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6 MARKUP OF:

7 BUDGET RECONCILIATION PURSUANT TO S.CON.RES. 5, THE

8 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021;

9 SUBTITLE A, BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS  
10 RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH;

11 SUBTITLE B, BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS  
12 RELATING TO MEDICAID;

13 SUBTITLE C, BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS  
14 RELATING TO CHIP; AND

15 SUBTITLE D, BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS  
16 RELATING TO OTHER PROVISIONS

17 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

18 House of Representatives,

19 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

20 Washington, D.C.

21

22

23 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:00 a.m.,  
24 via Webex, Hon. Frank Pallone [chairman of the committee]  
25 presiding.

26

27 Present: Representatives Pallone, Rush, Eshoo, Doyle,

28 Schakowsky, Butterfield, Matsui, Castor, Sarbanes, McNerney,  
29 Welch, Tonko, Clarke, Schrader, Cardenas, Ruiz, Peters,  
30 Dingell, Veasey, Kuster, Kelly, Barragan, McEachin, Blunt  
31 Rochester, Soto, O'Halleran, Rice, Craig, Schrier, Trahan,  
32 Fletcher; Rodgers, Upton, Burgess, Scalise, Latta, Guthrie,  
33 McKinley, Kinzinger, Griffith, Bilirakis, Johnson, Long,  
34 Bucshon, Mullin, Hudson, Walberg, Carter, Duncan, Palmer,  
35 Dunn, Curtis, Lesko, Pence, Crenshaw, Joyce, and Armstrong.  
36

37           Staff present: Joe Banez, Professional Staff Member;  
38 Jacquelyn Bolen, Health Counsel; Jeff Carroll, Staff  
39 Director; Jacqueline Cohen, Chief Environment Counsel;  
40 Jennifer Epperson, Counsel; Elizabeth Ertel, Office Manager;  
41 Austin Flack, Policy Analyst; Lisa Goldman, Senior Counsel;  
42 Waverly Gordon, General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Deputy  
43 Staff Director; Perry Hamilton, Deputy Chief Clerk; Alex  
44 Hoehn-Saric, Chief Counsel, Communications and Consumer  
45 Protection; Ed Kaczmariski, Policy Analyst; Zach Kahan, Deputy  
46 Director Outreach and Member Service; Rick Kessler, Senior  
47 Advisor and Staff Director, Energy and Environment; Mackenzie  
48 Kuhl, Press Assistant; Una Lee, Chief Health Counsel; Jerry  
49 Leverich, Senior Counsel; Jourdan Lewis, Policy Coordinator;  
50 Dustin Maghamfar, Air and Climate Counsel; Aisling McDonough,  
51 Policy Coordinator; Meghan Mullon, Policy Analyst; Phil  
52 Murphy, Policy Coordinator; Joe Orlando, Policy Analyst; Lino  
53 Pena-Martinez, Policy Analyst; Kaitlyn Peel, Digital  
54 Director; Tim Robinson, Chief Counsel; Chloe Rodriguez,  
55 Deputy Chief Clerk; Samantha Satchell, Professional Staff  
56 Member; Sydney Terry, Policy Coordinator; Rebecca Tomilchik,  
57 Policy Analyst; Kimberlee Trzeciak, Chief Health Advisor;  
58 Rick Van Buren, Health Counsel; and Anna Yu, Professional  
59 Staff Member.  
60

61           \*The Chairman. The committee will come to order. We  
62 are meeting today to consider a budget reconciliation  
63 legislative recommendations to comply with the reconciliation  
64 directive included in section 2001 of the concurrent  
65 resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2021. We will  
66 consider those recommendations as four committee prints --  
67 that is four committee prints.

68           Subtitle A is the Budget Reconciliation Legislative  
69 Recommendations Relating to Public Health. So the first one  
70 is public health.

71           Subtitle B is the Budget Reconciliation Legislative  
72 Recommendations Relating to Medicaid. So the second one is  
73 Medicaid.

74           Subtitle C is the Budget Reconciliation Legislative  
75 Recommendations Related (sic) to CHIP, the Children's Health  
76 Insurance Program.

77           And then the last of the four committee prints is  
78 Subtitle D, the Budget Reconciliation Legislative  
79 Recommendations Related (sic) to other provisions. So that  
80 is like a grab bag.

81           Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, today's  
82 markup is being held remotely. All members will be  
83 participating via video conferencing.

84           As part of our markup, microphones will be set on mute  
85 for purposes of eliminating inadvertent background noise --

86 which you just got from me, so we muted -- and you will need  
87 to unmute your microphone each time you wish to speak. So  
88 don't forget to unmute when you want to speak.

89         Additionally, I ask you to use the raise-hand feature of  
90 the software platform when you wish to be recognized,  
91 including to give an opening statement or offer an amendment.  
92 Now, if for some reason that doesn't work, you can raise your  
93 hand and I will look for your physical hand, but try to use  
94 the raise-hand feature on the software.

95         After you are recognized to speak, please use the lower-  
96 hand feature so that we know that you no longer seek  
97 recognition. So lower that after.

98         During voice votes you will need to unmute yourself so  
99 that we can hear your response. If you would like to request  
100 a recorded vote, please do so immediately after you respond  
101 to the voice vote. During recorded votes you will need to  
102 unmute yourself to respond to the clerk once your name is  
103 called.

104         Now, in order to hear you, I ask that, instead of just  
105 saying aye or nay, that you respond with a phrase like, you  
106 know, "Frank Pallone from New Jersey votes aye," or, "Cathy  
107 Rodgers from Washington votes no," so we know who you are,  
108 okay? This will provide additional time for the voting  
109 member to be identified and made visible on the platform.

110         \*Mr. McKinley. Frank?

111           \*The Chairman. Yes, go ahead, you had a question?

112           \*Mr. McKinley. This is McKinley. I am curious with  
113 your mask, because I am deaf.

114           So, Frank, I am saying there -- are there people in the  
115 room that you need to be masked, or be protected from?  
116 Because I read lips.

117           \*The Chairman. That is why I had the mask on. But why,  
118 David, do you want me to take it off? What are you asking?

119           \*Mr. McKinley. If there are people in the room that you  
120 want to protect, or they are afraid of that, then keep your  
121 mask on. But I am just saying, for those of us that are  
122 hearing impaired, I read lips, so I need to read your lips,  
123 and since --

124           \*The Chairman. Oh, it is harder for you to hear me.

125           \*Mr. McKinley. Hear you? I can't hear a thing you are  
126 saying so far.

127           \*The Chairman. Oh, I will take it off, then. I was  
128 just trying to be a little extra protected, but I want you to  
129 be able to read my lips.

130           \*Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Frank. Thank you.

131           \*The Chairman. Yes, you mentioned that to me before on  
132 the floor. I forgot about that.

133           All right. All right. So documents for the record,  
134 amendments, and motions should be sent to Rebecca Tomilchik  
135 at the e-mail address we provided to the staff. Hopefully

136 you all have that. And all documents will be entered into  
137 the record at the conclusion of the markup.

138 Now, let me just say, just in terms of the time, we are  
139 going to continue this markup to its conclusion, and you know  
140 we have noticed it for two days. So, I mean, I would like to  
141 get done today, but we may have to go to the second day. We  
142 are going to take a dinner break tonight between 6:00 and  
143 7:00 p.m., which corresponds with the Republican conference.  
144 I hope they give you guys dinner during the conference,  
145 because that is going to be the dinner hour, we are using  
146 that time to accommodate it.

147 If we don't finish tonight, we will start tomorrow at  
148 11:00 a.m. to accommodate the West Coast. So that is why we  
149 are starting at 11:00, because we want to accommodate those  
150 of you who are on the West Coast. Maybe we will finish  
151 tonight. But if we don't, you know, we will take a break, we  
152 will go back, we will see how long we go into the night. I  
153 mean, we will have dinner. We will continue into the night.  
154 But, you know, at some point, if we don't finish and it looks  
155 like we are not going to, then we will start again tomorrow  
156 at 11:00 a.m. to accommodate the West Coast.

157 And you probably already know this, but I do want to  
158 remind everyone that this markup is open to the public, and  
159 the media is listening. Well, hopefully -- well, maybe they  
160 are not listening, but they have the option of listening.

161 And so please understand that we are not just us. This is  
162 open to the public and the media, and keep that in mind.

163 So now I am going to start by recognizing myself for an  
164 opening statement, and then we will continue with Mrs.  
165 Rodgers and whoever else wants to do it.

166 We are here today to address the committee's top  
167 priorities: combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, providing  
168 relief to struggling families, and rebuilding our economy.  
169 Our nation and our people are hurting. It is essential that  
170 Congress act quickly to provide the resources and support  
171 needed to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. And that is  
172 exactly what we are doing today. We will be marking up four  
173 committee prints to crush this virus, to save lives, and to  
174 provide struggling Americans some much-needed relief.

175 These committee prints put into legislative text  
176 President Biden's American Rescue Plan. That is the basis  
177 for this. They are robust and bold because that is what is  
178 necessary to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

179 Now, we are investing more than \$14 billion to speed up  
180 the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines  
181 across the country. This will allow us to get more shots in  
182 people's arms so that we can end the pandemic. The funding  
183 will support the development of community vaccination  
184 centers, as well as mobile vaccination units that can go into  
185 hard-to-reach areas that are often underserved.



186           We are also investing \$46 billion in a national testing  
187 strategy with funding for rapid tests, community-based  
188 testing sites, and expanding lab capacity. Testing, contact  
189 tracing, and mitigation are crucial to reducing the spread of  
190 COVID-19, getting our kids back to school, returning to  
191 normal patterns of life, and rebuilding our economy.

192           We also invest more than \$7 billion for the mobilization  
193 of a public health jobs program to support the pandemic  
194 response. This funding would allow public health departments  
195 to hire 100,000 new, full-time public health workers to  
196 perform vital tests like vaccine outreach and contact  
197 tracing.

198           We invest more than \$25 billion in addressing health  
199 disparities and protecting vulnerable populations. This plan  
200 provides additional investments in community health centers  
201 and health services on tribal lands.

202           And we are also incentivizing states to expand access to  
203 health coverage through the Medicaid program. Medicaid has  
204 provided a crucial safety net for millions of adults who have  
205 lost their jobs or income during the pandemic.

206           And we are also helping struggling families keep their  
207 lights on, the heat working, and the water running by  
208 providing \$5 billion to critical utility assistance programs.

209           Additionally, we have 7.6 billion to expand Internet  
210 connectivity to students and teachers to help bridge the

211 digital divide for those without home Internet access.

212         Now, these committee prints include other critical  
213 funding needs that I am not mentioning in my opening during  
214 this pandemic, and that includes mental health, environmental  
215 health, consumer protection provisions that we will discuss  
216 as we proceed through the markup.

217         But if I could just conclude by saying today our nation  
218 faces unprecedented challenges, and those challenges must be  
219 met with decisive and bold action. We can't delay. We have  
220 to act now, which is why we are doing this today.

221         [The prepared statement of The Chairman follows:]

222

223         \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

224

225           \*The Chairman. Now, let me recognize our ranking  
226 member, Mrs. Rodgers, for three minutes.

227           And let me mention that, the way this works, each of the  
228 chairs or ranking members has a three-minute opening, and  
229 each member beyond that has one minute for an opening. So I  
230 will start with the ranking member, Mrs. Rodgers.

231           And thank you for your cooperation with all of this.  
232 Thank you.

233           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will start with  
234 a reminder as to why we came together last year in a  
235 bipartisan way for COVID relief. Five separate times we  
236 upheld the rich history of bipartisan work on Energy and  
237 Commerce. We appealed to the better angels among us, and we  
238 plowed the hard ground necessary to legislate and deliver  
239 relief to people who are in desperate need.

240           It was for families like Shannon's in Spokane Valley.  
241 These are her three children. Two are home-schooled, one is  
242 in public school. Shannon says that virtual school is  
243 nothing like homeschool. Her daughter is in hybrid learning.  
244 She is falling behind.

245           Shannon's -- she coaches young athletes, too. And she  
246 told me that young people in our state have been neglected,  
247 they have been ignored. They are told that they are not  
248 important. Her daughter's friend tried to end her life. I  
249 have heard from a mental health provider in eastern

250 Washington. She is a mental health therapist. Her caseload  
251 is up 75 percent. In 10 days, 7 teens reported self-harm and  
252 suicide attempts. All seven had zero history, but the  
253 isolation took a severe toll.

254 For the health of our kids, parents like Shannon,  
255 anxious for America to crush this pandemic -- I am, too -- we  
256 all want it to end for the health and wellness of our  
257 communities, so that our kids can get back to school, people  
258 can get back to work, and everyone who wants to have the  
259 vaccine and needs to have a vaccine gets one. That is why we  
260 worked together to spur the fastest possible development of a  
261 vaccine. That is why we came together five times to deliver  
262 the largest package of recovery for -- in American history.

263 Unfortunately, the majority today is moving forward with  
264 a hyper-partisan process. I am disappointed. I am  
265 disappointed that this was drafted in secret without us. I  
266 am disappointed that it was released at 10:00 p.m. on  
267 Tuesday. I am disappointed with headlines like, "Inside  
268 Biden's World Plan to Punish the GOP for opposing COVID  
269 Relief." Playing politics, scoring political points when  
270 many are in despair, it is unacceptable. It doesn't help  
271 with the recovery effort when accountability is lacking, when  
272 trust is broken. The majority has shared no information about  
273 how many jobs this will create, how many vaccines will get  
274 into people's arms, or how quickly we can open schools.

275 I have made it clear to Chair Pallone that we want to  
276 work with the majority on more targeted relief.

277 You have told me that you have every expectation Energy  
278 and Commerce will continue the strong bipartisan tradition.  
279 And that is why I am disappointed that today that is not the  
280 case. We look forward to working with you to find bipartisan  
281 support to address the need, to lift the despair, to move  
282 forward with important relief for the American people.

283 Thank you. I yield back.

284 [The prepared statement of Mrs. Rodgers follows:]

285

286 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

287

288           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mrs. Rodgers. We now go to  
289 the subcommittee chairs and ranking members for openings,  
290 three minutes. And, well, is there any Democratic chair that  
291 wants to make an opening? We will start with -- well, this  
292 will all be based on seniority.

293           Ms. Eshoo?

294           \*Ms. Eshoo. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and good  
295 morning, colleagues. At our last Health Subcommittee  
296 hearing, which was held last week, we discussed the American  
297 Rescue Plan. I stated that we are in a race against death.  
298 In the single week since our hearing, about 20,000 Americans  
299 have died due to COVID-19, including a fellow Member of  
300 Congress, Congressman Ron Wright. In total, we have lost  
301 nearly 470,000 of our fellow Americans to this disease. This  
302 crisis must be met with an all-America wartime plan.

303           First, the American Rescue Plan provides \$20 billion for  
304 a national vaccination and treatment strategy to fully  
305 vaccinate 300 million Americans by the end of this summer.  
306 This is an ambitious plan, and the legislation provides the  
307 resources necessary to accomplish that.

308           Secondly, it invests \$50 billion to scale up testing by  
309 buying rapid tests, expanding lab capacity, and coordinating  
310 the genetic sequencing needed to detect the troubling new  
311 variants of the virus.

312           Third, the American Rescue Act ensures Americans can

313 access the treatment and health care needed to defeat the  
314 virus with without out-of-pocket costs. That is going to  
315 help all of our constituents. This includes a record  
316 investment to encourage the 12 holdout states to finally  
317 expand Medicaid coverage to two million Americans, and offer  
318 Medicaid coverage to new mothers for a full year. We have  
319 had extensive hearings and discussions on that issue.

320         The legislation also includes \$7.6 billion to shore up  
321 the FCC's E-Rate program. Prior to the pandemic, 17 million  
322 American students who lacked high-speed Internet at home were  
323 part of what now acting FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel phrased  
324 "the homework gap.'" Now many of these students can't even  
325 participate in the classes, and this funding is critically  
326 necessary.

327         My colleagues, I believe that we have a moral and an  
328 economic duty to take this on. The United States of America  
329 today is on her knees, both economically and, really, hit so  
330 hard by this pandemic. So, yes, this is a -- this is  
331 legislation with a price tag that matches the needs of the  
332 people of our country. So obviously, I support it. I look  
333 forward to working with all of you, and I am proud of the  
334 work that the Health Subcommittee members have done to date,  
335 and will continue to do.

336         So I yield back, Mr. Chairman, and look forward to being  
337 with all of you all day, and hopefully not too late into the

338 evening. Thank you, and I yield back.

339 [The prepared statement of Ms. Eshoo follows:]

340

341 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

342



343           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Eshoo. So the next  
344 person, based on seniority, would be Fred Upton.

345           Somebody said you were having audio problems. Do you  
346 want me to skip you?

347           All right. It looks like he says skip him. We will  
348 come back to Fred. So next would be Bob Latta, who is  
349 recognized for three minutes.

350           \*Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chair, and good  
351 morning. We are here today to vote on legislation that  
352 should be bipartisan -- and I emphasize the word "should" --  
353 because the issues we are discussing today should all support  
354 a common goal: to help our country and citizens recover from  
355 the pandemic. We should be united in our efforts to help  
356 Americans get back to work, students back into the classroom,  
357 shops and restaurants open for business, and boosting our  
358 economy.

359           But unfortunately, that isn't the case. Instead, my  
360 Democratic colleagues are choosing to put politics over  
361 progress. They decided to spend today's committee hearing  
362 ignoring the bipartisan work we did in the last Congress to  
363 pass bipartisan packages that delivered trillions of dollars  
364 in relief -- and let me say again, not millions, not  
365 billions, but trillions of dollars in relief.

366           As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on  
367 Communications and Technology, I spent countless hours

368 working with my colleagues to enact meaningful policies to  
369 expand broadband access for our constituents that still too  
370 many Americans remain without Internet access.

371 Jonathan from Waterville wrote to me and said, "I used  
372 to commute to my -- from my office in downtown Toledo five  
373 days a week. While that was never an issue, working from  
374 home is, since we have no Internet access in my area. Both  
375 my wife and I have been living this nightmare since March of  
376 last year with no end in sight. Folks like myself who live  
377 in rural parts of the town have no option."

378 Also, there is Sarah from Bloomdale, a mom of three  
379 elementary-age boys who experience challenges accessing the  
380 Internet at home, because there aren't reliable wired or  
381 wireless options, which, in her words, "leaves those of us  
382 working and schooling from home in a very difficult  
383 situation." She goes on to say, "My main request in  
384 reaching out to you is to ask if there is anything that can  
385 be done for all of us in the rural areas who are being held  
386 back academically and career-wise because of the lack of  
387 access to stable Internet."

