

7238 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

7239 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

7240 Chairman Guthrie?

7241 *The Chair. Aye.

7242 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

7243 *The Chair. Is there anyone -- Dr. Miller-Meeks?

7244 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

7245 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

7246 *The Chair. Dr. Joyce?

7247 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

7248 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

7249 *The Chair. Dr. Fletcher? Oh, I am sorry. Oh, they
7250 are talking, I am sorry.

7251 Mrs. Fedorchak?

7252 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak is not recorded.

7253 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

7254 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

7255 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis?

7256 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.

7257 *Mr. Bilirakis. I vote aye.

7258 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

7259 *The Chair. Is there anyone else seeking to answer the
7260 roll call?

7261 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

7262 [Pause.]

7263 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 46
7264 ayes and 0 noes.

7265 *The Chair. With 46 ayes and 0 noes, the ayes have it
7266 and the bill is adopted.

7267 [Applause.]

7268 *The Chair. Thank you. Thanks for being here. We are
7269 down to just a few tabs, so we are getting close. So thank
7270 you, everyone.

7271 The chair calls up H.R. 7970 and asks the clerk to
7272 report.

7273 *The Clerk. H.R. 7970, a bill to amend the Controlled
7274 Substances Act to permit --

7275 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7276 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
7277 amendment at any point.

7278 So ordered.

7279 [The bill follows:]

7280

7281 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7282

7283 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
7284 bill?

7285 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman?

7286 *The Chair. For what purpose does the gentleman from
7287 Ohio seek recognition?

7288 *Mr. Latta. To speak on the bill.

7289 *The Chair. You are recognized for five minutes to
7290 speak on the bill.

7291 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7292 The United States is plagued by fatal overdoses all
7293 across our country driven by the spread of increasingly and
7294 potent synthetic drugs. And one of the -- when we talk about
7295 fatal overdoses, I think it is important to point out that we
7296 had a sheriff that testified before us in committee that
7297 said, you know, these aren't just overdoses, these are
7298 outright poisonings that are occurring out there across our
7299 country.

7300 Nitazenes are a class of illicit synthetic opioids that
7301 have emerged as a growing threat nationwide. Depending on
7302 their chemical composition, some nitazenes can be up to 800
7303 times more potent than morphine and 40 times more potent than
7304 fentanyl, making them among the most dangerous substances
7305 circulating in the illicit drug market today.

7306 Like fentanyl, nitazenes are often mixed with other
7307 drugs without the user's knowledge, significantly increasing

7308 the risk of accidental overdose. Since 2019 nitazenes
7309 related overdoses -- or, as the sheriff said, poisonings --
7310 have contributed to an estimated 2,000 deaths in the United
7311 States, and that number is unfortunately expected to rise as
7312 these substances become more widespread.

7313 Despite their extreme potency, many nitazenes remain
7314 temporarily scheduled, creating enforcement problems for law
7315 enforcement and public health officials. Last year my
7316 colleague and I from Virginia's 9th district and -- we had
7317 the HALT Fentanyl Act which was signed into law after years
7318 of work. This permanently scheduled fentanyl-related
7319 substances as a schedule 1 drug. According to the CDC,
7320 during the timeframe it took from this introduction of the
7321 legislation to when it was signed into law, nearly 195,000
7322 Americans died from synthetic opioid overdoses -- or
7323 poisonings -- driven by illicit fentanyl, with 2025 data
7324 still out.

7325 We cannot sit by and wait for similar numbers to occur
7326 with nitazenes. That is why I am grateful for the committee
7327 taking up this legislation and giving the Federal Government
7328 the tools to stop the poisoning and permanently schedule
7329 nitazene as a schedule 1 drug. And I would ask the committee
7330 to pass this legislation.

7331 And I yield back the balance of my time.

7332 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone

7333 seeking to speak on the bill?

7334 The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for five
7335 minutes to speak on the bill.

7336 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, let me basically say that I
7337 think every member of this committee already agrees that
7338 nitazenes are dangerous. They are potent, and Americans
7339 using it illicitly are suffering and dying. What I am
7340 concerned about is how this bill approaches the problem.

7341 Agencies should be engaging in the process Congress laid
7342 out in the Controlled Substances Act, which requires
7343 scientific and regulatory entities to collaborate on a
7344 science-based approach to drug scheduling. But instead, this
7345 bill would permanently place an entire chemical class, those
7346 that exist today and those not yet invented, into schedule 1,
7347 and it would do so immediately. And I have three problems
7348 with this approach.

7349 First of all, this is structure-based scheduling, not
7350 science-based scheduling. For more than 50 years the CSA has
7351 asked a basic question before a drug enters schedule 1, and
7352 that is, does it actually have a high potential for abuse and
7353 no accepted medical use? And that answer has rested on a
7354 scientific and medical evaluation led by HHS and the FDA.
7355 But H.R. 7970 sets that evaluation aside for an entire class.
7356 Public health experts have warned for years that this rests
7357 on an unproven assumption that structurally similar molecules

7358 behave similarly. They do not always. Scheduling by
7359 structure alone risks sweeping in a potential anecdote
7360 alongside the poison.