388 At the end of last year we provided more than 10 billion  
389 in funding to get broadband to under-served areas and --  
390 Americans -- over 3 billion to help low-income Americans stay  
391 connected, and funded our broadband mapping initiative. This  
392 committee must come together to oversee the implementation of

393 these programs and make sure that money is going to where it  
394 is needed to help all Ohioans like Jonathan and Sarah before  
395 we start blindly spending more money. Northwest and West  
396 Central Ohioans need our help and depend on our collaborative  
397 work in this committee. My constituents asked me to fight  
398 for the thousands of Ohioans who are continuing their  
399 struggle on a daily basis, and I will continue to do just  
400 that.

401 And Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

402 [The prepared statement of Mr. Latta follows:]

403

404 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

405

406           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Latta.

407           So, is -- I don't see any Democratic subcommittee chair  
408 with their hand up. Does anybody on the Democratic side,  
409 subcommittee chairs, want to speak?

410           [No response.]

411           \*The Chairman. It looks like not. Okay, so the next  
412 would be Brett Guthrie. Mr. Guthrie is recognized for three  
413 minutes.

414           \*Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the  
415 recognition, but I am disappointed that we have rushed a \$1.9  
416 trillion COVID relief package before us today that did not  
417 include bipartisan negotiations, especially since this  
418 committee has a strong record of bipartisan work.

419           Together we have passed nearly \$4 trillion in COVID  
420 relief aid and, as of last week, there is still around 1  
421 trillion in unspent COVID-19 relief funds. We need to make  
422 sure COVID-19 relief is being used effectively and is  
423 targeted to those who need it the most. Any future COVID-19  
424 relief bill needs to focus on giving everyone the chance to  
425 be vaccinated, safely returning all students to in-person  
426 learning, and helping people return to work to rebuild,  
427 renew, and restore our country.

428           Small businesses in my district, like the coffee shop in  
429 Danville called The Hub, have been negatively impacted by the  
430 COVID-19 pandemic. The Hub has been struggling to stay alive

431 during these difficult times when many college students are  
432 virtual. I was just recently there. This is a picture of my  
433 friend, Jason Cullen, who is the owner. And he struggled,  
434 and he said my staff has helped him with COVID-19 economic  
435 disaster -- injury, disaster loans.

436 I know people are not just suffering financially during  
437 this pandemic. I have heard from local substance abuse  
438 providers, who have seen an influx in patients. I have also  
439 received countless letters asking for help. Recently I heard  
440 from Tracy, a single mother in Glasgow, Kentucky. Tracy is  
441 having to manage losing her job due to the pandemic, while  
442 taking care of her children, including a six-year-old. We  
443 must provide for the -- for Tracy and Americans like her, as  
444 well as people struggling with substance abuse. That is not  
445 a partisan issue. So that is why it is disappointing that we  
446 have chosen to go down a partisan path in this relief  
447 package.

448 Congress has provided \$8.75 billion to help states with  
449 vaccine distribution. I am disappointed that Kentucky and  
450 many other states are falling behind in vaccinating minority  
451 communities. Governor Beshear admitted that only around 4.3  
452 percent of Kentucky vaccines have gone to African-Americans,  
453 when the numbers should be almost double that. We know that  
454 minority communities are impacted more by COVID-19, so why  
455 are they receiving fewer vaccines?

456           Are rural communities receiving the COVID-19 vaccines  
457 they need?

458           Before we rush this \$1.9 trillion package, we need to be  
459 looking at questions like these, conducting oversight of  
460 COVID-19 funds, and finding ways to improve our COVID-19  
461 response. We have five COVID-19 relief bills signed into law  
462 with bipartisan support, and I am proud to support the last  
463 five bills to help Kentucky businesses, families, and  
464 communities. I urge my Democratic colleagues to work  
465 together with Republicans to get our kids back in school and  
466 provide targeted relief to specific individuals in need.

467           I yield back.

468           [The prepared statement of Mr. Guthrie follows:]

469

470           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

471

472           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Brett.

473           So next, the ranking member is David McKinley,  
474 recognized for three minutes.

475           [Pause.]

476           \*The Chairman. David, I think you got to unmute.

477           \*Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And again,  
478 building up off what some of the others have said about this,  
479 I think the single most important priority for Congress  
480 should be this widespread vaccination. But -- and what we  
481 had to do, it was a three-step process. One was to develop a  
482 vaccine, two was to get the shots in people's arms. And  
483 thirdly, as a result, we could open our economy and bring  
484 kids back to school.

485           But I want to just focus about schools for a moment,  
486 because, according to the McKinsey Report, students,  
487 unfortunately, are falling behind academically.

488           But that is not all, that is not the end of the story.  
489 In talking to educators, they have told me about the fact  
490 that our kids across this country are not getting their  
491 meals, where -- the abuse, neglect, according to the American  
492 Academy of Pediatrics, and the mental wellbeing, missing  
493 out on their peer involvement with them is there. In fact,  
494 over the last week we talked with Steve Wotring. He is the  
495 Preston County superintendent in West Virginia, and president  
496 of the Association of Schools -- School Administrators. And

497 he said -- during this pandemic, he said, "We are missing  
498 some kids. We have no idea where they are. And we have a  
499 principal in one of the counties that actually is going door  
500 to door to check base -- touch base with the kids, find out  
501 how the families are doing with it.'" Just yesterday we  
502 spoke with the colleges, universities in West Virginia, and  
503 they said they are planning this fall to have remedial  
504 classes because they know that the kids are falling behind  
505 academically as a result of this.

506 So, again, Mr. Chairman, vaccination is the key. West  
507 Virginia is doing its part. West Virginia is ranked second  
508 in the country. Public broadcaster PBS just put out a report  
509 yesterday that said we are now up to 15 percent of our  
510 population has been vaccinated, and we are 90 percent of our  
511 utilization of the drugs that we have been getting.  
512 Unfortunately, that is not the way it is across the country.  
513 A lot of the other states are -- they are struggling to  
514 attain this widespread vaccination. And maybe we are  
515 confusing them because, what we are -- the message we are  
516 sending from Congress is that we want to address a political  
517 wish list. I don't understand that. We should be addressing  
518 primarily just getting our kids vaccinated.

519 So again, I am going to reinforce it. Our goal should  
520 be, Mr. Chairman, get our kids back in the classrooms and  
521 opening up our economy. It is not that complicated, but we



522 put -- unfortunately, we have allowed politics to come into  
523 this, and we are putting in this political wish list, and  
524 causing us not to be able to work on a bipartisan manner.

525 So I yield back, but I am just struggling some,  
526 Chairman. Let's get focused on our kids back in school and  
527 opening our economy, instead of all this other political  
528 stuff. Thank you.

529 [The prepared statement of Mr. McKinley follows:]

530

531 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

532

533           \*The Chairman. Thank you, David. Next I have Gus  
534 Bilirakis for three minutes.[Pause.]

535           \*The Chairman. He has got it on mute.  
536 Gus?

537           [Pause.]

538           \*Mr. Bilirakis. I thought I had already done that, but  
539 in any case, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good  
540 morning, everyone. Each of us on this committee has done  
541 great work together, and I am pleased when we shake hands and  
542 get things done for our constituents. I am even more proud  
543 to see the impact of our districts again back home, positive  
544 impact.

545           But unfortunately, unfortunately, this bill, which we  
546 just saw, well, just a few hours ago -- I think Tuesday at  
547 10:00 p.m. -- without our bipartisan consensus, represents  
548 exactly what America hates about Washington, D.C., in my  
549 opinion: no input, no consultation, no aim towards bringing  
550 this country together. And that is what our American -- our  
551 constituents want, the American people. Such partisanship is  
552 especially frustrating during the COVID-19 pandemic, when  
553 millions of Americans are left in isolation away from their  
554 friends and family.

555           I see the harms in my own district, Mr. Chairman.  
556 Floridians are suffering from high rates of opioid overdoses,  
557 which have only increased during the pandemic, due to stress

558 and seclusion. In fact, we have seen a 71 percent increase  
559 in overdoses in Pasco County, a 70 percent -- and my district  
560 is in Pasco County. So we have seen a 71 percent increase in  
561 Pasco County in 2020, as compared to 2019. That is alarming.

562 Consider a friend of mine, Kelly Mothershead, who lives  
563 in Pasco County. Kelly has become an active community member  
564 in the fight to tackle the opioid crisis, especially during  
565 the pandemic. A few years ago Kelly tragically lost her 26-  
566 year-old son, Jason, to an accidental overdose, an opioid  
567 overdose. This is a picture of Kelly and her son, Jason.  
568 She is urging us to provide targeted support to improve  
569 access to treatment and keep more families from experiencing  
570 the preventable and horrible loss that she lives with every  
571 single day. She told me, and I quote, "It is an emptiness  
572 that never goes away, and that no one should have to know."

573 We must work together to prevent Americans from  
574 experiencing these losses, Mr. Chairman. And then, Mr.  
575 Chair, last year I was proud to support my good friend Chair  
576 Schakowsky's legislation with Representative Jeff Duncan to  
577 increase support personnel for the Consumer Production (sic)  
578 Safety Commission, and was pleased to see it advance through  
579 to the House as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act.  
580 That was a great bipartisan accomplishment, great work again  
581 last year, with the cooperation of the chairman and the  
582 ranking member.

583           Sadly, the text before us, rather than funding these  
584 additional personnel, goes in a completely different  
585 direction with text never discussing -- again, never  
586 discussed before in a bipartisan fashion, and a budgetary  
587 impact that far exceeds what is needed to place more  
588 personnel at our ports. And I have several ports. I have to  
589 admit that I have several ports in my state, as you know. I  
590 hope my friends across the aisle will consider our amendments  
591 to get us back on track and help the folks back home who are  
592 crying out for our assistance.

593           And I yield back, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. I  
594 appreciate the time.

595           [The prepared statement of Mr. Bilirakis follows:]

596

597           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

598

599           \*The Chairman. Thank you.

600           \*Mr. Bilirakis. Sorry I went over.

601           \*The Chairman. That is all right.

602           So does Fred want us to go back to him? Is he able to  
603 speak to us? Do we know, Fred Upton? No? Okay.

604           All right, then I don't have any other ranking members  
605 or chairs of the subcommittees at this point. So we are  
606 going to go to individual members. But I don't see any -- I  
607 don't see any Democrats, so I am going to go to Mike Burgess.

608           Mike, you are recognized for one minute.

609           \*Mr. Burgess. Great. Thank you, Chairman. I wanted to  
610 let the committee know I had an opportunity to visit the  
611 United States Mask factory in Tarrant County. As we all know  
612 from serving on this committee, we did have some difficulties  
613 with personal protective equipment. Two entrepreneurs, John  
614 Bielamowicz and David Baillargeon put their -- pooled their  
615 personal fortunes and created a mask company to provide  
616 certified N95 masks, first to health care workers and now to  
617 the general public. This whole exercise started because  
618 John's son was born at Parkland Hospital with serious medical  
619 problems. He is doing fine now. But John tells me it broke  
620 his heart to think of those brave doctors at Parkland  
621 Hospital having to deal with COVID patients and not having  
622 the proper protective equipment. So they stepped up. They  
623 did the right thing. They created this mask factory, and now

624 they have got a great group of folks who are producing masks  
625 in Fort Worth, Texas, and we can't thank them enough.

626 I yield back.

627 [The prepared statement of Mr. Burgess follows:]

628

629 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

630

631           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Dr. Burgess.

632           Next I see we have our Republican whip. Mr. Scalise is  
633 recognized for one minute.

634           \*Mr. Scalise. Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And look,  
635 every COVID relief package that we have done so far has been  
636 bipartisan, until this one. There is absolutely no reason to  
637 be ramming through a partisan bill. We ought to be working,  
638 Mr. Chairman, together on safely reopening our schools, on  
639 getting people back to work, on reopening our economy and  
640 expanding the vaccine rollout.

641           I want to introduce you to one of my constituents. This  
642 is Dr. Rachel Chard. Dr. Chard is an ER doctor, and her  
643 husband is a police officer. There we go. Her husband is a  
644 police officer and she is an ER doctor. They have four  
645 children, and their days and nights are spent on the front  
646 lines of this virus. Last year they wrote to me about the  
647 need to reopen schools for the sake of their children's  
648 education and wellbeing. They are essential workers that we  
649 have all promised to fight for, and virtual education is not  
650 a viable option for their family. Luckily, their schools  
651 followed the science and safely reopened.

652           Mr. Chairman, every child across this country should  
653 have this same opportunity. By choosing to ram through this  
654 hyper-partisan bill, the needs of millions of students and  
655 families and small businesses who are facing these kinds of

656 dire circumstances will not be met. Families across the  
657 country are counting on us to work together to solve these  
658 problems. They deserve better than this my-way-or-the-  
659 highway, \$2 trillion partisan bill.

660 I yield back.

661 [The prepared statement of Mr. Scalise follows:]

662

663 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

664



665           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Scalise.

666           So I am going in order of seniority with the  
667 Republicans. I don't see Adam Kinzinger or Bill Johnson's  
668 hand up. The next one would be Dr. Bucshon. Larry Bucshon  
669 is recognized for one minute.

670           \*Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a  
671 constituent of mine here. This is Rita. Rita has struggled  
672 with addiction for most of her life. Leading up to the  
673 spread of COVID-19, Rita was one year, two months, and two  
674 weeks clean, due to the accessibility of treatment and  
675 community support. However, once the pandemic spread through  
676 the nation, government mandates soon closed down the schools  
677 her children attended, treatment centers, and community  
678 centers where she attended NA and AA meetings. She fell into  
679 despair and back into addiction. Knowing she needed help in  
680 order to get back to her children, she checked herself into  
681 Ruth's House in Sullivan, Indiana. Once she arrived, she had  
682 to quarantine for two weeks, which meant she couldn't work,  
683 she could not see her family, and she could not pay her dues  
684 to keep receiving treatment.

685           Addiction and mental health are spreading like wildfire  
686 throughout our nation, because the government has overreached  
687 by shutting down daily life in America and eliminating the  
688 livelihoods of millions. We must come together to bring an  
689 end to the pandemic and do all we can to prevent the long-

690 lasting effects on mental health and substance abuse.

691 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

692 [The prepared statement of Mr. Bucshon follows:]

693

694 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

695

696           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Dr. Bucshon.

697           I see Markwayne Mullin's hand is up. The gentleman from  
698 Oklahoma is recognized.

699           [Pause.]

700           \*The Chairman. Is he? His hand is up, is he there?

701           [Pause.]

702           \*The Chairman. Markwayne?

703           \*Mr. Johnson. Mr. Chairman, this is this is Bill  
704 Johnson. You skipped right over me. I didn't know I was  
705 supposed to raise my hand, but I am right --

706           \*The Chairman. All right. Well, we will go to you  
707 then, Bill. You are -- Bill Johnson is recognized.

708           \*Mr. Johnson. All right. Well, thanks a lot, Mr.  
709 Chairman. Here's a picture of the Fikes family. They live  
710 in Chesapeake, Ohio, in my district. Kim and Jason have four  
711 children. The oldest is a senior in high school with autism.  
712 Like many families, they have had to adjust to the added  
713 stress of remote learning. The Fikeses have lived through a  
714 nightmare that took several -- took a severe mental and  
715 physical toll on their family, with disrupted schedules and  
716 the added burden of ensuring their children were continuing  
717 to learn in a difficult distanced learning environment.

718           Chesapeake schools are almost back to normal now, with  
719 mostly in-classroom instruction. But sadly, that is not true  
720 for many children across America. And that is tragic. We

721 have worked in a bipartisan manner for nearly a year to  
722 provide trillions of dollars in needed relief. And I am  
723 deeply disappointed the majority has resorted to pushing this  
724 \$1.9 trillion bill loaded with liberal priorities, instead of  
725 focusing on getting our kids back into the classroom.

726         The majority talks a lot about our teachers. But what  
727 about the health and welfare of our children?

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

729         [The prepared statement of Mr. Johnson follows:]

730

731         \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

732

733           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Bill.

734           So next with the hand up is Markwayne Mullin.

735           Again, Mark?

736           \*Mr. Mullin. I had to unmute there. Thank you,  
737 Chairman Pallone.

738           Governors and city leaders across the country have  
739 forced our communities to shut down because of the pandemic.  
740 These shutdowns have caused the mental health crisis in our  
741 country to get even worse.

742           Light of Hope in Claremore, Oklahoma helps individuals  
743 struggling with addiction and other mental health issues, all  
744 free of charge. Every day, Lila Freeman and Nancy Phillips  
745 and their staff help countless numbers of people who have  
746 been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. In a time  
747 when many organizations are downsizing, Light of Hope has  
748 actually expanded twice during the pandemic. Not all  
749 communities are lucky enough to have an organization like  
750 Light of Hope to provide these services. We haven't even  
751 scratched the surface on the full effects of the COVID-19  
752 pandemic on the mental health crisis in our country.

753           Mental health care is just as important as the physical  
754 health care. As we consider the next COVID relief package,  
755 we must ensure that expanding mental health care is part of  
756 the conversation.

757           And I yield back.

758 [The prepared statement of Mr. Mullin follows:]

759

760 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

761

762           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Markwayne. Next I see Tim  
763 Walberg, who is recognized for one minute.

764           \*Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate  
765 that.

766           There is no question that families are struggling, but  
767 this one-sided bill does miss the mark. Instead of a massive  
768 \$2 trillion bill, we need solutions targeted to help those  
769 most in need. And it can't be said enough that over \$1  
770 trillion from previous relief bills are yet to be spent.

771           Here in Michigan, small businesses have been hit  
772 particularly hard. In the Irish Hills, just eight miles up  
773 the road from my doorstep here, Brooklyn Lanes, a beloved  
774 local bowling center, was forced to close its doors after 50  
775 years in the community, a number of those years aiding my  
776 children in beating me in bowling. Closing down was the last  
777 thing they wanted to do. But this pandemic gave them no  
778 choice. The lack of certainty and prolonged shutdowns was  
779 simply too much to overcome.

780           So many other family-owned businesses in Michigan are  
781 facing a similar fate, never to reopen again. For their sake  
782 we need to advance bipartisan solutions that support mom-and-  
783 pop shops, get workers back on the job, get vaccines  
784 distributed, and get students back in the classroom. We can,  
785 and I believe we must do better than this partisan bill  
786 portends.