7361 Now, second, this bill does not have an off-ramp, and
7362 schedule 1 is where research has stopped. Once a substance
7363 is scheduled, there is no built-in mechanism to remove it if
7364 research later shows it is harmless or even useful, and
7365 schedule 1 is precisely the category that makes that research
7366 hardest to perform. In reviewing the fentanyl class-wide
7367 scheduling order, the Government Accountability Office
7368 documented that scientists faced real obstacles studying
7369 schedule 1 drugs, including long delays in obtaining
7370 approval. And this warning is particularly significant for
7371 nitazene. CDC has found that naloxone can reverse a nitazene
7372 overdose, but often only after repeated doses. So we need a
7373 design -- we need designed better reversal protocols, and
7374 this means studying these compounds: work this bill makes it
7375 harder, not easier.

7376 And third, this approach is not new. DEA already has
7377 the authority to schedule nitazene compounds, and has been
7378 doing so on a temporary basis since 2020. Each time we
7379 schedule one compound, the illicit market answers with
7380 another more potent one. So nitazenes themselves are partly
7381 a product of that dynamic, and the next move in a game of
7382 chemical Whack-a-Mole.

7383 A broad, non-partisan coalition has engaged with
7384 Congress on this repeatedly: the Leadership Conference on
7385 Civil and Human Rights and its 240 member organizations; the
7386 Drug Policy Alliance; the Vera Institute of Justice; the
7387 Sentencing Project; AIDS United; and law enforcement voices
7388 like the Law Enforcement Action Partnership. Their message
7389 is consistent. Permanent class-wide scheduling repeats the
7390 failures of the drug war while diverting resources from what
7391 drove overdose deaths down last year: naloxone, fentanyl
7392 test strips, and medications for opioid use disorder.

7393 So I believe we should schedule what the science directs
7394 us to schedule, build in a research pathway and an off-ramp
7395 for substances later shown to be harmless, and pair any
7396 enforcement with the health investments championed by this
7397 committee. So if we are serious about stopping nitazenes,
7398 let's give scientists the tools to understand them and not
7399 just give prosecutors the tools to charge them.

7400 I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 7970, as written,
7401 for all these reasons, and I reserve the balance of my time,
7402 Mr. Chairman.

7403 *The Chair. The gentleman reserves the balance of his
7404 time, or yields the balance?

7405 *Mr. Pallone. I am sorry. Let me yield it because I
7406 don't think anybody wants it.

7407 *The Chair. Okay, thank you. Is anyone seeking

7408 recognition to speak on the bill?

7409 Seeing none, there is an amendment, right?

7410 Does the gentleman -- for what purpose -- are there any
7411 amendments to the bill?

7412 The gentleman from Ohio is recognized.

7413 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
7414 amendment at the desk. File name H7970-FCR-ANS_01.

7415 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

7416 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
7417 H.R. 7970.

7418 *The Chair. Without objection, reading of the amendment
7419 is dispensed with.

7420 [The amendment of Mr. Latta follows:]

7421

7422 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7423

7424 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Ohio is recognized
7425 for five minutes in support of the amendment.

7426 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not
7427 going to use the five minutes.

7428 It is pretty much -- what this amendment does, it
7429 incorporates the feedback from the Drug Enforcement Agency to
7430 help ensure that this bill will be implemented as intended.
7431 And I am proud of the work that has been done on the bill,
7432 and I encourage my colleagues to support the ANS and the
7433 underlying legislation.

7434 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I am going to yield back
7435 the balance of my time.

7436 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back his time. Is
7437 there any discussion on the amendment?

7438 You have an amendment, right?

7439 So if there is no further discussion on the -- are there
7440 any amendments to the amendment?

7441 The gentlelady from Washington is recognized. Well, for
7442 what purpose does the gentlelady from Washington seek
7443 recognition?

7444 *Ms. Schrier. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
7445 desk. It is an amendment --

7446 *The Chair. The clerk will --

7447 *Ms. Schrier. Amendment 2.

7448 *The Chair. -- identify the amendment. I am sorry.

7449 *Ms. Schrier. H7970_amendment 2.

7450 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

7451 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
7452 a substitute to H.R. 7970.

7453 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
7454 amendment is dispensed with.

7455 [The amendment of Ms. Schrier follows:]

7456

7457 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7458

7459 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
7460 minutes in support of her amendment.

7461 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am really
7462 glad to see the committee advance this important bill to
7463 permanently control nitazenes as a schedule 1 drug.

7464 As a physician, I am extremely concerned about how
7465 dangerous nitazenes are. These drugs are nearly 500 times
7466 more potent than morphine, and they are incredibly deadly and
7467 risky. And the opioid epidemic, particularly with fentanyl,
7468 has already devastated far too many families in my State of
7469 Washington and across the country. And we just can't let
7470 another dangerous synthetic drug take any more lives.

7471 But at the same time, we have to be really smart about
7472 how we tackle this crisis. Right now burdensome restrictions
7473 on schedule 1 drugs have made it incredibly difficult for
7474 scientists to study them. This hurts our ability to learn
7475 more about the risks and potential medical benefits of these
7476 substances. Maybe there are some. It even impairs our
7477 ability to learn about how to treat overdoses, and we need to
7478 know that. So, for example, we wouldn't have naloxone, the
7479 medication that is used to reverse an opioid overdose, if
7480 research hadn't been done on Oxymorphone, which is derived
7481 from morphine, a schedule 2 drug.

7482 That is why it is important that we lower the barriers
7483 to conducting valuable research on schedule 1 drugs. I

7484 supported these research reforms for schedule 1 drugs in the
7485 HALT Fentanyl Act, which was signed into law last year.
7486 However, the Trump Administration has been dragging their
7487 feet. They were supposed to issue guidelines to implement
7488 this bill and to ease a path to doing this research nearly
7489 six months ago, and we have not seen a final rule. And this
7490 research is really important.

7491 We shouldn't keep passing new laws while Federal
7492 agencies ignore the ones we already have on the books, so I
7493 am introducing this amendment to ensure guidance on HALT
7494 Fentanyl implementation has been issued before any part of
7495 Stop Nitazenes can take effect. I would encourage everyone
7496 to vote yes.

7497 And I yield back. Thank you.

7498 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
7499 discussion of the amendment?

7500 For what purpose -- the gentleman from Texas is
7501 recognized to speak on the amendment.

7502 *Mr. Goldman. I move to strike the last word.

7503 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
7504 amendment.

7505 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strongly
7506 oppose this amendment to H.R. 7970, the Stop Nitazene Act.

7507 While I am in opposition to this amendment, I want to
7508 take a moment to thank my colleague for highlighting the good

7509 work we have accomplished in the HALT Fentanyl Act, which
7510 included streamlining the processes for researching schedule
7511 1 controlled substances.

7512 The rulemaking provision in question was in regards to
7513 implementation and enactment of the HALT Fentanyl research
7514 reforms. The committee has been in communication with DEA,
7515 and I can confirm that DEA is actively working on
7516 implementing this law, as well as implementing the policy
7517 regulations. DEA has already registered over 100 researchers
7518 since HALT Fentanyl went into effect, and they are doing so
7519 even faster than the 30-day deadline for researchers with
7520 existing registrations and the 45-day deadline for new
7521 researchers as required by HALT. The DEA's average time to
7522 register researchers is 19 days. The Stop Nitazene Act will
7523 not harm the ability to conduct research on nitazenes. The
7524 Stop Nitazenes Act makes our community safer and prevent
7525 undue harm to the American people, and that is not something
7526 we should delay.

7527 I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no on this
7528 amendment.

7529 I thank the chair and I yield back.

7530 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
7531 there further discussion on the amendment?

7532 Seeing none, the -- if there is no further discussion,
7533 the vote occurs on the amendment.

7534 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

7535 All those opposed, say nay.

7536 In the opinion of the chair the nays have it.

7537 Is there any further amendments to the amendment?

7538 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, the vote
7539 occurs on adopting the amendment in the nature of a
7540 substitute.

7541 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

7542 All those opposed, nay.

7543 In the opinion of the chair the ayes have it, and the
7544 amendment is agreed to.

7545 Are there any further amendments?

7546 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
7547 7970, as amended. A roll call has been requested, and the
7548 clerk will call the roll.

7549 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7550 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

7551 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

7552 Mr. Griffith?

7553 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

7554 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

7555 Mr. Bilirakis?

7556 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

7557 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

7558 Mr. Hudson?

7559 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
7560 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
7561 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
7562 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
7563 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
7564 Mr. Palmer?
7565 [No response.]
7566 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
7567 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
7568 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
7569 Mr. Dunn?
7570 [No response.]
7571 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
7572 [No response.]
7573 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7574 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
7575 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
7576 Mr. Weber?
7577 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
7578 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
7579 Mr. Allen?
7580 [No response.]
7581 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
7582 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
7583 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

7584 Mr. Fulcher?
7585 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
7586 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
7587 Mr. Pfluger?
7588 [No response.]
7589 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
7590 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
7591 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
7592 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7593 [No response.]
7594 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
7595 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
7596 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
7597 Mr. Obernolte?
7598 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
7599 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
7600 Mr. James?
7601 *Mr. James. Aye.
7602 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
7603 Mr. Bentz?
7604 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
7605 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
7606 Mrs. Houchin?
7607 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
7608 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.

7609 Mr. Fry?
7610 [No response.]
7611 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7612 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
7613 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
7614 Mr. Langworthy?
7615 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
7616 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
7617 Mr. Kean?
7618 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
7619 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
7620 Mr. Rulli?
7621 [No response.]
7622 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
7623 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
7624 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
7625 Mr. Goldman?
7626 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
7627 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
7628 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7629 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
7630 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
7631 Mr. Pallone?
7632 *Mr. Pallone. No.
7633 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.

7634 Ms. DeGette?

7635 *Ms. DeGette. No.

7636 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.

7637 Ms. Schakowsky?

7638 *Ms. Schakowsky. No, no.

7639 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.

7640 Ms. Matsui?

7641 *Ms. Matsui. No.

7642 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.

7643 Ms. Castor?

7644 *Ms. Castor. No.

7645 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

7646 Mr. Tonko?

7647 *Mr. Tonko. No.

7648 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.

7649 Ms. Clarke?

7650 *Ms. Clarke. No.

7651 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.

7652 Mr. Ruiz?

7653 *Mr. Ruiz. No.

7654 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.

7655 Mr. Peters?

7656 *Mr. Peters. No.

7657 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.

7658 Mrs. Dingell?

7659 [No response.]

7660 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

7661 *Mr. Veasey. No.

7662 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.

7663 Ms. Kelly?

7664 *Ms. Kelly. No.

7665 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.

7666 Ms. Barragan?

7667 *Ms. Barragan. No.

7668 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.