787 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

788 [The prepared statement of Mr. Walberg follows:]

789

790 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

791



792           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Tim. So now we are going to  
793 go back to Fred Upton, recognized for three minutes as the  
794 ranking member of the subcommittee.

795           \*Mr. Upton. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I think  
796 -- I know that we would all agree that the American people  
797 need help, and there is no question about that.

798           In fact, less than six weeks ago we passed a \$900  
799 billion deal that delivered immediate and much-needed relief  
800 for those affected by this horrific pandemic. That  
801 legislation was just the latest in a series of bills that we  
802 passed into law to deal with COVID. And while each of those  
803 bills address different issues related to the virus, they all  
804 had one thing in common: they were bipartisan. Sadly, that  
805 is not the case with the measure that we are considering  
806 today.

807           We all agree more assistance is needed, and I support  
808 additional targeted stimulus checks, more resources for  
809 vaccine rollout, targeted support for state and local  
810 governments who need it, and liability protections for small  
811 businesses. What I cannot support is passing a partisan,  
812 nearly \$2 trillion package without studying what money we  
813 have already spent from the bill that we passed just 6 weeks  
814 ago, what is working, and what areas need more help.

815           I look at the effect that this pandemic has had on  
816 health, lives, and businesses in my district in southwest

817 Michigan. Nearly 1,000 people have lost their lives to  
818 COVID. I think about Baker, my good friend, who was the  
819 first person in Berrien County to lose his life. His picture  
820 is still on my desk. Many more have been seriously ill and  
821 hospitalized. Many of my constituents have also lost their  
822 jobs and small businesses. We were able to use the PPP funds  
823 to help as many as we could, but some were still not able to  
824 make it. I look at Tibbs Brewing Company in Kalamazoo, Pauly  
825 Mays -- Pauly Mac's Restaurant in Edwardsburg, AMC 10 Theater  
826 in downtown Kalamazoo. Many are hanging by just a thread,  
827 which is why we need to come together in a bipartisan way to  
828 help, and not pass destructive measures like a \$15 minimum  
829 wage, which the CBO just this week reported would kill nearly  
830 a million-and-a-half jobs.

831       There is a lot that we can do together. So I would urge  
832 this committee to put aside the partisan measure, this one,  
833 and buckle down and work together to help put this pandemic  
834 behind us.

835       I also have to comment on one important and troubling  
836 development that we have to address appropriately, as we mark  
837 up the bill. This concerns the ill-advised decisions by the  
838 President to revoke the permit for the Keystone Pipeline and  
839 to halt other energy development immediately, wiping out tens  
840 of thousands of jobs. By all accounts, from union leaders to  
841 economists and the very workers that these decisions affect,

842 these are devastating actions and could not have come at a  
843 worse time. These actions immediately harm thousands of  
844 families and, worse yet, thousands of additional families who  
845 are now at risk in hotels, restaurants, and other businesses  
846 supporting the energy industry -- reel from the economic  
847 shock.

848         We all know, from this -- many hearings that we have  
849 already conducted on our nation's energy sector in the past  
850 couple of congresses, how much these actions really can harm  
851 our economy, put thousands of well-paid and proud workers out  
852 of jobs, and devastate communities. Our nation's energy  
853 sector is critical. It makes no sense. I am hopeful that we  
854 can amend the bill today with a number of priorities to make  
855 it better and certainly bipartisan.

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

857         [The prepared statement of Mr. Upton follows:]

858

859 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

860

861           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Fred. So now we are going to  
862 go back to one minutes. Next is Buddy Carter, recognized for  
863 one minute.

864           \*Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start  
865 by saying we all know people who have been seriously impacted  
866 by this pandemic. As many of my colleagues have already  
867 discussed, these issues affect every congressional district  
868 in the country.

869           In my district I have heard stories from parents about  
870 struggles they have balancing their children's education,  
871 despite the CDC saying classroom learning is safe. I want to  
872 discuss a family in my district, the Woods, and the impact  
873 remote schooling has had on their daughters, Molly Claire and  
874 Anna. You see a picture now of the Woods family and the  
875 girls here. These girls currently attend school in the  
876 Savannah Chatham County public school system, and are in some  
877 of the most important years of mental and social development  
878 of their lives. Unfortunately, local decisions to go fully  
879 remote have been, as their father, George, put it,  
880 devastating to their education and well-being. Their  
881 youngest switched schools last year, meaning she has never  
882 met her teacher or classmates in person to develop a  
883 connecting -- a connection that is so important to an  
884 education. Their daughter, who is a freshman in high school,  
885 couldn't take the PSAT, and their daughter in the seventh

886 grade has lost valuable preparation years for the transition  
887 to high school.

888         This pandemic created challenges we could have never  
889 anticipated, and we have all had to adapt and make it work.  
890 However, we know it is safe for our children to attend  
891 school. If we don't get kids like the Woods back in the  
892 classroom, it will have lasting consequences for children  
893 across the country.

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

895         [The prepared statement of Mr. Carter follows:]

896

897         \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

898

899           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Buddy. Next is Jeff Duncan  
900 for one minute.

901           \*Mr. Duncan. Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

902           Forty-five days after the parents of these four children  
903 took a leap of faith to start their own business in South  
904 Carolina, the world came to a screeching halt due to COVID-  
905 19. Suddenly, both parents were unemployed and at home  
906 navigating e-learning with their four children. This family  
907 lives in my district. They had to spend \$250 to upgrade  
908 their home for Internet for kids e-learning. They lost their  
909 jobs, child care, schooling, ability to attend church, and  
910 their savings. These new daily challenges went on for  
911 months. Thankfully, after many hard months, the parents had  
912 work again to support the family, and the local school  
913 district reopened in a limited capacity, which has since  
914 expanded. His family expressed how grateful they are for the  
915 leadership that encouraged and supported the need for  
916 students to get back to face-to-face learning. Their  
917 children are flourishing in the physical classroom. Our  
918 nation needs leaders that put children first and fear last.

919           I hope my constituents' story will encourage more  
920 bipartisan conversations to form around the importance and  
921 value of in-person learning.

922           With that, Mr. Chairman, I will yield back.

923

924 [The prepared statement of Mr. Duncan follows:]

925

926 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

927

928           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Jeff.

929           So I don't see hands up for Dan Crenshaw or John Curtis.

930           So I am going to move to Neal Dunn.

931           \*Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to share  
932 a story of Jan and Trudy White, owners of a restaurant called  
933 That Cajun Place in Panama City Beach. Jan and Trudy are no  
934 strangers to recovering after disasters. They relocated in  
935 2005 after Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home in New  
936 Orleans. And like so many others, they lost their business  
937 again after Hurricane Michael hit us in 2018. Now, after  
938 weathering two hurricanes and a pandemic, Jan and Trudy have  
939 persevered and built a new That Cajun Place restaurant,  
940 creating 100 jobs. Jan said it best, "The resiliency of  
941 human beings can be powerful. You just have to bounce  
942 back.''

943           I share this story because folks like this deserve a  
944 thoughtful, targeted, and effective approach to COVID relief,  
945 not one that allows only 36 hours to review and consider. We  
946 need the data and facts behind this bill to ensure this is  
947 going to help us get our economy back up and running. I  
948 sincerely regret that this is not the path that this  
949 committee or this Congress has chosen.

950           And with that, I yield back.

951

952



953 [The prepared statement of Mr. Dunn follows:]

954

955 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

956

957           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Neal. I see that John  
958 Curtis's hand is up now; he is recognized for one minute.

959           \*Mr. Curtis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will  
960 allow me a personal indulgence, I would like to share with  
961 you a really bright spot in the Curtis home during a  
962 difficult pandemic time. This is little Bentley, and Bentley  
963 was our ninth grandchild. I can see some of you are trying  
964 to look better. Bentley was our ninth grandchild, and he  
965 just lives a couple of miles away from us. She is already  
966 walking at nine months, and she can say, papa. Now, I can  
967 tell, from those of you smiling, which of you are  
968 grandparents and which are not.

969           Now, as much joy as she has brought into our lives,  
970 imagine the terrible situation of her great-grandfather and  
971 great-grandmother, who for seven months only could see  
972 Bentley through a glass wall. And just days before her  
973 great-grandmother passed away, she was allowed to see her  
974 only because the great-grandmother had had COVID, and was now  
975 immune. And like any eight-month-old, the baby simply cried  
976 in somebody's arms that she had never met.

977           Now, I am not a mental health expert, but I know we are  
978 not doing enough for our senior citizens who are bearing the  
979 brunt of the COVID strain and stress. And I regret that we  
980 are adding \$1.9 trillion in debt to Bentley's future, and I  
981 don't have any ability -- because this has not been a

982 bipartisan bill -- to have any input into that.

983 And I yield my time.

984 [The prepared statement of Mr. Curtis follows:]

985

986 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

987

988           \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next I have -- John Joyce is  
989 recognized for one minute.

990           \*Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

991           Widespread immunization is the key to defeating COVID-  
992 19, rebuilding our economy, and fortunately, what we need in  
993 reopening our schools. Every American wants a vaccine, and  
994 should be able to get a vaccine. Unfortunately, in my home  
995 state of Pennsylvania, the vaccine rollout has been plagued  
996 with challenges. Every day, those who are eligible to  
997 receive the vaccine are struggling to find a dose.

998           In Franklin County I want to introduce you to 91-year-  
999 old Ralph, who spent hours attempting to make a vaccine  
1000 appointment, but he struggled to navigate online forms. And  
1001 like many Americans, Ralph lives in a rural community and  
1002 doesn't have regular access to the Internet. Thankfully,  
1003 with the help of a wonderful neighbor, he was able to secure  
1004 an appointment for next week.

1005           While Ralph's story has a happy outcome, luck should not  
1006 determine who receives this lifesaving vaccine. As we  
1007 consider the road to recovery, we must prioritize the people,  
1008 not the statistics. They are not interested in politics.  
1009 They are looking for answers, and we can achieve this in a  
1010 bipartisan manner.

1011           Thank you, Chairman Pallone, and I yield.

1012

1013 [The prepared statement of Mr. Joyce follows:]

1014

1015 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1016

1017           \*The Chairman. Thank you, John. Next I have -- Debbie  
1018 Lesko is recognized for one minute.

1019           \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every American  
1020 that wants a vaccine should be able to get a vaccine. So,  
1021 instead of spending money on non-COVID-related priorities  
1022 like is in this bill, we should be spending money to double  
1023 the amount of vaccinations. Arizona needs more vaccines.  
1024 Our governor, our two senators, our entire Arizona  
1025 congressional delegation have asked for more vaccines from  
1026 the Biden Administration, and so far have been denied.

1027           Just last week, 21,000 vaccine appointments were filled  
1028 in just 39 minutes. Senior citizens, like my constituent  
1029 right here, Phil -- Phil is 68 years old. He has diabetes.  
1030 He had open heart surgery, and he can't get an appointment,  
1031 and he is desperate, because the number -- the demand in  
1032 Arizona exceeds the supply of vaccinations.

1033           We need to do this not as Republicans, not as Democrats,  
1034 but as Americans together. So let's get this done in a  
1035 bipartisan fashion, and I yield back.

1036           [The prepared statement of Mrs. Lesko follows:]

1037

1038           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1039

1040           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Debbie. I think that Dan  
1041 Crenshaw wants to speak now. Is that correct?

1042           Okay, you are recognized for one minute.

1043           [Pause.]

1044           \*The Chairman. It is muted, though, Dan. You have got  
1045 to unmute.

1046           Is he -- just having problems, I think.

1047           We will go back to you, Dan, if you can set it up. So I  
1048 have Greg Pence next.

1049           Greg?

1050           \*Mr. Pence. Thank you, Chair Pallone and Ranking Member  
1051 McMorris Rodgers. I am honored to be on the E&C committee.

1052           The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the most difficult  
1053 experiences our nation has weathered. States like Indiana  
1054 are an example of strong leadership during this uncertain  
1055 time. In Indiana we have been able to come together with  
1056 local governments to help small businesses and reopen  
1057 schools. The Hoosier State is a successful example of  
1058 working together towards the same goal. Congress has come  
1059 together six times to deliver relief for Americans. Hoosiers  
1060 in the sixth district are better off with the targeted relief  
1061 both sides of the aisle negotiated. I wish we had taken a  
1062 bipartisan approach, because when we come together and give  
1063 everyone a voice at the table, that is when we come up with  
1064 the best solutions.

1065 Thank you. I yield back.

1066 [The prepared statement of Mr. Pence follows:]

1067

1068 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1069



1070           \*The Chairman. Thank you.

1071           So I don't have anybody else with their hand up. I  
1072 don't know if Dan is still having audio problems. If he is,  
1073 I am just going to move on.

1074           Dan, can you -- do you want to try one more time, Dan?

1075           \*Mr. Crenshaw. I will try. Can you hear me?

1076           \*The Chairman. Yes, we can. You are recognized.

1077           \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank  
1078 you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that.

1079           I would like to talk about a couple of my constituents,  
1080 Adriana Swift, owner of J. Christopher Pizza and Pasta in  
1081 Kingwood, Texas. They have been in business for four years,  
1082 but their lives were turned upside down when the county  
1083 forced restaurants to close and limit occupancy as part of  
1084 the -- what I believe are unscientific, unconstitutional  
1085 lockdowns that we have seen across our country. They had to  
1086 implement costly new operating procedures, absorb the cost of  
1087 expensive to-go packaging, while struggling to keep 38  
1088 employees on the payroll. So they are wondering how this  
1089 bloated, very partisan package will help them, and the truth  
1090 is that it won't. They already got the first round of PPP  
1091 loans. They don't qualify for a second. We all know there  
1092 is about \$200 billion worth of PPP money still there, so it  
1093 is unclear what this new package will do. In fact, it makes  
1094 things worse by foisting a \$15 minimum wage on them. Their

1095 customer base is getting hurt, because the oil and gas  
1096 workers aren't coming in to spend money anymore.

1097 So I hope that, rather than focusing our efforts on  
1098 unrelated partisan measures that will actually kill jobs and  
1099 won't help these Americans struggling, then maybe we could  
1100 focus on more targeted relief, opening up flexibility for the  
1101 PPP loans, and helping our oil and gas industry. Thank you.

1102 [The prepared statement of Mr. Crenshaw follows:]

1103

1104 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1105

1106           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Dan. So now I see Gary  
1107 Palmer's hands is up. He is recognized for one minute.

1108           \*Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just sitting  
1109 here, listening to my colleagues talk about the issues that  
1110 we really ought to be focused on, and want to express my  
1111 disappointment that this committee, which I consider the  
1112 premiere committee in Congress, is not addressing these  
1113 issues. Suicide, depression, drug overdoses, the loss of  
1114 jobs, the falling behind academically, it is almost as though  
1115 you treat those as collateral damage for your agenda. Well,  
1116 that has very little to do with solving the problem. And it  
1117 is just disappointing to see the expertise, the intelligence  
1118 that exists on this committee to have a bill like this come  
1119 out that really does not meet these critical, critical needs.

1120           I yield back.

1121           [The prepared statement of Mr. Palmer follows:]

1122

1123           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1124

1125           \*The Chairman. Thank you. I don't see anyone else.

1126 Last opportunity for an opening statement.

1127           Okay, so that concludes our opening statements.

1128 Pursuant to committee rules, members' written opening

1129 statements shall be made part of the record. So please

1130 submit written opening statements electronically to the email

1131 address that we have provided.

1132           So at this time we are going to begin bill

1133 consideration. The chair calls up the committee print

1134 Subtitle A: Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations

1135 Relating to Public Health. The clerk will report the title

1136 of the bill.

1137           \*The Clerk. Committee print, Budget Reconciliation

1138 Legislative Recommendations Relating to Public Health,

1139 Subtitle A --

1140           \*The Chairman. Without objection, Madam Clerk, the

1141 first reading of the bill will be dispensed with, and the

1142 bill is now considered as read. And without objection, the

1143 bill is considered as read and open for amendment at any

1144 point.

1145           [Subtitle A follows:]

1146

1147 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1148

1149           \*The Chairman. But let me ask if -- before we go to  
1150 amendments, are there any members seeking recognition to  
1151 speak on the committee print Subtitle A?

1152           And again, a reminder to use the raised hand feature to  
1153 seek recognition, and to use the lower hand after you have  
1154 been recognized.

1155           Does any member seek recognition to speak on the  
1156 committee print?

1157           Dan, your hand was up, but I think you just didn't lower  
1158 it, right? You don't want to speak on this, do you? Dan?  
1159 You don't, okay.

1160           All right, so then I am just going to the AINS and  
1161 recognize myself to offer an amendment in the nature of a  
1162 substitute.

1163           As I mentioned in my opening statement, the public  
1164 health print before us provides the necessary resources to  
1165 speed up distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, which will bring  
1166 an end to this pandemic. And the Biden Administration has  
1167 already begun using the expertise of CDC and FEMA to  
1168 establish community vaccination sites, and has increased the  
1169 overall vaccine supply. President Biden was able to improve  
1170 our vaccine distribution in part because of the resources  
1171 that we provided in the omnibus at the end of the year.

1172           But in my opinion, the resources we provided to states  
1173 and the CDC were only a down payment on what is going to be

1174 necessary to vaccinate 300 million Americans before the end  
1175 of the summer. More resources are needed to set up and staff  
1176 vaccination centers, develop mobile vaccine units, especially  
1177 in underserved areas. And we have to do more to improve data  
1178 collection and alert people about where, when, and how they  
1179 can get a vaccine. So this bill provides \$7.5 billion for  
1180 these activities.

1181         The legislation also funds activities to boost vaccine  
1182 confidence and scale up the supply chain for vaccines,  
1183 therapeutics, and other medical supplies, critical measures  
1184 that bipartisan witnesses supported at our health  
1185 subcommittee hearing last week.

1186         This bill also finally funds an adequate, COVID-19  
1187 testing, contact tracing, and mitigation strategy. This will  
1188 ensure we have adequate supplies, staff, and technology to  
1189 detect, diagnose, and trace COVID-19, and mitigate the spread  
1190 of the virus.

1191         Since last spring I have been calling for the  
1192 development of a national testing strategy, and now we are  
1193 going to have one. The emergence of new, more contagious  
1194 COVID-19 variants only underscores the importance of robust  
1195 testing, contact tracing, and mitigation. So the bill  
1196 invests 7.6 billion to establish a 21st century public health  
1197 workforce that will help track COVID-19, vaccinate, and  
1198 connect people to the resources they need.