7669 Mr. Soto?

7670 *Mr. Soto. No.

7671 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.

7672 Ms. Schrier?

7673 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

7674 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

7675 Mrs. Trahan?

7676 *Mrs. Trahan. No.

7677 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.

7678 Mrs. Fletcher?

7679 [No response.]

7680 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher?

7681 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher? No.

7682 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

7683 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

7684 [No response.]

7685 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?

7686 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.

7687 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.

7688 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7689 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.

7690 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.

7691 Mr. Menendez?

7692 *Mr. Menendez. No.

7693 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.

7694 Mr. Mullin?

7695 *Mr. Mullin. No.

7696 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

7697 Mr. Landsman?

7698 *Mr. Landsman. No.

7699 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.

7700 Ms. McClellan?

7701 *Ms. McClellan. No.

7702 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.

7703 Chairman Guthrie?

7704 *The Chair. Aye.

7705 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

7706 *The Chair. Mr. Pfluger?

7707 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

7708 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

7709 *The Chair. Mr. Allen?
7710 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes aye.
7711 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
7712 *The Chair. Mr. Rulli?
7713 *Mr. Rulli. Rulli votes aye.
7714 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
7715 *The Chair. Anyone on your side?
7716 The clerk will report.
7717 [Pause.]
7718 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. How is Miller-Meeks recorded?
7719 *The Chair. Mrs. Miller-Meeks is -- you haven't called
7720 the roll yet.
7721 Dr. Miller-Meeks?
7722 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
7723 *The Chair. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
7724 [Pause.]
7725 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 28
7726 ayes and 21 noes.
7727 *The Chair. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.
7728 So the chair calls up H.R. 1561 and asks the clerk to
7729 report.
7730 *The Clerk. H.R. 1561, a bill to require research --
7731 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7732 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be up for amendment
7733 at any point.

7734 So ordered.

7735 [The bill follows:]

7736

7737 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7738

7739 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
7740 bill?

7741 The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized to speak on
7742 the bill.

7743 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you. The Alert Communities Act
7744 will improve first responders' capacity for responding to
7745 overdoses by allowing training grants to be used to
7746 facilitate access to fentanyl and Xylazine test strips.

7747 In the past decade there has been a rapid increase in
7748 the proliferation of fentanyl and xylazine within the illicit
7749 drug supply. They are being added to many drugs to make them
7750 more powerful and addictive, and both fentanyl and xylazine
7751 are associated with an increase in overdose risk. And too
7752 often people who are exposed to it are unaware that it has
7753 been added to their drugs. However, there are steps that can
7754 be taken to determine whether drugs contain fentanyl and
7755 Xylazine, including using test strips, and this drug-checking
7756 technology is inexpensive and easy to use, and it can reduce
7757 the potential risks associated with substance use.

7758 With an ever-changing drug landscape and increasingly
7759 contaminated drug supply, it is important that we continue to
7760 support harm reduction strategies like test strips. And I am
7761 glad that this bill expands access to test strips by training
7762 first responders on their use and allowing them to distribute
7763 test strips as appropriate.

7764 I am grateful to my colleague, Representative Crockett,
7765 and others for their work on this bill, and I strongly urge
7766 my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

7767 I yield back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7768 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
7769 there further discussion on the bill?

7770 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

7771 Seeing none, we will call this roll. We have got two
7772 more roll calls after this that appear, unless there is
7773 amendments. But two more, so we are getting close.

7774 So anyway, the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
7775 1561. A roll call has been requested, and the clerk will
7776 call the roll.

7777 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7778 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

7779 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

7780 Mr. Griffith?

7781 [No response.]

7782 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

7783 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

7784 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

7785 Mr. Hudson?

7786 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

7787 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

7788 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

7789 [No response.]
7790 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
7791 [No response.]
7792 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
7793 [No response.]
7794 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
7795 [No response.]
7796 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7797 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
7798 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
7799 Mr. Weber?
7800 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
7801 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
7802 Mr. Allen?
7803 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
7804 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
7805 Mr. Balderson?
7806 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
7807 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
7808 Mr. Fulcher?
7809 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
7810 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
7811 Mr. Pfluger?
7812 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
7813 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

7814 Mrs. Harshbarger?
7815 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
7816 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
7817 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7818 [No response.]
7819 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
7820 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
7821 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
7822 Mr. Obernolte?
7823 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
7824 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
7825 Mr. James?
7826 *Mr. James. Aye.
7827 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
7828 Mr. Bentz?
7829 [No response.]
7830 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
7831 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
7832 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
7833 Mr. Fry?
7834 [No response.]
7835 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7836 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
7837 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
7838 Mr. Langworthy?

7839 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
7840 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
7841 Mr. Kean?
7842 [No response.]
7843 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
7844 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
7845 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
7846 Mr. Evans?
7847 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
7848 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
7849 Mr. Goldman?
7850 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
7851 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
7852 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7853 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
7854 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
7855 Mr. Pallone?
7856 [No response.]
7857 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette?
7858 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
7859 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
7860 Ms. Schakowsky?
7861 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
7862 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7863 Ms. Matsui?

7864 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
7865 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7866 Ms. Castor?
7867 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7868 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7869 Mr. Tonko?
7870 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7871 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7872 Ms. Clarke?
7873 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
7874 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
7875 Mr. Ruiz?
7876 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7877 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7878 Mr. Peters?
7879 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
7880 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
7881 Mrs. Dingell?
7882 [No response.]
7883 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
7884 [No response.]
7885 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
7886 *Mr. Veasey. Yes.
7887 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7888 Ms. Kelly?

7889 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
7890 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
7891 Ms. Barragan?
7892 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
7893 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7894 Mr. Soto?
7895 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
7896 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7897 Ms. Schrier?
7898 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
7899 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
7900 Mrs. Trahan?
7901 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
7902 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7903 Mrs. Fletcher?
7904 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
7905 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7906 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
7907 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
7908 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
7909 Mr. Auchincloss?
7910 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
7911 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
7912 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
7913 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

7914 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
7915 Mr. Menendez?
7916 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
7917 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
7918 Mr. Mullin?
7919 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
7920 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
7921 Mr. Landsman?
7922 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
7923 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
7924 Ms. McClellan?
7925 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
7926 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
7927 Chairman Guthrie?
7928 *The Chair. Aye.
7929 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
7930 *The Chair. Mr. Palmer?
7931 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
7932 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
7933 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
7934 *The Chair. Mr. Griffith?
7935 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
7936 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
7937 *The Chair. Mr. Pallone?
7938 *Mr. Pallone. Votes aye.

7939 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

7940 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll?

7941 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

7942 [Pause.]

7943 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that --

7944 *The Chair. The gentleman -- how is Mr. Crenshaw
7945 recorded?

7946 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.

7947 *Mr. Crenshaw. Yes.

7948 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

7949 *The Chair. Mr. Carter -- and Mr. Carter.

7950 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

7951 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

7952 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

7953 *The Chair. Yes, the gentlelady from New York, is she
7954 here? Did you get your recorded?

7955 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Yes.

7956 *The Chair. Okay, so the gentlelady is recorded.

7957 All right, so the clerk will report.

7958 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 48
7959 ayes and 0 noes.

7960 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed
7961 to. So two more votes -- should be two more votes for
7962 everyone, so thank you.

7963 So the chair calls up H.R. 7994 and asks the clerk to

7964 report.

7965 *The Clerk. H.R. 7994, a bill to establish --

7966 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7967 bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment
7968 at any point.

7969 So ordered.

7970 [The bill follows:]

7971

7972 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7973

7974 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
7975 bill?

7976 For what purpose does the gentleman from California seek
7977 recognition?

7978 *Mr. Ruiz. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in the
7979 nature of a substitute at the desk under the file name HR --

7980 *The Chair. Does anyone want to speak on the bill? If
7981 -- we could speak to the amendment, as well.

7982 So if no one will speak on the bill, so the gentleman's
7983 amendment, if you will report.

7984 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
7985 H.R. 7994.

7986 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
7987 amendment is dispensed with.

7988 [The amendment of Mr. Ruiz follows:]

7989

7990 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7991

7992 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five
7993 minutes to speak on the amendment.

7994 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7995 H.R. 7994, the Helping Educators Respond to Overdoses
7996 Act, or the HERO Act, is practical legislation that will save
7997 kids' lives. This bipartisan bill that I lead with my
7998 colleague, Representative Bilirakis, also known in Greece as
7999 Zeus himself, as how popular he is, establishes a grant
8000 program for schools to purchase opioid overdose reversal
8001 drugs, making these lifesaving medications accessible in
8002 schools in case, God forbid, a student needs them.

8003 It also establishes grants to provide critical training
8004 for staff and implement educational resources for students
8005 and communities to help combat the opioid epidemic.

8006 The bill also includes transparency measures that
8007 require schools to report when these opioid reversal
8008 medications are administered.

8009 This amendment in the nature of a substitute streamlines
8010 this reporting requirement to be less burdensome for schools
8011 while maintaining the bill's original intent.

8012 The opioid epidemic is a public health crisis, and we
8013 need to take action. According to UCLA Health, an average of
8014 22 adolescents ages 14 to 18 died every week in the U.S. in
8015 2022 from drug overdoses, the equivalent of a full high
8016 school classroom each week, bringing the death rate to 5.2

8017 per 100,000.

8018 As an emergency physician, I have cared for many
8019 patients overdosing on opioids. I have also had to comfort
8020 family members of patients who, unfortunately, were not able
8021 to receive lifesaving Narcan in time, and died. And let me
8022 tell you, it is such a tragedy and so heartbreaking to know
8023 that a patient could have survived if they had lifesaving
8024 Narcan available. Every story that ends in an overdose is
8025 tragic, but it cuts that much deeper when it could have been
8026 prevented had Narcan been administered.

8027 So we need to take action now to mitigate overdoses
8028 through training, through education, and through awareness,
8029 and we need to ensure widespread access to opioid overdose
8030 reversal medications like naloxone or Narcan. These
8031 medications exist, but they only work if they are accessible.

8032 This bill is a pragmatic, actionable step we can take to
8033 tackle the opioid crisis head on, and our kids' lives depend
8034 on that. So I urge my colleagues to support and move this
8035 bill in a bipartisan manner.

8036 Thank you, and I yield.

8037 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
8038 there a discussion on the amendment in the nature of a
8039 substitute?

8040 The gentleman from Florida is recognized for five
8041 minutes to speak on the amendment.

8042 *Mr. Ruiz. Zeus.