1199           The bill also ensures that resources get to where they  
1200 are needed most. As my colleagues know, COVID-19 has  
1201 disproportionately affected communities of color. Some of  
1202 you mentioned this in your opening statements. And this bill  
1203 invests additional resources in community health centers,  
1204 which serve 30 million people every day in underserved areas,  
1205 including rural areas.

1206           And finally, I want to mention that the bill includes  
1207 resources to support measures for mental health -- many of  
1208 you mentioned that, as well -- and substance use programs,  
1209 which is so directly needed in this time of crisis.

1210           The amendment in the nature of a substitute I am  
1211 offering today makes technical and conforming changes to the  
1212 bill. This is to the first title. And these public health  
1213 resources are targeted for the unprecedented crisis we are  
1214 facing.

1215           And I would urge all our members to vote in favor of the  
1216 AINS.

1217           Now, let me say with regard to the AINS, are there any  
1218 other members who seek recognition?

1219           Oh, we haven't called the AINS up? I am sorry, I  
1220 haven't called the AINS up. So let's do that. Let's see.  
1221 No, we did report the AINS. Oh, we didn't report the bill,  
1222 okay, okay. So the clerk has to report the amendment in the  
1223 nature of a substitute.

1224 I am sorry, Madam Clerk.

1225 The clerk will report the amendment in the nature of a  
1226 substitute.

1227 \*The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to  
1228 the committee print relating to public health offered by the  
1229 majority. In lieu of the proposed recommendations, insert  
1230 the following --

1231 \*The Chairman. Without objection, the reading of the  
1232 amendment in the nature of a substitute will be dispensed  
1233 with.

1234 [The amendment of The Chairman follows:]

1235

1236 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1237



1238           \*The Chairman. Does anyone seek recognition to speak on  
1239 the AINS?

1240           [No response.]

1241           \*The Chairman. All right, I don't see anybody. I don't  
1242 want to skip over anybody, but I don't see anybody. Okay,  
1243 then we will go -- are there any members who seek recognition  
1244 to offer an amendment to the AINS?

1245           [No response.]

1246           \*The Chairman. Does anyone -- nobody's hand is up.  
1247 Oh, Mr. Upton, okay. I recognize Mr. Upton for five  
1248 minutes.

1249           \*Mr. Upton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I offer amendment  
1250 -- our amendment 80, 8-0.

1251           \*The Chairman. Does the clerk have that, the Upton  
1252 amendment to the AINS?

1253           \*The Clerk. Yes.

1254           \*The Chairman. Okay, you will report the amendment,  
1255 Madam Clerk.

1256           \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
1257 a substitute for the committee print relating to public  
1258 health offered by Representative Upton of Michigan. At the  
1259 end of Subtitle A --

1260           \*The Chairman. Without objection, the reading --  
1261 without objection, Madam Clerk, the reading of the Upton  
1262 amendment will be dispensed with.

1263 [The amendment of Mr. Upton follows:]

1264

1265 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1266

1267           \*The Chairman. And the gentleman from Michigan is  
1268 recognized for five minutes in support of his amendment.

1269           \*Mr. Upton. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I know  
1270 we have had a practice that you continued that I initiated  
1271 with Chairman Walden that bipartisan amendments would go  
1272 first, ahead of the queue. I would like to think that this  
1273 is one. This could, in fact, help make this bill bipartisan,  
1274 certainly much more than it is at the moment.

1275           What this amendment does, it adds an extra \$10 billion -  
1276 - that is B, as in big -- of funding to the NIH to prevent,  
1277 prepare, or respond to COVID-19, including restarting  
1278 research that was delivered -- that was delayed by the  
1279 pandemic. Of this \$10 billion, 1 billion would go towards  
1280 research and clinical trials related to the long-term effects  
1281 of COVID, and 500 million would go to the rapid acceleration  
1282 of diagnostics, or RADx program.

1283           This pandemic has brought so many heroes to the  
1284 forefront, and none have had a larger impact than the folks  
1285 at NIH. The research on the effects, to the rapid  
1286 development of diagnostics, to helping develop a vaccine  
1287 using a brand new technology in just a matter of months, in  
1288 large part because of our work on 21st Century Cures, NIH has  
1289 been emblematic of what we as a country can do when they  
1290 faced -- when they are faced with a challenge.

1291           So I have long been a supporter of the NIH. In fact,

1292 one of my first major bills as a Member of Congress was  
1293 working with Henry Waxman, John McCain, and Paul Wellstone,  
1294 where we doubled successfully the budget of the NIH. And  
1295 obviously, my colleague, our colleague, Diana DeGette, on  
1296 21st Century Cures, to give them more funding -- \$45 billion,  
1297 in fact, over 10 years -- and making the regulatory changes  
1298 to make it easier for them to do their jobs.

1299         That is what this amendment does. It builds on those  
1300 efforts. So COVID has taken a toll on all of us, everyone  
1301 for sure, in every community across the country. And the NIH  
1302 is no exception. I would like to think that we could adopt  
1303 this amendment so that they would have, in fact, more tools  
1304 in the toolbox so they can continue the great work that they  
1305 have done to fight the virus, and also so they can restart  
1306 the important research that this -- has been put on hold. We  
1307 have had great success in reaching out to our colleagues on  
1308 both sides of the aisle on the Appropriations Committee, both  
1309 in the House and the Senate, and I would like to think that a  
1310 bill like this that likely will go to the President will, in  
1311 fact, include more money for the NIH, which is what this  
1312 amendment does.

1313         And with that, I yield back my time, urging all my  
1314 colleagues to make this, in fact, a bipartisan amendment, and  
1315 one that we can be proud of. And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.  
1316 Thank you.

1317 [The prepared statement of Mr. Upton follows:]

1318

1319 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

1320

1321           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Upton. I want to  
1322 recognize myself for five minutes. Fred, you know, I just  
1323 saw this, so I assume that you are raising -- you are putting  
1324 in 10 billion for NIH, but not taking out any of the money  
1325 for CDC that is in the bill. That is what I am assuming.

1326           The problem that we have is -- and, you know, this is in  
1327 general -- as you know, the budget reconciliation gives us  
1328 instructions and a certain amount of money. So if we put in  
1329 money for CDC research and then add NIH, as you are  
1330 proposing, without cutting something else, which I don't want  
1331 to do, then, you know, we go above the amount that they have  
1332 instructed us, or given us under the reconciliation. And so  
1333 what I am going to try to explain is the reason I am opposed  
1334 to your amendment is because we have put in money for CDC,  
1335 which I would like to detail a little bit here in my five  
1336 minutes. And we can't add money for NIH, because then we  
1337 would go beyond the amount that we are allocated.

1338           So, on a bipartisan basis, we have bolstered NIH funding  
1339 over the last several years. Last year Congress provided NIH  
1340 with 3.6 billion to fund COVID-19 research, including 940  
1341 million from the CARES Act. And an additional 1.25 billion  
1342 of COVID-19 supplemental funds was also provided in the end-  
1343 of-the-year package.

1344           Additionally, Congress provided record funding for NIH  
1345 prior to COVID. In fiscal year 2020 NIH received 41.7

1346 billion for biomedical research. And it is also worth noting  
1347 that, from fiscal year 2016 through 2020 -- and a lot of this  
1348 is because of you and Diana's efforts -- Diana is at the  
1349 impeachment today, so we are not going to see her. But  
1350 because of your effort with 21st Century Cures, NIH enjoyed  
1351 over 5 percent funding increases every year, including one of  
1352 the largest increases in the past decade that occurred in  
1353 fiscal year 2018, in which we provided a \$3 billion increase.

1354 So the committee print that we are considering investing  
1355 over five billion for research, development, and  
1356 manufacturing for vaccines, therapeutics, and the supply  
1357 chain, money that can be shared with NIH, BARDA, and the  
1358 strategic national stockpile. It is -- I also believe it is  
1359 critical that the 1.75 billion included in the committee  
1360 print for genomic sequencing and surveillance -- and again,  
1361 that is invested at CDC.

1362 So the CDC is hard at work increasing genomic  
1363 sequencing. Thus far they have entered into contracts with  
1364 LabCorp and Quest to undertake this work. This is not  
1365 academic work. I am not suggesting that the NIH does the  
1366 only things that are academic. But in our effort to try to  
1367 crush the virus, the money in this print goes to CDC. It can  
1368 be shared with NIH, or BARDA, or the strategic national  
1369 stockpile, Fred. But it is going to CDC. And, you know, I  
1370 just think that maintaining the funds at CDC will allow us to

1371 build on the ongoing efforts to sequence COVID-19.

1372         So, again, I am asking members to oppose this amendment,  
1373 not because we don't want to fund NIH, but for the specific  
1374 purpose here of trying to crush the virus. CDC is the best  
1375 to do that. It is not that we are not funding NIH through  
1376 other means. We are, and it has been constantly building up.  
1377 But we can't just add NIH funding. We can't add anything,  
1378 really, without getting rid of something else that is in the  
1379 bill, which I don't support, because this is a very -- you  
1380 know, we put this together in a very, you know, tight way to  
1381 make sure that we were within the instructions.

1382         I hope everyone understands that. And for that reason,  
1383 I would ask members to oppose the Upton amendment.

1384         Now we have a Republican. The ranking member, Mrs.  
1385 Rodgers, is recognized for five minutes.

1386         \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is just  
1387 extremely disappointing that in this large package that there  
1388 is no additional support to NIH. That is why this amendment  
1389 is so important. It provides an additional 10 billion to NIH  
1390 for COVID-19 research, with a set-aside of a billion for  
1391 clinical studies on the long-term impacts of the virus. This  
1392 is critical information. And experts now know that some  
1393 people can experience symptoms of illness many weeks or even  
1394 months after having recovered from COVID-19. It is important  
1395 that we better understand the causes of these symptoms in the



1396 long haulers.

1397           This amendment also sets aside 500 million for Rapid  
1398 Acceleration of Diagnosis initiative for the purposes of  
1399 research and development of more home test kits, which is  
1400 another part of the solution that we should be pursuing. It  
1401 is an example of where, if we were working together, we would  
1402 be able to find bipartisan solutions that are going to meet  
1403 the needs and help us be smarter in combating this virus and  
1404 helping people. The Rapid Acceleration of Diagnosis  
1405 initiative has sparked massive innovation and produced an  
1406 impressive array of COVID-19 test platforms, from lab-based  
1407 to point-of-care diagnosis, to the home test kit. Our second  
1408 authorized vaccine was co-developed with scientists at NIH  
1409 and their National Institute of Allergy and Infectious  
1410 Diseases.

1411           The successes of these public-private partnerships are  
1412 the reason that we should continue to support the NIH, and I  
1413 urge adoption of this amendment.

1414           \*Mr. Upton. Would the gentlelady yield?

1415           \*Mrs. Rodgers. I yield.

1416           \*Mr. Upton. Would the gentlelady --

1417           \*Mrs. Rodgers. I would yield my time to -- I would  
1418 yield my time, yes. I heard the gentleman from Michigan,  
1419 sorry.

1420           \*The Chairman. Mr. Upton is recognized.

1421           \*Mr. Upton. Yes, let me just say, too, you know, as we  
1422 are seeing new strands coming from South Africa and other  
1423 places, it is clear that the vaccine that Americans are using  
1424 today isn't going to be good enough, maybe even later this  
1425 year. We are going to have to work on developing different  
1426 vaccines, stronger vaccines. Already, those that have been  
1427 vaccinated know that, in fact, they are probably good for  
1428 only a year. We are not quite certain that -- we might have  
1429 to be re-vaccinated again. But just like the flu season with  
1430 different strains, it has to be developed literally every  
1431 year.

1432           We are going to have to spend more money in trials  
1433 working with the private sector. And for me, I am blessed.  
1434 I got a great operation. Pfizer, they are -- the Pfizer  
1435 vaccine is actually produced in my district. We all were so  
1436 elated when those trucks rolled out the doors last December.  
1437 And we are excited about Moderna. We can hardly wait until  
1438 Johnson and Johnson gets their EUA approval probably a little  
1439 bit later this month.

1440           But this isn't going to be good enough. We are going to  
1441 need additional vaccines down the road to deal with, not only  
1442 the strains, but hopefully make it so it is a one-time deal,  
1443 so you are not going to have to be re-vaccinated with maybe a  
1444 second shot, or maybe even multiple years. And so that is  
1445 another reason why the NIH, frankly, needs the money to work

1446 with the Johnson and Johnsons, the Pfizers, the Modernas, the  
1447 AstraZenecas, and others to really come back with a yet  
1448 improved vaccine. And this money would help, and helps us,  
1449 hopefully, at some point, round the corner on dealing with  
1450 this pandemic.

1451 And again, I would hope that this would be something,  
1452 Mr. Chairman, that you could go to your leadership on and  
1453 say, "I know the dollar -- the cap was 1.9. What is wrong  
1454 with making it 1.91'" to try and get additional money and, in  
1455 fact, make it bipartisan and a unified approach that all of  
1456 us on both sides of the aisle could support?

1457 And with that, I yield back.

1458 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman, the ranking member, has  
1459 the time.

1460 Mrs. Rodgers, did you yield back?

1461 She yielded? Did she yield back?

1462 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I yield back.

1463 \*The Chairman. Thank you. All right, so now I see Mr.  
1464 Tonko's hand is up. The gentleman from New York is  
1465 recognized for five minutes.

1466 \*Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the  
1467 last word to address the gentleman's amendment.

1468 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

1469 \*Mr. Tonko. Thank you.

1470 Funding for NIH-supported research enjoys broad

1471 bipartisan support. Certainly that is true now, and it was  
1472 true prior to COVID-19. And that is why, in December, we  
1473 provided an additional \$1.25 billion of COVID-19 supplemental  
1474 funds that -- in the end-of-the-year package directed toward  
1475 carrying out the work supported by this amendment. Dr.  
1476 Collins, in fact, described this work in an NIH director's  
1477 blog post on January 19th. And in so doing he highlighted  
1478 that the NIH held a workshop to summarize what is known, and  
1479 fill in key gaps in our knowledge about long COVID syndrome.  
1480 In this piece, he highlighted that certainly Congress  
1481 authorized funding for continued research on this syndrome,  
1482 including an appropriation of funds for NIH to support  
1483 continued study of these prolonged health consequences.

1484         So, you know, we are doing the work that this amendment  
1485 directs to be done. And also, as you pointed out in your  
1486 statement, the -- there is a \$5 billion appropriation for the  
1487 research and development and manufacturing for vaccines and  
1488 therapeutics and supply chain activity. So, you know, if we  
1489 are not going to respond to the delicate balance that  
1490 includes those guardrails for reconciliation, then we are not  
1491 going to be able to move forward.

1492         And basically, what I sense here is a great degree of  
1493 urgency. We, each of us as colleagues, have many, many  
1494 individuals who have either contracted COVID or have  
1495 succumbed to COVID, and that -- we have delayed for far too

1496 long. We need a bold statement of support, and I believe  
1497 this measure does that. And so I believe the spirit of this  
1498 amendment is addressed in our package.

1499 And with that, I yield back. Mr. Chair.

1500 \*Mr. Peters. Will the gentleman yield?

1501 \*The Chairman. Thank -- who is asking for time to  
1502 yield?

1503 \*Mr. Peters. Peters.

1504 \*The Chairman. Paul, did you want to yield your -- I  
1505 don't know if you have any time.

1506 I think he yielded it back, Scott, but we can go to you  
1507 after -- Debbie Lesko is next.

1508 The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for five  
1509 minutes.

1510 \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
1511 the last word.

1512 \*The Chairman. You are recognized.

1513 \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the  
1514 Upton amendment. I think we can easily move money from  
1515 another non-COVID portion of the bill.

1516 For instance, I think you could not reinstate the state  
1517 and local tax deduction. Quite frankly, most members and  
1518 states that have low taxes don't support that anyway. I  
1519 don't see why it has anything to do with COVID, so you could  
1520 get money from there.

1521           You could also get money from the pot of money you have  
1522 going to state and local cities. I, for one, talk to my  
1523 mayors in my congressional district each and every month.  
1524 And surprisingly -- but good news -- is that they have all  
1525 said that their sales tax revenue has stayed consistent, if  
1526 not higher than before -- you know, before COVID started.  
1527 And also, the State of Arizona has more money than they  
1528 expected in their budget.

1529           And so I think we could easily move money to support  
1530 Upton's amendment. And with that I will yield back.

1531           \*The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman.

1532           I am going to do this in seniority, once your hand is  
1533 up. So next is Mr. Rush. Bobby Rush is recognized for five  
1534 minutes.

1535           \*Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last  
1536 word.

1537           \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

1538           \*Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman, I regretfully have to oppose  
1539 the amendment. I do not do this lightly. Like many of my  
1540 colleagues, I have always been a strong supporter of the NIH,  
1541 and I continue to be so today.

1542           That being said, Mr. Chairman, this package has been  
1543 designed after many conversations with the Biden  
1544 Administration on how to make the most of the resources we  
1545 will to provide to them. Mr. Chairman, my understanding is

1546 the Administration requested funding to go largely toward the  
1547 CDC in order to get tangible help to COVID-19 patients as  
1548 quickly as possible. While NIH research is unquestionably  
1549 important, Mr. Chairman, it also is more abstract, and could  
1550 take years to translate into results for patients.

1551 This package has also been negotiated with input from  
1552 the other side, from the Senate, to ensure that it will be  
1553 able to pass under the Senate's more stricter rules. Changes  
1554 now can jeopardize the entire package, and delay the aid  
1555 which is so desperately needed, and which we find universal  
1556 agreement on.

1557 Mr. Chairman, we must act expeditiously to get today's  
1558 package through the House, and then we can work together on  
1559 authorizing additional funding for NIH. And I would be  
1560 interested in working with the gentleman, my friend, the  
1561 gentleman from Michigan, as well as the chair to get this  
1562 funding over the finish line, and then a standalone bill as  
1563 part of the next COVID package.

1564 While we, unfortunately, cannot address it today, Mr.  
1565 Chairman, I believe funding for the NIH basic research or  
1566 COVID should have broad, bipartisan support, and does not  
1567 need to be done through the reconciliation process.

1568 I hope this amendment is a genuine amendment, Mr.  
1569 Chairman, and not just a ploy designed to sink the  
1570 reconciliation package. If this amendment, Mr. Chairman, is

1571 indeed a sincere amendment, let's commence to working  
1572 together on it following today's markup.

1573 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the amount of my  
1574 time.

1575 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next we go to Morgan  
1576 Griffith, recognized for five minutes.

1577 \*Mr. Griffith. Well, let me speak strongly in favor of  
1578 the Upton amendment. The NIH can use this, but so can the  
1579 people of the United States of America with the research that  
1580 they will do.

1581 As many of you know, over the summer I had COVID. And  
1582 shortly after that I developed blood clots. I entered an NIH  
1583 study. That is right, an NIH study on the effects of COVID,  
1584 long-term, on individuals who had mild cases. We don't know  
1585 what it is going to show, but I know that I have gone over  
1586 there, and they have tested my blood they have taken -- get  
1587 white blood cells, they have done examinations on my heart.  
1588 I am a guinea pig at the NIH. This is our cutting-edge,  
1589 frontline research institution looking for things that are  
1590 directly affected by COVID for people like me, and for people  
1591 who will follow me, who have the disease and then wonder: is  
1592 this nagging leg pain something to do with COVID? Is this  
1593 nagging condition something to do with COVID?

1594 We can't find out by sitting here in our -- in this case  
1595 not our committee room, but in our various rooms on the



1596 computer, and come up with that answer. But not very few  
1597 miles away from Washington, D.C., from the nation's capital,  
1598 there is an institution that is respected worldwide. We can,  
1599 in fact, help them help the American people, help the world  
1600 figure out long-term consequences to COVID. It is absolutely  
1601 unthinkable that we would not adopt Fred Upton's amendment  
1602 and send some money over to the NIH so they can do some  
1603 studying on people, thousands of people instead of a few  
1604 hundred people, and find out what we need to be prepared for  
1605 a year from now, two years from now, three years from now.

1606 I will tell you folks, this is a -- is just a really  
1607 good amendment, and I am surprised that it isn't being  
1608 welcomed with open arms. You know, just because somebody on  
1609 high says you can't amend the bill, doesn't mean you  
1610 shouldn't do it when you know it is the right thing to do.

1611 And I yield back.

1612 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Morgan. Next we are going to  
1613 go to Jan Schakowsky. The gentlewoman is recognized for five  
1614 minutes.

1615 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suspect  
1616 that we are going to get a lot of amendments today that are  
1617 very good ideas, ideas that deserve consideration, but not  
1618 today, because the American people are suffering right now,  
1619 and they are telling us that they want us to pass this bill  
1620 as fast as possible. We know that the polling that has come

1621 out, for example, the CBS poll that came out this week -- I  
1622 think it was yesterday -- said that 83 percent of Americans  
1623 want to see us pass this bill that has all of the relief that  
1624 -- it addresses the relief that they need.

1625 Are we going to hear good ideas? Yes. And I think that  
1626 this committee, which has operated over the years in a  
1627 bipartisan way, should consider all those good ideas. But I  
1628 want to ask my colleagues: At the end of the day, even if we  
1629 pass these, are you going to vote in order to pass this  
1630 reconciliation bill?

1631 I think this is, despite the value of the amendments  
1632 that are suggested, absolutely a strategy to try and lure us  
1633 into voting for things that will prevent the entire bill from  
1634 coming to provide the kind of relief that Americans are  
1635 begging for. And so, you know, we will spend another, I  
1636 don't know, maybe 10 hours debating these amendments. But I  
1637 would really urge my colleagues on the Democratic side to say  
1638 no, because people can't wait. People can't wait. They are  
1639 needing this kind of relief that is ample in this, or at  
1640 least a beginning. We can consider every one of these  
1641 amendments that come up at another time, at a close time to  
1642 this to get it done. But we can't just crush the hopes and  
1643 the dreams of so many people, 83 percent of Americans who are  
1644 saying, "Give us this legislation."

1645 And I am happy to yield to somebody, if somebody wants

1646 the rest.

1647           Okay, then I -- there is two, almost three minutes left.

1648           \*The Chairman. Well, Angie Craig, I think -- I don't  
1649 know if Angie is --

1650           \*Ms. Craig. Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. Thank you so much  
1651 for yielding, Ms. Schakowsky.

1652           \*Ms. Schakowsky. Sure.

1653           \*Ms. Craig. I appreciate that. I am proud to speak, in  
1654 addition, to support for this fiscal year 2021 Reconciliation  
1655 Act and my opposition to this amendment.

1656           In Minnesota, Representatives, it will take four months  
1657 to vaccinate everyone over the age of 65 if we do not  
1658 increase the current supply of vaccines. To shorten that  
1659 timeline, I am very pleased this package includes 7.5 billion  
1660 for the CDC's vaccination efforts.

1661           Last year, as images of frontline workers wearing  
1662 garbage bags flooded the airwaves, I repeatedly called for a  
1663 centralized supply chain strategy to address critical PPE and  
1664 testing shortages. I am so pleased this measure before us  
1665 today finally provides funding to support a national supply  
1666 chain strategy for both testing, contact tracing, and  
1667 vaccines. We simply must do everything we can to prevent  
1668 future shortages and chaos.

1669           Mr. Chairman, what Americans are most tired of in  
1670 Washington is gridlock on bills where there is bipartisan

1671 support in our communities. People are dying, small  
1672 businesses are struggling, our children are losing precious  
1673 time in their classroom. So we are ending that gridlock  
1674 today. Our constituents and our country cannot afford to  
1675 wait.

1676 And with that, I yield back the remainder of my time to  
1677 Ms. Schakowsky.

1678 \*Ms. Schakowsky. If anybody wants 54 seconds, I will  
1679 yield. Otherwise, I yield back the balance of my time.  
1680 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1681 [Pause.]

1682 \*The Chairman. I am sorry, I recognize Larry Bucshon  
1683 for five minutes. Is Larry there?

1684 \*Mr. Bucshon. I am, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

1685 \*The Chairman. You are recognized.

1686 \*Mr. Bucshon. I just want to say, I mean, I support  
1687 former Chairman Upton's amendment. And there is going to be  
1688 a number of other amendments that are going to add money to  
1689 critical programs, including vaccines that I offer my -- and  
1690 other things that I may offer myself. And I just find the  
1691 argument about there is no way to shift money very  
1692 disingenuous, because one of the provisions in this  
1693 reconciliation bill is going to be a handout to the  
1694 wealthiest Americans by rescinding the \$10,000 tax cap on  
1695 state and local deductions, and bailing out all of the states

1696 across the country who have Democrat politicians that are  
1697 taxing their citizens at such a level that they are leaving  
1698 the state in droves. And we all know which states those are.

1699 So, as we offer amendments, including myself, to say  
1700 that we don't have the money in this bill to shift to  
1701 programs that are critical to help get us through this  
1702 pandemic is just disingenuous. And I think, once the people  
1703 of Indiana find out that we have given tax handouts to the  
1704 wealthiest Americans while we refuse to add money to the NIH,  
1705 we refuse to add money for testing, for vaccines, they are  
1706 not going to be too happy. And I know -- so I think I am  
1707 looking forward to that discussion with my constituents. And  
1708 I think, hopefully, if we didn't have the national news media  
1709 that wouldn't report it, that we could get that message out  
1710 to what actually this is doing.

1711 There is billions and billions of dollars that are going  
1712 to be handed out so that people can move back to states that  
1713 are high taxed, so that they can go ahead and then make the  
1714 people of Indiana subsidize their lifestyles while they pay  
1715 local taxes and then deduct it from their federal income tax  
1716 return. I really find it appalling, honestly, and I think  
1717 that we need to reverse course.

1718 With that I yield back, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

1719 \*The Chairman. So now we go to Scott Peters. Scott is  
1720 recognized for five minutes.

1721           \*Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I too am sad  
1722 to have to oppose this amendment. This is not my favorite  
1723 process, but it constrains us from making this amendment  
1724 because it would blow the whole thing up. I signed on to  
1725 reconciliation because of the crisis that we are in, and the  
1726 need to take action. And I still hold out hope that overall  
1727 we will have a bipartisan approach. But I don't think we  
1728 have to -- we have time to wait.

1729           I do want to mention, though, that, to Mr. Upton's  
1730 point, I do think the committee and the staff and chairmen  
1731 deserve credit for including the Tracking COVID-19 Variance  
1732 Act in the bill, which I helped introduce with Mr. Bera. We  
1733 are providing CDC with \$1.75 billion to scale up our national  
1734 genomic sequencing efforts at labs around the country. San  
1735 Diego has been on the cutting edge of genomics research as  
1736 far back as 1985, when the FDA approved one of the first  
1737 groundbreaking rapid diagnostic tests to San Diego-based Gen-  
1738 Probe.

1739           And our region has shown the world what happens when the  
1740 research community, institutions like Scripps Research and  
1741 Institute for Genomic Medicine collaborate with genomic  
1742 sequencing companies like Illumina and Human Longevity and  
1743 the J. Craig Venter Institute. The results are  
1744 revolutionary. Genomic sequencing is a vital part of our  
1745 national strategy to contain COVID-19 and prevent future

1746 pandemics. That is because sequencing helps us understand  
1747 how the virus is spreading, and if the vaccines and  
1748 therapeutics we develop are effective.

1749         So the funding to support genomic sequencing will boost  
1750 the efforts in three ways: it funds CDC's Advanced Molecular  
1751 Detection Initiative, which integrates genomic technology and  
1752 genomic epidemiology, including the establishment of national  
1753 sequence-based surveillance conducted as part of the private-  
1754 public partnership called SPERES; second, it ensures that  
1755 labs have the guidance they need to properly sequence COVID-  
1756 19-positive samples, ensure timely actionable data with the  
1757 CDC; and finally, it supports labs already doing this work to  
1758 increase their workforce and informatics capability.

1759         Although a provision from my bill, the Health Statistics  
1760 Act, couldn't move in this bill, I want to emphasize the  
1761 importance of providing funding for CDC to develop and invest  
1762 in a more robust data linkage program at the National Center  
1763 for Health Statistics. That program would allow for  
1764 temporary leakage of data across multiple sources, including  
1765 genomic data, clinical data, and epidemiological data for the  
1766 purposes of public health research. There are over 2,000  
1767 government health data sets at the federal, state, and local  
1768 levels. Many of these sources are siloed, so answers to the  
1769 most basic research questions remain unknown.

1770         For instance, what is the true mortality rate of COVID-

1771 19? And what does -- and so, does adequate lab testing in  
1772 the surrounding geographic areas correlate to having --  
1773 avoiding hospitalization mortality? How do COVID-19 outcomes  
1774 vary by race and gender, including hospitalization, the  
1775 likelihood of being put on a ventilator, and risk of  
1776 mortality? We don't have answers to any of that stuff,  
1777 because the data is such a mess. So I look forward to  
1778 continuing this important work with the committee.

1779 Thank you for taking this important first step, and I  
1780 yield back.

1781 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Thank you, Scott.

1782 Next we have -- John Joyce is recognized for five  
1783 minutes.

1784 \*Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I move to strike  
1785 the last word.

1786 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

1787 \*Mr. Joyce. We all recognize the great tradition of  
1788 this committee working together in a bipartisan manner. I  
1789 support the Upton amendment, and recognize, individually, as  
1790 someone who trained in science, the importance of accessing  
1791 additional funding to the NIH. This novel coronavirus has  
1792 had such strong impact in the past year. And we, as a group,  
1793 can find the resources to allow for additional vaccine  
1794 development, the next generation of vaccine development, to  
1795 occur. We, as a group, can work together in a bipartisan



1796 fashion and find the new therapeutics which are so  
1797 desperately needed. We can find, through the NIH research,  
1798 that there will be additional ways to administer these  
1799 therapeutics, whether they are intranasally, whether they are  
1800 through injection, or whether there are oral forms that we  
1801 can find through this necessary NIH funding.

1802 As we have heard before, and I have repeatedly said,  
1803 this is a bipartisan effort. And we have to recognize that  
1804 the resources of the NIH are what we need to work together,  
1805 support, and allow us to come through in a positive manner.  
1806 This pandemic, which has caused so many previous bills that  
1807 we have supported together -- and the Upton amendment  
1808 addresses that needed funding for the NIH.

1809 I yield the remainder of my time to our Republican  
1810 leader, Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

1811 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Dr. Joyce. So we are hearing  
1812 that today is not the day. I would just simply ask: Why not  
1813 today? Because if the Democrats decide to move forward with  
1814 a purely partisan bill, it is really a missed chance for this  
1815 committee to lead in recognizing the duly-elected  
1816 representatives of people all over this country.

1817 It is true that people are hurting. We have broken  
1818 families. We have broken systems, broken communities. And I  
1819 believe that this is exactly the moment when we should be  
1820 working together.

1821           We have heard that it would blow it all up. Well, that  
1822 is actually not the case. We are ready. You have given us  
1823 less than 24 hours to work on this piece of legislation.  
1824 Legislating means plowing the hard ground necessary to reach  
1825 an agreement.

1826           We have heard, you know, it is the time to end gridlock.  
1827 I would suggest that this is only encouraging more gridlock.

1828           It is true that trust and confidence in the  
1829 representative process right now is at an all-time low. It  
1830 is because of an abuse of power. It is an abuse of power  
1831 when one party decides to move forward and completely ignore  
1832 and shut out the voices of the duly-elected representatives  
1833 of people all over the country. That is not the way that we  
1834 are going to build trust back into representative government,  
1835 which is so important. This is much bigger than any one  
1836 person. This is much bigger than any one party.

1837           I would ask for this committee -- and I know, I have a  
1838 feeling where this is all going today, but I would just ask,  
1839 ask us all, to dig deep and to really consider the role of  
1840 this committee in particular, because we all cherish what  
1841 this committee has represented in bringing our different  
1842 perspectives from different corners of the country together.  
1843 And I would submit that we will get better outcomes for  
1844 Americans that are hurting today if we actually work  
1845 together. We all represent 750,00 people. Ignoring our

1846 voices and doing it alone is not going to -- is not as  
1847 effective. It would be more effective, we would get better  
1848 results if we actually worked together.

1849 People are suffering, and this is a time for us to pull  
1850 together. President Biden said that it is a war on the  
1851 coronavirus. Well, during a war a country pulls together.  
1852 You are not Republican and Democrat. This isn't about  
1853 scoring political points. During a war it is about coming  
1854 together to actually help people that are in need. And that  
1855 is what we stand ready to do.

1856 And NIH, this is exactly the time that we should be  
1857 upping the funding to NIH. I come from the State of  
1858 Washington, where our governor was predicting \$8 billion in  
1859 shortfalls. We have a 15 percent increase in revenue this  
1860 year. So that is just one example where all the money going  
1861 to the states, I would submit, would be better redirected to  
1862 NIH.

1863 I yield back.

1864 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

1865 So now we move to Ms. Eshoo. Ms. Eshoo is recognized  
1866 for five minutes.

1867 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I move to  
1868 strike the last word.

1869 I have listened carefully to what colleagues have said,  
1870 and we are all proud of the traditions of Energy and

1871 Commerce. I should add that I have been on the committee,  
1872 went onto the committee in my second term, 1995, and we have  
1873 had some royal battles, too. So there has been a mixture.  
1874 Most of my tenure I have served in the minority. So I  
1875 understand the feelings of the minority.

1876         When it comes to this legislation, I think we need to  
1877 look at and accept -- because it is the story -- that, in  
1878 putting this legislation together, the American Rescue Plan,  
1879 with the new Administration, with the new Congress, it has a  
1880 price tag of \$1.9 trillion. The Republicans put on the table  
1881 600 billion. So there is a chasm, a difference in terms of  
1882 the dollars.

1883         I have heard the phrase, used over and over again, this  
1884 is a highly partisan bill. What is so partisan about funding  
1885 for mental health, funding for NIH, funding for FDA, funding  
1886 for community centers, funding for more vaccines to be  
1887 inoculated in people's arms, funding to local communities who  
1888 have emptied their local treasuries because they have had to  
1889 advance money for COVID-related items, and including the  
1890 hiring and the salaries for first responders?

1891         So we all know that the needs of the nation are  
1892 enormous, and the bill has a price tag that matches that  
1893 need. So when you are saying we should direct money over  
1894 here with -- you know, like a mortal sin, and that NIH  
1895 doesn't have it, that is simply not so. Francis Collins has

1896 asked for two or three billion to go directly. It goes  
1897 through HHS.

1898 I don't take a backseat to anyone -- and you would all  
1899 say the same thing -- about research at NIH. All of us are  
1900 champions of that. But you need to keep in mind that there  
1901 is really a chasm between 1.9 trillion and 600 billion. If  
1902 we go with your plan, if we go with what the Republicans put  
1903 on the table, all of the things that both Republicans and  
1904 Democrats said in their statements, the needs in your  
1905 congressional districts and mine have no chance of being  
1906 funded.

1907 So, well, I supported the omnibus last December. Many  
1908 of you did. That provided 42.9 billion -- with a B -- for  
1909 the NIH for fiscal year 2021, as well as \$1.25 billion, which  
1910 was established for the National Institutes of Health to  
1911 support research and clinical trials on the long-term effects  
1912 -- what our colleague spoke to, because he had COVID, then  
1913 developed the blood clots, now is in a clinical trial through  
1914 NIH.

1915 So these are huge sums of money because we have huge  
1916 problems. So I don't know how many of you, the -- my  
1917 Republican colleagues on the committee had a hand in shaping  
1918 the \$600 billion figure. I don't know, I mean, maybe you  
1919 want to share that with us or not. But that really is the  
1920 overriding factor in this, and where our differences come in.

1921           So we are not leaving NIH without resources. You have  
1922 voted for them. We have voted for them, you are right, on a  
1923 bipartisan basis. And this amendment -- I have so much  
1924 respect and affection for Fred Upton. But I think that, at  
1925 the end of the trail here on this amendment, it seems to  
1926 suggest that we are leaving NIH without resources. And that  
1927 simply is not the fact.

1928           So with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1929           \*The Chairman. I thank the chairwoman. I see Mr.  
1930 Palmer's hand is up. Mr. Palmer is recognized for five  
1931 minutes.

1932           \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last  
1933 word.

1934           [Pause.]

1935           \*Mr. Palmer. Can you hear me?

1936           \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

1937           \*Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I  
1938 just want to point out that the Republican response was over  
1939 600 million, but it also included spending the over \$1  
1940 trillion that has not yet been spent in the previous relief  
1941 bills. And our relief package did not include funding to  
1942 bail out failed state governments. We are more focused on  
1943 trying to get money directly to the people who need it, to  
1944 meet the needs of the communities.