8043 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and, you know
8044 what? I have been called a heck of a lot worse, so I will
8045 accept it graciously. Thank you very much. So, in any case
8046 I -- let's get on to this very serious bill.

8047 I support the bill, obviously, and I want to speak in
8048 support of the amendment of the underlying bill sponsored by
8049 my good friend, Dr. Ruiz. And again, it is just an honor to
8050 do this because I know what it means to these families. We
8051 have got to get this across the finish line as soon as
8052 possible.

8053 Communities across the country continue to feel the
8054 devastating impact of the opioid epidemic, and schools should
8055 be equipped to respond when an overdose emergency occurs.
8056 This legislation provides targeted support to help schools
8057 obtain opioid overdose reversal drugs, develop emergency
8058 response plans, and provide education on overdose response
8059 and prevention. These are practical steps that will help
8060 schools protect students and save lives, and this is why we
8061 are here and why we ran for office, to make a real
8062 difference, a direct impact on people's lives. So we are
8063 here to save lives.

8064 And I appreciate the cosponsor, Dr. Ruiz, in working
8065 with me on these very, very important bills. I want to thank
8066 him and -- for his partnership and leadership on this

8067 important piece of legislation. And I urge my colleagues to
8068 support the amendment and the underlying bill.

8069 And I yield back.

8070 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
8071 there further discussion of the amendment?

8072 Seeing none, the question occurs on adoption of the
8073 amendment.

8074 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

8075 All those opposed, nay.

8076 The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to. Are
8077 there any further amendments?

8078 Seeing none, the question -- we do have one more bill
8079 after this -- so the question now occurs on adopting H.R.
8080 7994, as amended. A roll call has been requested, and the
8081 clerk will call the roll.

8082 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

8083 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

8084 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

8085 Mr. Griffith?

8086 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

8087 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

8088 Mr. Bilirakis?

8089 [No response.]

8090 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

8091 [Laughter.]

8092 *Voice. Even Zeus has to vote.
8093 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
8094 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
8095 Mr. Hudson?
8096 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
8097 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
8098 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
8099 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
8100 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
8101 Mr. Palmer?
8102 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
8103 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
8104 Mr. Dunn?
8105 [No response.]
8106 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
8107 [No response.]
8108 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
8109 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
8110 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
8111 Mr. Weber?
8112 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
8113 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
8114 Mr. Allen?
8115 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
8116 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

8117 Mr. Balderson?

8118 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

8119 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

8120 Mr. Fulcher?

8121 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

8122 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

8123 Mr. Pfluger?

8124 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

8125 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

8126 Mrs. Harshbarger?

8127 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

8128 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

8129 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

8130 [No response.]

8131 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

8132 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

8133 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

8134 Mr. Obernolte?

8135 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

8136 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.

8137 Mr. James?

8138 *Mr. James. Aye.

8139 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

8140 Mr. Bentz?

8141 [No response.]

8142 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin?
8143 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
8144 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
8145 Mr. Fry?
8146 [No response.]
8147 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
8148 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
8149 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
8150 Mr. Langworthy?
8151 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
8152 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
8153 Mr. Kean?
8154 [No response.]
8155 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
8156 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
8157 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
8158 Mr. Evans?
8159 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
8160 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
8161 Mr. Goldman?
8162 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
8163 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
8164 Mrs. Fedorchak?
8165 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
8166 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

8167 Mr. Pallone?
8168 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
8169 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
8170 Ms. DeGette?
8171 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
8172 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
8173 Ms. Schakowsky?
8174 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
8175 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
8176 Ms. Matsui?
8177 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
8178 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
8179 Ms. Castor?
8180 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
8181 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
8182 Mr. Tonko?
8183 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
8184 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
8185 Ms. Clarke?
8186 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
8187 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
8188 Mr. Ruiz?
8189 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
8190 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
8191 Mr. Peters?

8192 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
8193 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
8194 Mrs. Dingell?
8195 [No response.]
8196 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
8197 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
8198 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
8199 Ms. Kelly?
8200 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
8201 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
8202 Ms. Barragan?
8203 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
8204 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
8205 Mr. Soto?
8206 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
8207 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
8208 Ms. Schrier?
8209 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
8210 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
8211 Mrs. Trahan?
8212 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
8213 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
8214 Mrs. Fletcher?
8215 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
8216 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

8217 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

8218 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

8219 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

8220 Mr. Auchincloss?

8221 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

8222 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

8223 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

8224 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

8225 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

8226 Mr. Menendez?

8227 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

8228 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

8229 Mr. Mullin?

8230 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

8231 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

8232 Mr. Landsman?

8233 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

8234 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

8235 Ms. McClellan?

8236 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

8237 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

8238 Chairman Guthrie?

8239 *The Chair. Aye.

8240 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

8241 *The Chair. Does anyone seek recognition for answering

8242 the roll call on the Republican side?

8243 Seeing none, on the Democrat side?

8244 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

8245 [Pause.]

8246 *Mr. Pallone. No, I don't want to miss the vote.

8247 *The Chair. We will go fast.

8248 Oh, Mr. Crenshaw.

8249 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.

8250 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

8251 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

8252 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 48

8253 ayes and 0 noes.

8254 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

8255 So as we go -- this is our last bill, so I will go

8256 quick. Thank you very much for the hard work. Know that for

8257 all the time we spent on these bills today, hours, hours were

8258 spent on each bill with our staffs and our members working

8259 together, so I appreciate that very much. That way we will

8260 have a lot of work that we can get things across the floor

8261 and when we return.