1945           That said, I strongly support Upton -- Congressman

1946 Upton's amendment.

1947           The University of Alabama Birmingham has been a leader  
1948 in research on fighting COVID. They have developed a new  
1949 drug that is actually a drug to treat type two diabetes that  
1950 they have found will reduce the mortality rate threefold.  
1951 And when we talk about populations that desperately need  
1952 relief from the COVID pandemic, or minority communities, the  
1953 world communities, that is where we see the highest  
1954 percentage of people suffering from diabetes and hypertension  
1955 and other issues that research is desperately needed to  
1956 address in regard to the COVID pandemic.

1957           I would also like to point out that we need the NIH to  
1958 do more, in terms of -- on the drug overdose pandemic, what  
1959 we are experiencing. I think we saw last year that we had  
1960 over 70,000 people die from drug overdoses. I will check  
1961 those numbers to make sure, but I think that is what we saw.  
1962 And under this Administration's open borders policy, we are  
1963 going to see that number go up. The vast majority of  
1964 fentanyl and heroin are crossing our southern border. So we  
1965 are going to face a concurrent pandemic of dealing with drug  
1966 overdoses that I think we need to be addressing with NIH. I  
1967 served on the Oversight Committee with the congressman from  
1968 Maryland, Elijah Cummings. We held hearings, did a field  
1969 hearing at Johns Hopkins Hospital about dealing with the drug  
1970 overdose pandemic that we are dealing with. I think we need

1971 to put more money in NIH to address these issues, as well.

1972 I will yield the balance of my time to any of my  
1973 colleagues who would like to speak on this.

1974 \*Mr. Guthrie. Would Mr. Palmer yield to -- this is  
1975 Brett Guthrie. Yield to me?

1976 \*Mr. Palmer. I yield to the gentleman.

1977 \*Mr. Guthrie. Thank you. Just for a couple of minutes,  
1978 and with my chair for the subcommittee, there are a lot of  
1979 these areas that we agree on. And I think you are going to  
1980 see this morning we agree on a lot of these amendments moving  
1981 forward, because this is a health care crisis. We are in the  
1982 middle of a health care pandemic.

1983 Unfortunately, a lot of the things that we have  
1984 disagreements on on our side are in other committees because  
1985 it is not targeted towards a pandemic, is not targeted --  
1986 there is a lot of money spent in this bill that is not  
1987 directly -- and I am going to have an opportunity to offer  
1988 amendments on that, as well, later -- that is not targeted on  
1989 this pandemic. So that is what our concern is.

1990 And a lot of people asked me, when we first started this  
1991 congress, "How is Congress going to go?"

1992 And I said, "With an almost even split in the House, an  
1993 even split in the Senate, and the President talking about  
1994 uniting and working together, we are going to have a chance  
1995 to choose whether to work together to do some big things, or



1996 go down a partisan path.'" And unfortunately, the  
1997 reconciliation process, the way it is designed, is to go down  
1998 that path, and it is regrettable.

1999 But we will agree on a lot of things this morning  
2000 because we are agreeing that it is a pandemic, and money  
2001 needs to be spent, targeted, focused on getting tests of  
2002 people, vaccines to people, getting our schools open because  
2003 of -- health care relief, and provider relief, those are the  
2004 things we are going to be talking about today. So I  
2005 appreciate it. And unfortunately, we could have agreed on  
2006 this, and on a lot of this, I believe, moving forward.

2007 So I will yield back to my friend from Alabama.

2008 \*The Chairman. Mr. Palmer, do you --

2009 \*Mr. Palmer. -- member that would use the last  
2010 remaining minute and a half.

2011 \*Ms. Eshoo. Will the gentleman yield?

2012 \*Mr. Palmer. I will yield to the gentlelady.

2013 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, I appreciate it. I just wanted  
2014 to add something to -- the issue was mentioned of states and  
2015 local governments.

2016 This legislation is -- very large package is COVID-  
2017 related. There are many links in the chain. We all know, as  
2018 I do in my local community and my county, they hire the  
2019 mental health workers, they hire the social workers, they  
2020 hire the local PD, they hire the fire -- the first

2021 responders. These are all issues, in terms of funding, that  
2022 are COVID-related. It is vaccinations. It is supply chain.  
2023 It is many things. So I don't think that we should -- let me  
2024 put it this way. I think that we all value what takes place  
2025 in our local communities, whether it is a city, a county, or  
2026 states. And I know my Republican colleagues have been, you  
2027 know, very reluctant to do any kind of funding to them. They  
2028 have to turn in -- I came from local government -- they have  
2029 to turn in balanced budgets. So we need to partner with them  
2030 to help them backfill what they have already spent relative  
2031 to COVID expenses in our local communities. And that is a  
2032 very important element in this legislation.

2033         So I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I just wanted  
2034 to get that on the record.

2035         \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Chairman, I have 20 seconds to  
2036 respond.

2037         \*The Chairman. Sure.

2038         \*Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just say  
2039 that, particularly in reinstating the state and local tax  
2040 deduction, so many states, particularly the failed states,  
2041 will not stop the exodus of citizens from those states. And  
2042 I am all for helping states, but that trillion or so dollars  
2043 that hasn't yet been spent, a lot of that money is at the  
2044 state level.

2045         Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your indulgence, and I

2046 yield back.

2047 \*The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Next we go to --  
2048 Mr. McNerney is recognized for five minutes.

2049 \*Mr. McNerney. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
2050 strike the last word.

2051 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

2052 \*Mr. McNerney. Well, you know, I would guess that  
2053 everyone here agrees that a lot of money is needed for  
2054 research. And indeed, the American Rescue Package provides  
2055 \$5.2 billion to the Biomedical Advanced Research and  
2056 Development Authority to support advanced research,  
2057 development, manufacturing, production, and purchase of  
2058 vaccines, therapeutics, and so on. Moreover, there is other  
2059 avenues for research within this package.

2060 Unfortunately, passage of the amendment provided by my  
2061 friend, Mr. Upton, would significantly delay the entire  
2062 package by causing it to unravel. So -- and this is urgently  
2063 needed money for the American people. Therefore, I oppose  
2064 this amendment, and ask my colleagues to give relief to the  
2065 American people as soon as possible by opposing this  
2066 amendment. And what I would do is ask if any of the  
2067 Democratic colleagues would like time.

2068 [Pause.]

2069 \*Mr. McNerney. If not, I will yield back.

2070 \*Mr. Cardenas. This is Tony Cardenas, can you hear me?

2071 I would like a few seconds, if I might.

2072 \*Mr. McNerney. Yes, Tony. I will yield to Tony  
2073 Cardenas.

2074 \*Mr. Cardenas. Thank you. I just want to say, as a  
2075 former state budget chairman in the state legislature in  
2076 California, it was mentioned earlier about how the states are  
2077 not doing that bad, or the local governments are not doing  
2078 that bad.

2079 With all due respect, when we had a downturn in our  
2080 economy, there are tricks that governments that have to  
2081 balance their budget every 12 months -- unlike the federal  
2082 government -- there are tricks that they do. They beg,  
2083 borrow, and steal, and then eventually, hopefully, in a year  
2084 or two or three or four, they can actually re-massage the  
2085 process and get that money back to where it truly belongs.  
2086 And so please understand that, especially when it comes to  
2087 local governments that depend -- like in California, local  
2088 governments depend a lot on sales tax -- there is no  
2089 question, ladies and gentlemen, that we witnessed the  
2090 tremendous downturn in the economy and when it comes to sales  
2091 taxes, down dramatically.

2092 So I am just saying for us to consider a solution -- to  
2093 look at packages that are only \$600 billion, that have almost  
2094 nothing to help our state and local governments, as Anna  
2095 mentioned, who hire the nurses and doctors, et cetera, to

2096 provide the support to the communities that we, fortunately,  
2097 in America and as Americans take for granted in good times, I  
2098 just wanted to mention that there is no question that the  
2099 state and local government portion of what we are trying to  
2100 do here is lifesaving, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you.  
2101 Thank you so much for yielding, and I yield back.

2102 \*The Chairman. Mr. McNerney has the time.

2103 \*Mr. McNerney. All right, Mr. Chairman, I am going to  
2104 yield back.

2105 \*The Chairman. He yields back.

2106 At this point nobody -- oh, there is no Republican with  
2107 their hand up, so I am going to move to Mr. Soto, recognize  
2108 Mr. Soto for five minutes.

2109 \*Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2110 Joe Biden ran on stopping COVID-19, providing key  
2111 economic relief, and building back better. He promised to go  
2112 big to launch a massive effort to end this pandemic. And he  
2113 won. He won, and this is his bill. This is our bill, the  
2114 American Rescue Plan. This is the big response our country  
2115 is asking for, not to go small or to undermine this effort,  
2116 like we see with a host of amendments we will see over the  
2117 course of the next day or so.

2118 We are in crisis. The American people get it. Do you?  
2119 I keep hearing stories about those who lost folks, those who  
2120 are sick or unemployed, who have lost their small businesses.

2121 I keep hearing about closed schools, small businesses hanging  
2122 on by a thread, and families just struggling to make it. And  
2123 I hear stories about vaccine shortages, folks waiting for  
2124 appointments. We have these similar tragic stories playing  
2125 out every day in our district, too. So I agree we have to do  
2126 something about it.

2127         The American Rescue Plan will address these issues  
2128 facing all of our constituents, yours and mine. But just so  
2129 we are clear, I showed up to vote for this bill, and you have  
2130 showed up to vote against relief for them, to vote against  
2131 relief for your constituents. So what are you talking about?  
2132 Using stories to justify denying relief makes no sense. The  
2133 arguments make no sense, and the American people know it.  
2134 That is why 70 percent of them support the American Rescue  
2135 Act that we are voting on.

2136         We learned a valuable lesson from the Great Recession.  
2137 We negotiated. We made concessions in good faith. And what  
2138 happened? We still had a bill where most of the other side  
2139 of the aisle voted against it. This was a critical error.  
2140 The lesson of history is that the American Investment Act --  
2141 Reinvestment Act was too small. The Great Recession lasted  
2142 18 months, and it was the longest period of economic decline  
2143 since World War II. In Florida, we suffered a housing market  
2144 collapse, and our economy didn't bounce back 'til 2012, 4  
2145 years later. Untold misery occurred during that period of

2146 time.

2147 And so we are not fiddling around anymore on these  
2148 issues. We have a time-sensitive both pandemic and economic  
2149 crisis to deal with. That is what we are here to discuss  
2150 today. We ask everyone to join us. And soon you will get  
2151 the choice today, one way or another. Either way, we  
2152 promised the American people we would go big, we would crush  
2153 the pandemic, and save lives and livelihoods. And with this  
2154 vote today or tomorrow, we will.

2155 Thank you, Chairman. I yield back.

2156 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Soto. I would remind my  
2157 Democratic colleagues that you don't have to encourage the  
2158 Republicans to offer amendments for hours or days on end.  
2159 They may do it, but we don't have to encourage it.

2160 Can I -- I don't have anybody else who wants to speak at  
2161 this point on the Upton amendment. Anyone else want to speak  
2162 on it?

2163 Fred?

2164 Oh, no, Fred can't, he already spoke. All right.

2165 \*Mr. Upton. Can I ask for --

2166 \*The Chairman. Does someone want to -- you want someone  
2167 to yield you time, Fred?

2168 \*Mr. Upton. Well, I was just going to ask for a  
2169 recorded vote.

2170 \*The Chairman. Oh, okay, all right. We will move to a

2171 vote, then. Let me get to my notes here.

2172 So there being no further debate, we will proceed to a  
2173 vote on the Upton amendment to the AINS. We are going to go  
2174 right to a recorded vote, so please -- I wanted to remind  
2175 everyone to unmute yourself, so we can -- so the clerk can  
2176 hear you.

2177 So, you know, like, say, "Fred Upton votes yes," or --  
2178 so we know who it is.

2179 Those in favor will say aye, those opposed will say no,  
2180 and the clerk shall call the roll. Unmute yourselves.

2181 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

2182 \*Mr. Rush. No.

2183 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

2184 Ms. Eshoo?

2185 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes no.

2186 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.

2187 Ms. DeGette?

2188 [Pause.]

2189 \*The Chairman. She is not going to be here today, I  
2190 don't think.

2191 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle?

2192 \*Mr. Doyle. Mr. Doyle votes no.

2193 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.

2194 Ms. Schakowsky?

2195 \*Ms. Schakowsky. No.



2196 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
2197 Mr. Butterfield?  
2198 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.  
2199 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.  
2200 Ms. Matsui?  
2201 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
2202 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
2203 Ms. Castor?  
2204 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.  
2205 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
2206 Mr. Sarbanes?  
2207 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
2208 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
2209 Mr. McNerney?  
2210 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes no.  
2211 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
2212 Mr. Welch?  
2213 [Pause.]  
2214 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?  
2215 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
2216 \*The Chairman. Mr. Welch votes no.  
2217 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
2218 Mr. Tonko?  
2219 \*Mr. Tonko. Mr. Tonko of New York votes no.  
2220 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.

2221 Ms. Clarke?  
2222 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
2223 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
2224 Mr. Schrader?  
2225 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
2226 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
2227 Mr. Cardenas?  
2228 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas of California votes no.  
2229 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
2230 Mr. Ruiz?  
2231 \*Mr. Ruiz. Mr. Ruiz from California votes no.  
2232 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
2233 Mr. Peters?  
2234 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
2235 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
2236 Mrs. Dingell?  
2237 \*Mrs. Dingell. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
2238 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
2239 Mr. Veasey?  
2240 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
2241 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
2242 Ms. Kuster?  
2243 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
2244 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
2245 Ms. Kelly?

2246 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
2247 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
2248 Ms. Barragan?  
2249 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
2250 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
2251 Mr. McEachin?  
2252 \*Mr. McEachin. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
2253 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
2254 Ms. Blunt Rochester?  
2255 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
2256 \*The Clerk. Rochester votes no.  
2257 Mr. Soto?  
2258 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
2259 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
2260 Mr. O'Halleran?  
2261 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
2262 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
2263 Miss Rice?  
2264 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
2265 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
2266 Ms. Craig?  
2267 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
2268 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
2269 Ms. Schrier?  
2270 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.

2271 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
2272 Mrs. Trahan?  
2273 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
2274 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
2275 Mrs. Fletcher?  
2276 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
2277 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
2278 Mrs. Rodgers?  
2279 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
2280 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
2281 Mr. Upton?  
2282 \*Mr. Upton. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
2283 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
2284 Mr. Burgess?  
2285 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
2286 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
2287 Mr. Scalise?  
2288 \*Mr. Scalise. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
2289 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
2290 Mr. Latta?  
2291 [No response.]  
2292 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie?  
2293 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
2294 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
2295 Mr. McKinley?

2296 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
2297 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
2298 Mr. Kinzinger?  
2299 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
2300 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
2301 Mr. Griffith?  
2302 \*Mr. Griffith. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
2303 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
2304 Mr. Bilirakis?  
2305 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
2306 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
2307 Mr. Johnson?  
2308 \*Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
2309 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson --  
2310 \*Mr. Johnson. Yes, Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
2311 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
2312 Mr. Long?  
2313 [No response.]  
2314 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?  
2315 \*Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
2316 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
2317 Mr. Mullin?  
2318 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin is aye.  
2319 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
2320 Mr. Hudson?

2321 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
2322 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
2323 Mr. Walberg?  
2324 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
2325 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
2326 Mr. Carter?  
2327 \*Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.  
2328 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
2329 Mr. Duncan?  
2330 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan of South Carolina votes aye.  
2331 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
2332 Mr. Palmer?  
2333 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
2334 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
2335 Mr. Dunn?  
2336 \*Mr. Dunn. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
2337 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
2338 Mr. Curtis?  
2339 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
2340 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
2341 Mrs. Lesko?  
2342 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko from Arizona votes aye.  
2343 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
2344 Mr. Pence?  
2345 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

2346 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
2347 Mr. Crenshaw?  
2348 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
2349 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
2350 Mr. Joyce?  
2351 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.  
2352 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
2353 Mr. Armstrong?  
2354 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes yes.  
2355 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
2356 Mr. Pallone?  
2357 [No response.]  
2358 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone?  
2359 \*The Chairman. I vote -- Pallone votes no.  
2360 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
2361 \*The Chairman. Does any member have not -- who has not  
2362 voted?  
2363 Yes?  
2364 \*Mr. Latta. Mr. Chair, how is Latta recorded?  
2365 \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk?  
2366 \*The Clerk. There is no recorded vote for Mr. Latta.  
2367 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
2368 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
2369 \*Mr. Latta. Thank you.  
2370 \*The Chairman. Anyone else who hasn't voted?

2371 [No response.]

2372 \*The Chairman. Does any member want to vote, or change  
2373 his or her vote?

2374 [No response.]

2375 \*The Chairman. Okay, if not, the clerk will report the  
2376 tally.

2377 \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas were 25,  
2378 the nays were 31.

2379 \*The Chairman. Okay, thank you, Madam Clerk. The vote  
2380 is 25 ayes to 31 noes. The amendment is not agreed to.

2381 Are there any other amendments to the AINS, amendments  
2382 to the amendment in the nature of a substitute?

2383 \*Mr. Scalise. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the  
2384 desk.

2385 \*The Chairman. Who would that be?

2386 \*Mr. Scalise. This is Congressman Scalise.

2387 \*The Chairman. Oh, Mr. Scalise. Okay, let's go back  
2388 and -- the clerk, do you have the Scalise amendment?

2389 \*Mr. Scalise. It would be number 39, Mr. Chairman.

2390 \*The Chairman. Number 39.

2391 \*The Clerk. Yes, I have it.

2392 \*The Chairman. Okay, the clerk will report the Scalise  
2393 amendment.

2394 \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
2395 a substitute to committee print relating to public health,



2396 offered by Representative Scalise of Louisiana. Page three,  
2397 after line --

2398 \*The Chairman. Without objection, Madam Clerk, without  
2399 objection, the reading of the Scalise amendment will be  
2400 dispensed with.

2401 [The amendment of Mr. Scalise follows:]

2402

2403 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

2404

2405           \*The Chairman. And --

2406           \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chair, I reserve a point of order.

2407           \*The Chairman. Yes, the point of order is reserved by  
2408 Ms. Clarke. Is that correct?

2409           Oh, Ms. Kelly, our vice chair. Yes, our vice chair  
2410 reserves a point of order, and the Republican whip is  
2411 recognized for five minutes in support of his amendment.

2412           \*Mr. Scalise. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we  
2413 all agree in all the COVID relief bills the main focus is on  
2414 confronting this virus, rounding the corner, and helping  
2415 families and small businesses who are struggling.

2416           And based on where we are today, thank God we all came  
2417 together in a very bipartisan way over previous relief  
2418 packages to properly fund Operation Warp speed, which was  
2419 President Trump's plan to confront the vaccine -- the virus  
2420 with, not just one, but now two proven vaccines that have  
2421 been given FDA approval, as well as another that is about to  
2422 come online. And so part of what we did with Operation Warp  
2423 Speed was allow the President, President Trump, to start mass  
2424 producing that vaccine, so that we can get shots in the arms  
2425 of people as soon as it is approved. We have those two  
2426 approved. And in fact, if you look at where we are going, we  
2427 are already over a million-and-a-half vaccines a day that are  
2428 being put in the arms of people.

2429           What this amendment does, Mr. Chairman, is it calls on

2430 the Secretary of HHS to put together a plan to continue to  
2431 ramp that up. We should have a goal of getting, not 100  
2432 shots in arms in the first 100 days of the Biden  
2433 Administration. But in fact, we can do 200 million shots in  
2434 arms if we all pull together, and if we are all bold.

2435 I have been calling on the Biden Administration to put  
2436 this plan in place for weeks now. I know initially, when  
2437 they said that they came in office, they tried to say there  
2438 was no plan. Well, I want to show you on this chart, Mr.  
2439 Chairman. This is where we started when the vaccines came  
2440 online. The red line indicates when President Biden took the  
2441 oath of office. We were already increasing to well over  
2442 800,000 shots a day prior to President Biden taking the  
2443 taking the oath office with this plan that has gotten us to  
2444 now over a million-and-a-half a day. That is the Trump plan.  
2445 And President Biden has adopted it, embraced it. It is kind  
2446 of hard to say there is no plan when you walked in the door  
2447 with two proven vaccines and over 800,000 shots a day being  
2448 given to people for a vaccine.

2449 But what I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman, is that we need  
2450 to keep pushing to do more, keep pushing to do better.

2451 And so we have heard a lot of talk about what is in the  
2452 bill, what is not in the bill. Clearly, there is hundreds of  
2453 billions of dollars in this package that has nothing to do  
2454 with COVID relief and, in fact, bailing out states that were

2455 failing prior to COVID with hundreds of billions of dollars,  
2456 a suggestion that these states are just completely shut down  
2457 without extra money.

2458         Look, just look at California Governor, Gavin Newsom,  
2459 just last week announced more than \$10 billion in additional  
2460 money that his state has. I think if you look at his quotes,  
2461 Mr. Chairman, the California governor last week said, "We are  
2462 announcing today \$10.3 billion of additional cash above our  
2463 projections.'" That was just last week from Governor Newsom.  
2464 He talked about how he is going to use that to do more  
2465 things, put more vaccines out there. Of course, we fully  
2466 funded the vaccines that we have today, this chart right  
2467 here.

2468         What you look at, though, is what we still can do.  
2469 Again, we have called on the administration, the Biden  
2470 Administration, to put together a plan to go above the Trump  
2471 Plan, to go to 200 million in the first 100 days. For  
2472 whatever reason, they won't get that to us. But this urges  
2473 them to do it.

2474         But what it also does is even more important. And it  
2475 says, once they do that, we don't have to come back to  
2476 Congress. We don't have time to wait. I know it has been  
2477 suggested earlier, you know, some are saying we should wait  
2478 for another day. I would just repeat what our ranking  
2479 member, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, said: Why not today? If the

2480 Administration does come back with that plan to do 200  
2481 million vaccines and shots in arms in the first 100 days,  
2482 they shouldn't have to wait to come back to Congress to get  
2483 that done. We have got a bill right here, right now. And if  
2484 the chairman accepts this amendment, it will be in the bill  
2485 and now we will be able to get more shots in people's arms.

2486         Look, when you go through all of the things that are  
2487 funded in this bill that have nothing to do with COVID, like  
2488 hundreds of billions to bail out failed states, why not do  
2489 more to put vaccines in the arms of people? They have given  
2490 checks to people that are here illegally. You got super-  
2491 spreader caravans coming up through our southern border. Why  
2492 not put more shots in the arms of people, as some others have  
2493 suggested?

2494         There is talk that there is going to be a billionaire  
2495 bailout in this bill. What does that have to do with COVID?  
2496 Let's put more shots in the arms of people. With this  
2497 amendment we not only go on record saying that we want the  
2498 Administration to put that plan on paper, but once that plan  
2499 is there, to get 200 million shots in the arms of people in  
2500 the first 100 days, they don't need to come back to Congress,  
2501 it will be fully funded.

2502         The best way to round the corner, to safely reopen  
2503 schools, to get our economy back on track is to get more  
2504 vaccinations in the arms of Americans. Let's do it now. I

2505 urge adoption of the amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I yield  
2506 back.

2507 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Scalise.

2508 We got -- we have lots of people that want to speak.  
2509 Next, in order of seniority, is Ms. Eshoo, recognized for  
2510 five minutes.

2511 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I move to  
2512 strike the last word.

2513 For the new members of the committee, you may not  
2514 realize this, but Mr. Scalise and I have been pals for a long  
2515 time. So --

2516 \*Mr. Scalise. And still will be after today.

2517 \*Ms. Eshoo. -- what I am going to say -- yes. No, we  
2518 still will be. We still will be. These are honest  
2519 disagreements.

2520 I rise in opposition to the amendment because it  
2521 violates the Byrd Rule, and it would derail this critically  
2522 important bill.

2523 Look, I share my colleague's enthusiasm for getting more  
2524 vaccines in the arms of the American people. I stated that  
2525 in my opening remarks. President Biden has put together a  
2526 plan -- and those two words should be in capital letters,  
2527 because we didn't have a plan before. We do now. The first  
2528 100 days of his administration, 100 million doses for people  
2529 to be vaccinated with. Is that enough? No. But there is a

2530 plan, and there are dollars in this legislation for it.

2531 As of this week, the Biden-Harris Administration is  
2532 sending out 11 million doses a week, nationwide. This is a  
2533 28 percent increase in delivered doses since the new  
2534 Administration took office that -- they took office January  
2535 20th, my friends.

2536 I also want to really counter some of the things that  
2537 Mr. Scalise said. We don't have failed states in our  
2538 country. We have shortages of resources. This isn't about  
2539 failed states. This is not about the old trope about border,  
2540 and immigrants, and illegals. Don't drag that stuff around  
2541 anymore. It is so unpleasant. And it is really not factual.

2542 We know that states and local governments -- I know, I  
2543 did it for 10 years. I know what the public health  
2544 departments did in the county. I know that cities hire first  
2545 responders. I know that states across the country, not just  
2546 California, have advanced many of their rainy-day funds,  
2547 their reserves for COVID-related expenses. We are the United  
2548 States of America. We are not failed states. This is about  
2549 a partnership.

2550 And I might add that the National Governors Association,  
2551 bipartisan, the National Association of Counties, bipartisan,  
2552 the National Association of Cities, bipartisan, the mayors  
2553 across the country, all bipartisan, support that.

2554 So unfortunately, I think this amendment would slow down

2555 the resources that we are trying to get out the door. It  
2556 would likely result in the committee's legislative  
2557 recommendations exceeding the reconciliation directive, and  
2558 that is too slippery of a slope to approach.

2559 So, for all of these reasons, I oppose my pal's  
2560 amendment, and I yield back.

2561 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Eshoo. Next we go to the  
2562 committee ranking member, Mrs. Rodgers, recognized for five  
2563 minutes.

2564 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strongly  
2565 support Mr. Scalise's amendment, and I urge all our  
2566 committees to, as well, all my colleagues on this committee  
2567 to strongly support -- consider supporting this amendment.

2568 To crush this virus we need to be bold. And what we are  
2569 simply asking is let's find out what it would take. The --  
2570 my colleague before me was saying that there was a plan.  
2571 Well, I think there are still a lot of gaps. There are still  
2572 a lot of questions that remain unanswered. And what really  
2573 is the plan from the Biden Administration? Simply throwing  
2574 \$1.9 trillion around? Spending money is not a plan.

2575 We would like to know how many jobs, how many vaccines  
2576 will it help get in people's arms? How many small businesses  
2577 is this 1.9 trillion going to rescue? How will it ensure  
2578 that it is targeted to save lives, and reopen our economy,  
2579 get our kids back to school, restore our way of life? And



2580 that is what we are seeking to have answered. That is a  
2581 plan.

2582 We need to get the vaccine in people's arms, and we need  
2583 to lead with the same urgency that we did to develop these --  
2584 the vaccines through Operation Warp Speed. What we are  
2585 seeking is urgency. And we have -- we are on a great pace.  
2586 We need to be identifying where those gaps are, so that we  
2587 can even do more. President Biden stated numerous times that  
2588 his COVID-19 vaccination goal of 100 million vaccinations in  
2589 his first 100 days, that is the goal that was already close  
2590 to being met by his predecessor.

2591 Let's be bold. Let's really figure out what it is going  
2592 to take to protect our most vulnerable populations, get  
2593 people back to work, give people the courage to dream again.  
2594 We need to increase the vaccination rate. During the last  
2595 amendment, my colleague, Angie Craig, she said we need to  
2596 increase the supply of vaccines. Let's do it. I hope that  
2597 we can do it through this amendment, and I hope that she will  
2598 join us in supporting this common-sense amendment.

2599 It is support for families like Carla's in my district.  
2600 Carla is a mom of three teenagers. They want life to go back  
2601 to normal. She is a softball coach. Sixty percent of her  
2602 team is in counseling for anxiety and depression. She has  
2603 had young athletes call her in the middle of the night who  
2604 are contemplating suicide. They don't see a way through it.

2605 Widespread vaccines to Americans is a way that we will get  
2606 through it. It is how we are going to reopen and restore our  
2607 way of life for our kids. If we don't set this ambitious  
2608 goal today, when will we? Let's do it today. Let's make  
2609 sure that this committee is leading the new way for America,  
2610 so we can come back stronger than ever.

2611 With that, I am willing to yield to any of my colleagues  
2612 if they would like.

2613 \*Mr. Burgess. Yes, this is Burgess. Would you yield to  
2614 me?

2615 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, I would, Dr. Burgess.

2616 I yield to Dr. Burgess.

2617 \*Mr. Burgess. Thank you. I just wanted to make note of  
2618 the fact that, in one of my counties, Denton County, they  
2619 opened a vaccine hub a couple of weeks ago, and it has been  
2620 enormously successful. Obviously, the rate-limiting step is  
2621 the number of vaccines that are available. So we certainly  
2622 need to work on that.

2623 But I would just hold up the experience in Denton County  
2624 as one that -- use that as a template in other areas. They  
2625 put up on their Denton County Health Department website a  
2626 sign-up for people in the so-called 1b category. That is  
2627 people over the age of 65/under the age of 65 with other  
2628 certain medical conditions. They identified over 300,000  
2629 people who would be eligible in Denton County. And I do live

2630 in an area where there is significant vaccine hesitancy, but  
2631 still over 220,000 people enrolled in that, and they have  
2632 proceeded. In fact, last week they were given an allotment  
2633 of 12,000 vaccines. They all went out Tuesday, Wednesday,  
2634 Thursday of last week. People reported a very satisfactory  
2635 experience. It took just a minimal amount of time.

2636 We can do this. We have the technology, we have the  
2637 manpower. We have the volunteer corps that is willing to  
2638 provide this service to our constituents. So we should do  
2639 nothing that would limit our ability to get this vaccine into  
2640 the arms of people who are willing to take it.

2641 And so I thank Mr. Scalise for offering the amendment.  
2642 I think it is an important part of what we do. Yes, we are  
2643 capable of doing more. Let's do it.

2644 I yield back.

2645 \*The Chairman. And Mrs. Rodgers yields back, as well,  
2646 so we go to, in order of seniority, Ms. Castor, the  
2647 gentlewoman from Florida.

2648 \*Ms. Castor. Thank you, Chairman Pallone. I move to  
2649 strike the last word --

2650 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized --

2651 \*Ms. Castor. -- on and speak in opposition to the  
2652 Scalise amendment.

2653 I think we are all moving in the same direction, and  
2654 share the same goal to act as quickly as possible to improve

2655 America's vaccine distribution. The difference of opinion we  
2656 have here is that -- I think we share the sense of urgency,  
2657 but looking back we have to learn the lessons of the past.  
2658 And boy, it was a mess.

2659         And thank goodness, since President Biden has come in,  
2660 we have seen significant improvement and a ramp-up in vaccine  
2661 distribution, and an eye to -- towards doing it in an  
2662 equitable way. I mean, just since taking office, President  
2663 Biden has taken swift action to improve the distribution and  
2664 supply. He has required the development of a public  
2665 dashboard with real-time data. That is the chief complaint I  
2666 heard from my governor, Republican Ron DeSantis, and his  
2667 emergency operations team. They didn't know when they would  
2668 be receiving vaccine, how much they would be receiving. So  
2669 this has been a huge improvement. They now know the amount  
2670 of vaccine that will be on its way. And, you know, they  
2671 don't have to make false promises or provide false  
2672 information to folks across the State of Florida about when -  
2673 - about making appointments and such.

2674         President Biden has also used the Defense Production Act  
2675 to accelerate the production of ancillary supplies necessary  
2676 for speeding vaccine distribution, especially those syringes,  
2677 to help get the extra dose out of the vial. And the Biden  
2678 Administration, with their national response team, has  
2679 purchased 100 million doses of the Pfizer and Moderna

2680 vaccines, while shipping more out every week. But that is  
2681 not going to be enough, and that is why we are here today, to  
2682 continue the progress. But we have to pass the American  
2683 Rescue Plan. And for a minute there, I thought  
2684 Representative Scalise was arguing in favor of the American  
2685 Rescue Plan, because we have got to make sure that folks on  
2686 the ground have the resources that they need.

2687         So this committee print provides \$7.5 billion for  
2688 vaccine distribution and activities through the CDC. It  
2689 establishes vaccine -- community vaccination centers. It  
2690 ramps up mobile units, particularly to underserved areas.  
2691 That is a real and present problem now, and we need to  
2692 provide the funds to address it.

2693         And I want to associate myself with the remarks of my  
2694 colleague, Scott Peters, when it comes to data and reporting.  
2695 It is a mess. Our IT systems on data and health reporting  
2696 are outdated. This bill will provide funds to modernize  
2697 those systems. And then I hope in future months we will be  
2698 able to address some incentives to avoid the manipulation of  
2699 data that we saw here in my state of Florida and at the  
2700 federal level.

2701         The -- this American Rescue Plan also provides  
2702 significant resources to help with communication so people  
2703 will know where, when, and how that they can get vaccinated.  
2704 But we have got to be proactive, and it is only through this

2705 American Rescue Plan that we will be able to get there.

2706 I have already seen a sea change with the Biden  
2707 Administration. Just yesterday, they were making --  
2708 announcing new appointments at pharmacies all across the  
2709 State of Florida. If we want that progress to continue, we  
2710 have got to act urgently, and we have got to act with in  
2711 accord with the plan, the American Rescue Plan.

2712 So I encourage all of my colleagues to defeat this  
2713 amendment, and let's move on to the big package. Thanks.

2714 I yield back.

2715 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Castor. Next I have Mr.  
2716 Latta, Bob Latta.

2717 \*Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I  
2718 move to strike the last word.

2719 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

2720 \*Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I  
2721 speak in support of the gentleman's amendment. It is so  
2722 important that we increase the number of doses. I am sure,  
2723 like many of you, every day I get the numbers first thing in  
2724 the morning, not only in the country, but across the State of  
2725 Ohio, in my district. I think today we are over 46.7 million  
2726 vaccines have been given, about 11.1 million in the State of  
2727 Ohio.

2728 But we want to make sure that we are getting more  
2729 vaccines out there because, again, we want to make sure that

2730 we are getting our kids in K through 12 schools back in the  
2731 classroom because, you know, look at these numbers, the  
2732 number of children that failed in the last year, the numbers.  
2733 We want to make sure that our classrooms are opening back up.  
2734 Speaking with my colleges and universities, we want to make  
2735 sure that the universities are open across our country.

2736 Just yesterday I got a call from an individual in my  
2737 district -- they own a couple of movie theaters -- and how  
2738 they have been hurt because they can't open up and really get  
2739 people back into the theaters. So it is so important that we  
2740 make sure that we are helping our small businesses across our  
2741 districts. And not only that, you know, think about our  
2742 restaurants out there, all those people who have been so hurt  
2743 across the entire country from not having the restaurants  
2744 open.

2745 You know, the other day I saw a news report in New York  
2746 City where they are saying that during a blizzard -- well,  
2747 because of the blizzard you can't eat outdoors today. Well,  
2748 you know, we have got to get people back into the  
2749 restaurants. So, again, we can't have these people out there  
2750 in our small, mom-and-pop shops hanging on by their  
2751 fingernails. So it is so important that we get the number of  
2752 vaccines up, and more people vaccinated across the country.

2753 And so, with that, Mr. Chairman, I -- again, I do  
2754 support the gentleman's amendment. And if there is anyone on

2755 our side that would like the balance of my time, I will yield  
2756 to them at this time.

2757 Mr. Carter?

2758 \*The Chairman. Does anyone want Mr. Latta's time?

2759 Buddy? Mr. Carter?

2760 \*Mr. Carter. Yes, sir, could I have it?

2761 \*The Chairman. Yes.

2762 \*Mr. Latta. Yes, go ahead.

2763 I yield to Mr. Carter.

2764 \*The Chairman. Buddy, you are recognized on Mr.

2765 Latta's --

2766 \*Mr. Carter. Oh, thank you. Thank you. Mr. Chairman,  
2767 roughly just over one year ago we detected the first COVID-19  
2768 vaccines -- or cases here in America. President Trump  
2769 immediately initiated Operation Warp Speed to develop  
2770 vaccines and therapeutics to treat the virus. Under his  
2771 leadership, Operation Warp Speed worked with the private  
2772 sector to develop and get two vaccines approved in just under  
2773 one year. We all know there was nothing short of a miracle.

2774 Additionally, it appears that the Johnson and Johnson  
2775 vaccine could be approved in the coming weeks, possibly  
2776 getting three vaccines in distribution.

2777 Before entering office, President Biden set a goal of  
2778 one million vaccinations a day. On President Trump's last  
2779 week in office we already averaged over 900,000 vaccines a



2780 day, and we are now over one million. There is no reason we  
2781 can't put a plan in action to increase this up to two million  
2782 vaccinations per day, especially with more vaccines coming  
2783 down the pipeline. We should be more ambitious, and we  
2784 should work together as Republicans and Democrats to  
2785 accomplish this for the good of the American people.