8262 So the chair calls up H.R. 8005 and asks the clerk to

8263 report.

8264 *The Clerk. Committee print of H.R. --

8265 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

8266 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

8267 amendment at any point.

8268 So ordered.

8269 [The bill follows:]

8270

8271 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8272

8273 *The Chair. Does anybody seek to be recognized on the
8274 bill?

8275 The gentleman from Colorado, for what purpose does from
8276 Colorado seek recognition?

8277 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
8278 the last word.

8279 *The Chair. To speak on the bill, and you are
8280 recognized to speak on the bill.

8281 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and today I am
8282 proud to speak in strong support of my bill to help combat
8283 the scourge of fentanyl deaths driven by the proliferation of
8284 counterfeit prescription drugs. The bill is the Stop Pills
8285 That Kill Act.

8286 This common-sense legislation will help save American
8287 lives by cracking down on criminals who traffic poison
8288 disguised as prescription drugs, and by developing a
8289 comprehensive plan to address this epidemic head on.

8290 With the Trump Administration closing and securing the
8291 southern border, the United States has thankfully seen a
8292 steep decline in monthly synthetic opioid overdose deaths,
8293 from about 50,000 a month at the end of 2024 to 38,000 now.

8294 Unfortunately, Colorado has seen the exact opposite
8295 trend, with an average overdose death rate of about 800 per
8296 month at the end of 2024, increasing to 1,000 now. Because
8297 Colorado's trends did not match the national decline,

8298 Colorado has unfortunately seen more than 1,600 tragic
8299 overdose deaths that would not have existed if Colorado had
8300 simply followed the national decline.

8301 As a police officer who worked in the Denver metro area
8302 for over 10 years, I know this isn't a coincidence. When I
8303 was working to keep communities in Colorado safe from things
8304 like fentanyl poisoning our communities via counterfeit
8305 pills, ruling Democrats chose time and again to push soft-on-
8306 crime policies that released hardened criminals back into our
8307 community and lessened criminal sentencing for drugs while
8308 refusing to take on fentanyl. And that is why I am so glad
8309 that this bill, the Stop Pills That Kill Act, is being
8310 included in today's markup.

8311 The legislation is simple. Its primary provision
8312 implements new penalties and closes a sentencing loophole for
8313 counterfeit pill production so we can get the peddlers of
8314 this poison off our streets and put them in jail.

8315 It also directs the Drug Enforcement Administration to
8316 develop a comprehensive plan that enables and empowers law
8317 enforcement, regardless of agency, to investigate and seize
8318 counterfeit fentanyl or methamphetamine substances.

8319 This bill builds upon my previous efforts in this space,
8320 namely the No Fentanyl on Social Media Act which was included
8321 in the bipartisan KIDS Act, which passed the House last
8322 month. The proliferation of fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills

8323 over social media sites means that we have seen horrifying
8324 rates of fentanyl poisoning among our kids. In fact,
8325 Colorado had the second highest youth overdose death rate in
8326 the nation just two years ago, with 75 percent of those
8327 overdoses associated with fentanyl.

8328 This fight is personal to me. I will remind everyone
8329 every 15 days under the previous Administration we lost the
8330 same number of Americans to drug overdose deaths that -- as
8331 we lost in the entirety of the September 11th terrorist
8332 attacks. As a combat veteran of the global war on terror,
8333 that statistic speaks volumes and that is why I am grateful
8334 to see my legislative proposal move forward in this
8335 committee.

8336 In a minute I will offer an amendment in the nature of a
8337 substitute that rolls up two other bills to help address the
8338 counterfeit pill epidemic. These would be led by my
8339 colleagues, Rep. McDowell and Hageman. And I am grateful for
8340 their leadership, and I am grateful that this committee
8341 continues to prioritize this critically important issue to
8342 quite literally save lives.

8343 I want to express my appreciation to the chair and to
8344 the ranking member for their leadership and commitment to
8345 tackling this issue, and to the committee staff for their
8346 tireless work in helping craft and advance this legislation
8347 to keep people alive.

8348 I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill,
8349 and I yield back the balance of my time.

8350 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there -- so
8351 does the gentleman have an amendment at the desk?

8352 *Mr. Evans. Yes, Chairman.

8353 *The Chair. Will the clerk report?

8354 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of substitute to
8355 H.R. --

8356 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
8357 amendment is dispensed with.

8358 [The amendment of Mr. Evans follows:]

8359

8360 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8361

8362 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized in support
8363 of his amendment.

8364 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8365 This amendment to H.R. 8005, the Stop Pills That Kill
8366 Act, would incorporate technical assistance, and rolls in two
8367 additional bills to combat counterfeit pills. The amendment
8368 in the nature of a substitute packages together the Stop
8369 Pills That Kill Act with the PRESS Act led by Representative
8370 McDowell and the Fight Illicit Pill Presses Act led by
8371 Representative Hageman. Both of these bills include
8372 important provisions that will help fight the scourge of
8373 illicit counterfeit pills by making it unlawful to import
8374 pill press equipment with the intent to illicitly produce a
8375 controlled substance, and by implementing serial number
8376 requirements for pill presses and related equipments.

8377 Again, as a police officer for over a decade I have
8378 handled illicit pills, and I know how sophisticated they are.
8379 I know how sophisticated the technology to create these
8380 illicit pills is. And so imposing accountability at the
8381 illegal manufacturer and illegal supplier level is a critical
8382 part of the fight to prevent -- or excuse me, to protect our
8383 communities from counterfeit pills. Fighting this persistent
8384 epidemic of fentanyl overdoses in America is still a top
8385 priority for me.

8386 This amendment strengthens my bill by going after the

8387 manufacturers and the suppliers and the equipment that they
8388 use to create these illicit pills. I applaud Reps. McDowell
8389 and Hageman for their work in advancing public safety.

8390 I urge support for this amendment, and I yield back.

8391 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
8392 further discussion?

8393 Seeing none, so the question before -- if there is no
8394 further discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment.

8395 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

8396 Those -- all opposed, nay.

8397 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to. Are
8398 there any further amendments?

8399 Seeing none, I know once we call the roll we are going
8400 to lose you, so I just want to say thank you all so much for
8401 your work today.

8402 So if there are no further amendments or discussion, the
8403 question now occurs on adopting H.R. 8005, as amended. A
8404 roll call has been requested, and the clerk will call the
8405 roll.

8406 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

8407 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

8408 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

8409 Mr. Griffith?

8410 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

8411 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

8412 Mr. Bilirakis?

8413 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

8414 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

8415 Mr. Hudson?

8416 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

8417 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

8418 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

8419 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

8420 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

8421 Mr. Palmer?

8422 [No response.]

8423 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

8424 [No response.]

8425 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

8426 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

8427 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

8428 Mr. Dunn?

8429 [No response.]

8430 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

8431 [No response.]

8432 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

8433 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

8434 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

8435 Mr. Weber?

8436 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

8437 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
8438 Mr. Allen?
8439 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
8440 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
8441 Mr. Balderson?
8442 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
8443 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
8444 Mr. Fulcher?
8445 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
8446 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
8447 Mr. Pfluger?
8448 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
8449 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
8450 Mrs. Harshbarger?
8451 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
8452 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
8453 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
8454 [No response.]
8455 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
8456 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
8457 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
8458 Mr. Obernolte?
8459 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
8460 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
8461 Mr. James?

8462 *Mr. James. Aye.
8463 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
8464 Mr. Bentz?
8465 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
8466 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
8467 Mrs. Houchin?
8468 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
8469 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
8470 Mr. Fry?
8471 [No response.]
8472 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
8473 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
8474 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
8475 Mr. Langworthy?
8476 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
8477 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
8478 Mr. Kean?
8479 [No response.]
8480 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
8481 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
8482 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
8483 Mr. Evans?
8484 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
8485 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
8486 Mr. Goldman?

8487 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
8488 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
8489 Mrs. Fedorchak?
8490 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
8491 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
8492 Mr. Pallone?
8493 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
8494 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
8495 Ms. DeGette?
8496 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
8497 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
8498 Ms. Schakowsky?
8499 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
8500 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
8501 Ms. Matsui?
8502 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
8503 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
8504 Ms. Castor?
8505 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
8506 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
8507 Mr. Tonko?
8508 *Mr. Tonko. No.
8509 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
8510 Ms. Clarke?
8511 *Ms. Clarke. No.

8512 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
8513 Mr. Ruiz?
8514 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
8515 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz --
8516 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye. Sorry, aye.
8517 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is off no and on aye.
8518 Mr. Peters?
8519 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
8520 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
8521 Mrs. Dingell?
8522 [No response.]
8523 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
8524 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
8525 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
8526 Ms. Kelly?
8527 *Ms. Kelly. No.
8528 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.
8529 Ms. Barragan?
8530 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
8531 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
8532 Mr. Soto?
8533 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
8534 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
8535 Ms. Schrier?
8536 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

8537 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
8538 Mrs. Trahan?
8539 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
8540 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
8541 Mrs. Fletcher?
8542 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
8543 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
8544 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
8545 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
8546 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
8547 Mr. Auchincloss?
8548 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
8549 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
8550 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
8551 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.
8552 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
8553 Mr. Menendez?
8554 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
8555 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
8556 Mr. Mullin?
8557 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
8558 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
8559 Mr. Landsman?
8560 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
8561 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

8562 Ms. McClellan?

8563 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

8564 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

8565 Chairman Guthrie?

8566 *The Chair. Aye.

8567 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

8568 *The Chair. The gentlelady from Illinois?

8569 *Voice. [Inaudible.]

8570 *The Chair. Go from an aye to a no? Do you want to go

8571 to a no?

8572 Did you hear the gentlelady from Illinois?

8573 Please, so we can be heard.

8574 Correct me. You just want to switch from an aye to a

8575 no, correct?

8576 She wants to switch from an aye to a no.

8577 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky is off aye and on no.

8578 *The Chair. Mr. Crenshaw?

8579 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

8580 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

8581 *The Chair. Does anybody else want to -- seeing none,

8582 the clerk will report.

8583 [Pause.]

8584 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 43

8585 ayes and 6 noes.

8586 *The Chair. The ayes have it and the bill is adopted.

8587 Without objection, staff is authorized to make technical
8588 and conforming changes to the legislation approved by the
8589 Committee today.

8590 So ordered.

8591 Without objection, seeing no objection, the committee
8592 stands adjourned.

8593 [Whereupon, at 4:35 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]