2786 This amendment will help us put a plan and course of  
2787 action to accomplish this goal. I urge support from my  
2788 colleagues for Congressman Scalise's amendment.

2789 Thank you, and I yield back.

2790 \*Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Latta?

2791 \*The Chairman. Mr. Guthrie is recognized.

2792 \*Mr. Guthrie. Yes, I just wanted to agree with what Mr.  
2793 Carter said. If you look at where we were in Operation Warp  
2794 Speed, we were at 900,000, approaching a million. And what  
2795 we are saying is why don't we just be more expansive and move  
2796 forward?

2797 The process is going to get better as we go forward,  
2798 anyway. We are getting better at it. There is real -- there  
2799 was real concern where states would -- were going to get  
2800 their allotment, but not know the exact date, the exact time,  
2801 and had to change appointments. Those are things that you  
2802 figure out as you move forward.

2803 But we are above the million a day. We are already  
2804 meeting the goal the President set that, within a couple of

2805 weeks of him being in office, because of the previous work.  
2806 So what Mr. Scalise wants to do, let's up the standard, and  
2807 let's get to two million so we can get back to normal.

2808 So I support the amendment, and ask my colleagues to do  
2809 -- agree, as well.

2810 \*The Chairman. Does every -- Mr. Latta, do you yield  
2811 back?

2812 I think he said yes.

2813 \*Mr. Latta. I yield back.

2814 \*The Chairman. Okay. So next -- I don't see any -- oh,  
2815 no, Dr. Schrier's hand is up.

2816 Okay, Kim, you are recognized for five minutes.

2817 \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
2818 strike the last word.

2819 I believe that the premise of this amendment is  
2820 unnecessary. President Biden has already revised upwards his  
2821 goal to 150 million in the first 100 days. And in addition,  
2822 if the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is approved and given  
2823 authorization, it will go up to 200 million. And so -- and  
2824 the resources are already there in this package. So I would  
2825 encourage my colleagues to vote no on this amendment, because  
2826 I believe it is unnecessary.

2827 Thank you. I yield back.

2828 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman yields back. Next is  
2829 David McKinley, who is recognized for five minutes.

2830           \*Mr. McKinley. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
2831 have got a procedural question first, and that is when we  
2832 were in committee room last year and the like, prior to the  
2833 COVID, we used to get a copy of the amendment. Do we all  
2834 have copies of that amendment?

2835           \*The Chairman. I believe they are emailed. Let me  
2836 check. They should be emailed. Did you get it, or --

2837           \*Mr. McKinley. I didn't get one. So let me -- could  
2838 you repeat again what is the amendment?

2839           \*The Chairman. This is the Scalise amendment --

2840           \*Mr. McKinley. I know it is the Scalise amendment. I  
2841 am saying what is it --

2842           \*The Chairman. You want me to summarize it?

2843           \*Mr. McKinley. Please, I will trust you.

2844           \*The Chairman. Well, why don't we let the --

2845           \*Mr. Scalise. I will be happy to --

2846           \*The Chairman. Mr. Scalise will summarize it.

2847           \*Mr. McKinley. Thank you.

2848           \*Mr. Scalise. Thanks. Yes. Mr. McKinley, the  
2849 amendment would, number one, urge the Secretary of Health and  
2850 Human Services to put together a plan to get to two million a  
2851 day in vaccines.

2852           And look, we have been asking them this for weeks. I  
2853 have specifically asked the Biden Administration to put this  
2854 plan together to let us know what they need. I said,

2855 "Look, there are a lot of Republicans and Democrats who want  
2856 to up the goal, but you need to tell us what you need.'" And  
2857 they haven't been able to get us that answer.

2858         So what happens if a week from now they just ram this  
2859 bill through, we don't do this, and a week from now the  
2860 Administration comes back and says, "Okay, now we know what  
2861 we need to ramp it up, here are the things we need'"? The  
2862 bill is already gone. This amendment ensures that, once they  
2863 put that plan together, there is actual money in place to  
2864 implement it.

2865         And again, we already have over a million a day. This  
2866 is when President Trump's Operation Warp Speed, through the  
2867 FDA, finally started approving vaccines to be administered.  
2868 And we were over 800,000-a-day shots, vaccines being put in  
2869 the arms of people, when Joe Biden took office as President  
2870 of the United States. So, you know, I know they like saying  
2871 there was no plan. I don't know if they think that these  
2872 vaccines fell out of the sky. Two vaccines got approved by  
2873 the FDA and over 800,000 vaccines a day were being put in the  
2874 arms of people when President Biden took the oath office. So  
2875 to say that 100 million in the first 100 days is a plan, that  
2876 was the Trump plan, and it was a great plan.

2877         What we are saying is we know a lot more now. Let's put  
2878 the resources out there. If and when the Secretary of HHS  
2879 goes bigger and bolder, let's encourage them to do more.

2880 They can do more. But they told us they don't know what they  
2881 need. This amendment says, "Once you tell us what you need,  
2882 if you need more, here it is," as opposed to passing this  
2883 bill today, and they might not have the tools they need a  
2884 week from now. This gives them those tools. Let's not wait.  
2885 Let's do more. Let's be bolder.

2886 \*Mr. McKinley. Okay --

2887 \*The Chairman. And just so you -- let me just repeat,  
2888 because I just checked again. So we asked everybody for  
2889 their email. I think we have all of them. If we don't, you  
2890 want to tell your staff to send us yours, but I think we have  
2891 them.

2892 \*Mr. McKinley. Yes, let me work that out. I will work  
2893 that out internally.

2894 \*The Chairman. Okay.

2895 \*Mr. McKinley. But I have got --

2896 \*The Chairman. As soon as -- like, as soon as Mr.  
2897 Scalise -- as soon as the clerk calls it up, it gets emailed  
2898 out to you. All right?

2899 \*Mr. McKinley. Let me --

2900 \*The Chairman. So you are recognized.

2901 \*Mr. McKinley. Let me -- Mr. Chairman, let me strike  
2902 the last word and comment about the amendment.

2903 \*The Chairman. You are recognized.

2904 \*Mr. McKinley. So what I am understanding is there is

2905 merely trying to go to two million. I must be missing  
2906 something. Why would we not want to encourage to go to two  
2907 million?

2908 We are seeing the benefits in West Virginia of getting  
2909 the vaccine out. We are seeing our schools opening up again.  
2910 Some of our businesses are trying to open up again. We are  
2911 seeing some benefits of this. Why in the world -- maybe I am  
2912 just missing something. There is something quietly in the  
2913 background here. Why isn't there -- why wouldn't we go to  
2914 two million?

2915 I hear the debate on this. It is working in West  
2916 Virginia. I am sure it is working in some other areas. Why  
2917 wouldn't we encourage going to two million?

2918 Now, I heard a few minutes ago someone saying about how,  
2919 after President Biden took office, it skyrocketed the amount  
2920 of vaccines that are available. I kind of find that little  
2921 offensive, Mr. Chairman, because they are acting as though --  
2922 was Donald Trump making the vaccine in the basement of the  
2923 White House? He had nothing to do with this. This was some  
2924 of the manufacturers, pharmaceuticals putting this thing out,  
2925 and they are getting better at it.

2926 So why aren't we getting it in the arms of more people  
2927 across America? Because that was my opening statement I made  
2928 to you, was I think getting the vaccine should be our top  
2929 priority, far more than anything else that we are going to be

2930 working on today on all these amendments, getting that in the  
2931 arms of people, because that will open up our schools and  
2932 open up our businesses. So why in the world would someone  
2933 say, "I would rather stay at one million a day instead of  
2934 two''?

2935 Let's be more aspirational. Let's reach out to try to  
2936 get this thing solved, rather than play political football  
2937 with this. So with that, Mr. Chairman, I am just at a loss  
2938 why we would not adopt two million a day, rather than one.  
2939 We see the benefit.

2940 So unless someone else wants more -- the balance of my  
2941 time, I yield back.

2942 \*The Chairman. All right. Does Mr. Joyce want Mr.  
2943 McKinley's time?

2944 \*Mr. Joyce. Yes, Mr. Chair, I will gladly do that.

2945 \*The Chairman. You are recognized.

2946 \*Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to  
2947 thank my friend, the Republican whip, Steve Scalise, for  
2948 offering this important amendment.

2949 As we know, President Trump's Operation Warp Speed has  
2950 been successful at delivering multiple FDA-approved COVID-19  
2951 vaccines in less than a year. Again, this is truly an  
2952 accomplishment that is unparalleled in medical history.  
2953 These vaccines clearly are our pathway out of this pandemic,  
2954 and we must act now to ensure a quick distribution.

2955           This is why it is so disappointing to see the Biden  
2956 Administration back off of the bold leadership offered by  
2957 President Trump, and merely aim for the status quo. Now is  
2958 not the time to shrink away from leadership on this front.  
2959 When the Biden Administration began, one of their first steps  
2960 was to cloud the waters with and misrepresent the path that  
2961 had already been laid out for them. They made incorrect  
2962 statements that they were left with no plan, and put forth a  
2963 new plan that looked remarkably like the plan the President  
2964 Trump already had in place.

2965           Mr. Scalise offers an amendment to double the current  
2966 pace. This is the exact type of leadership that many had  
2967 hoped the Biden Administration would have opted for. Our  
2968 constituents are counting on us to get their kids back into  
2969 school. Our constituents are counting on us to allow their  
2970 businesses to reopen.

2971           I strongly urge each member of this committee to approve  
2972 this amendment, and I yield the remainder of my time.

2973           \*The Chairman. All right, Mr. McKinley, you yield back?

2974           I guess he does. All right, we will go to -- Nanette  
2975 Barragan is recognized. Ms. Barragan is recognized for five  
2976 minutes.

2977           \*Ms. Barragan. Thank you -- to strike the last word and  
2978 oppose this amendment. I am --

2979           \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.



2980           \*Ms. Barragan. Thank you. I am hearing inaccurate  
2981 statements that -- I had to say let's remember that the  
2982 former Administration had multiple offers from Pfizer to get  
2983 additional doses so that there would be more vaccines for the  
2984 end of the second quarter of 2021, and the White House  
2985 refused, refused to order more vaccines and to lock them in.  
2986 So sure, we have a supply problem, but let's not forget one  
2987 of the reasons why we have this supply problem. It is  
2988 because the former Administration under Trump refused to take  
2989 the opportunity to -- those extra Pfizer vaccines.

2990           We keep hearing about Operation Warp Speed. Great  
2991 program. But let's not forget, Pfizer vaccine was not funded  
2992 under Operation Warp Speed. The vaccine that every single  
2993 Member of Congress has, including my colleagues on the other  
2994 side, was not funded by Operation Warp Speed. So is it great  
2995 we have it? Absolutely. Is it great we did Operation Warp  
2996 Speed? Absolutely. But the Administration completely failed  
2997 to order more doses.

2998           And number two, they failed to have a national strategy.  
2999 They basically said we will leave it up to the states. They  
3000 can do whatever they want. And it failed, completely failed.

3001           So the need for this American Rescue Plan by the Biden  
3002 Administration is because of the failure of the prior  
3003 Administration. And we are seeing COVID-19 decimate  
3004 communities, including communities of color, low-income

3005 communities who are not having equal access to the vaccine.

3006         Now, we have heard also from states claiming that there  
3007 was a huge miscommunication from the Trump Administration  
3008 about the number of vaccines that they could expect to  
3009 receive. The goals that were even set by the former  
3010 Administration fell woefully short. By December 31st, 2020,  
3011 fewer than 3 million individuals had received even 1 dose of  
3012 the vaccine, and total administered vaccine doses did not --  
3013 until January 23rd, 2021.

3014         So make no mistake; there was no plan. Our Rescue Plan  
3015 is to put in that national plan. It is needed to get --  
3016 directly in the hands of community health centers and clinics  
3017 who are serving the under-insured and under-served  
3018 communities.

3019         The amount -- there is also talk about, well, we don't  
3020 know where this money is going to go to. Nobody is telling  
3021 us. Well, I suggest you read what is in the American Rescue  
3022 Plan. To highlight just a few of those, so we understand  
3023 where that money is going to go from, because the plan is in  
3024 writing, this needs to be read. The American Rescue Plan  
3025 requests -- billion dollars for a -- COVID-19 vaccine -- and  
3026 distribution, including -- clinics and mobile vaccination --  
3027 a vaccine awareness campaign, and increasing the federal  
3028 medical assistance percentage to Medicare recipients of a  
3029 vaccine. It is also requesting \$5 billion for research,

3030 development, and manufacturing vaccine and -- supplies.

3031       There is specifics I can tell you about if you want to  
3032 know. Mobile units, let's talk mobile units, so critically  
3033 important. I serve a district that is the fourth poorest in  
3034 California. Ninety percent -- American. Go to our hospitals  
3035 and you could see who is getting infected at higher rates.  
3036 Our low-income communities, communities of color that,  
3037 frankly, were being left behind. This plan is going to make  
3038 sure there is mobile units so that we can get vaccines to  
3039 people in the communities.

3040       We heard today about Denton, and having that be a model,  
3041 People could go online to get an appointment. People in my  
3042 district and across many districts across California and this  
3043 United States can't -- don't have access to the Internet. Or  
3044 maybe they are essential workers working 10-hour days because  
3045 they are driving a bus, or they are providing janitorial  
3046 services, or they are working in grocery stores. So guess  
3047 what? They don't have all day to stay on the Internet to try  
3048 to get that appointment. So we need to get a vaccine into  
3049 communities by getting it to the community health centers by  
3050 the mobile units, which is one of the things this plan will  
3051 invest in, and will make sure it is happening. So money is  
3052 needed to also go to administering this vaccine.

3053       And the last thing I want to quickly recognize is there  
3054 are now announcements and setups of vaccination sites that

3055 are going to be FEMA-run by the federal government, a  
3056 partner, now coming in to help do mass vaccination sites that  
3057 are critically, critically needed. And those are barely  
3058 starting to open up. But there is another investment in our  
3059 communities that are low-income, that are communities of  
3060 color, and those who should have access.

3061 So sure, we need more vaccines. And let's just be clear  
3062 that we have a short supply because there was a refusal to  
3063 order those by the prior Administration. So this plan is  
3064 needed, sorely needed by the American people, and that is why  
3065 I support it.

3066 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

3067 \*The Chairman. Thank you. All right. Next, we have --  
3068 Mr. Upton is recognized for five minutes.

3069 \*Mr. Upton. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strike  
3070 the last word.

3071 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

3072 \*Mr. Upton. And I don't think I will use all my time,  
3073 but I just want to say -- I want to remind my colleagues that  
3074 those of us that were here in the 1990s, we passed landmark  
3075 legislation to do something that was pretty important. We  
3076 doubled the money for the NIH. Henry Waxman and I were the  
3077 two leads in the House. John McCain and Paul Wellstone were  
3078 the two leads in the Senate. We got it done, and we funded  
3079 it.

3080           What Mr. Scalise has -- what Steve is trying to do here  
3081 is answer the question that is on everybody's mind: When am  
3082 I going to get my vaccine?

3083           We were -- you know, thanks to Operation Warp Speed, and  
3084 working together in a bipartisan way, we are well on the way  
3085 to getting a million vaccines delivered into the arms of  
3086 Americans, a million a day. That is 100 million in 100 days.  
3087 We are on that path to do that. What our new President,  
3088 President Biden, is trying to do -- and he unveiled this a  
3089 couple of weeks ago -- to double that to get to 200 million.  
3090 We want to see that succeed.

3091           I spent a considerable amount of time this morning with  
3092 my local county health department. My home county here in  
3093 southwest Michigan is about 170,000 people, or thereabouts.  
3094 They are getting 1,400 vaccines a week, way short of what we  
3095 need to do to get to 200 million a day in the first 100 days.  
3096 Next week, they have already been told, that count, which has  
3097 been roughly pretty stable, is going to be cut by 30 percent.  
3098 So the sites that they have already identified, you know,  
3099 they will get that count Friday. They will get it delivered  
3100 Monday or Tuesday.

3101           They have got sites, so they did a site this week in one  
3102 of my school districts. All my -- many of my teachers were  
3103 able to qualify. They are already telling the school  
3104 district next week that, you know what? We are not going to

3105 be able to do what we promised, or what we thought we would  
3106 get only last week. It is going to be cut short.

3107 Why is it that we can't answer the question of providing  
3108 the -- our new President with what he wants, that we all  
3109 want? Two hundred million in the first hundred days, that is  
3110 what this amendment does.

3111 When you talk about COVID-related expenses and what we  
3112 ought to be doing, it is helping our small businesses, not  
3113 hurting them. It is about making sure that our companies  
3114 like Pfizer -- a great, great company in my district that is  
3115 making this vaccine, but Moderna, Johnson and Johnson -- that  
3116 they have the resources so that we can, in fact, deliver the  
3117 answer to what Americans of all walks of life really want in  
3118 every community across the country, not only our first  
3119 responders and our health care workers. And we are still not  
3120 up to speed in terms of providing all of them the shots yet.  
3121 But our seniors, we see these lines on TV, and sometimes  
3122 blocks long. We look at these stadiums with -- seems like an  
3123 endless drove of cars in line waiting for that shot.

3124 I was visiting my grandson, who turned one year old this  
3125 last week. We went to -- it was out of state, and we went  
3126 to a local pharmacy, CVS. And the parking lot was full. The  
3127 answer was people were waiting for a vaccine, they were going  
3128 to call them on their cell phone to come in to get the --  
3129 roll up that sleeve to get that vaccine. We want to see that

3130 happen in every community. That is what this amendment does.  
3131 It ought to be bipartisan. It ought to be part of the  
3132 equation.

3133 And maybe you change the number. You tell the Speaker.  
3134 You tell the chairman of the Budget Committee, instead of  
3135 1.9, it is going to be 1.902. In essence, an asterisk to try  
3136 and make sure that, in fact, we deliver on the promise, the  
3137 goal that our new President has of 200 million vaccines  
3138 delivered in the first 100 days, not just what we are already  
3139 on course to do, 100 million.

3140 So I would urge all of us, certainly my Republican side,  
3141 but the Democratic side, as well, to say, you know what?  
3142 This is worth it. This is an answer to the question that  
3143 virtually every American has: When am I going to get my  
3144 vaccine? This is going to go a long way to deliver that.  
3145 And I would urge all my colleagues to vote for it, and I  
3146 yield to anyone on my side that would like my remaining --  
3147 oh, six seconds. I guess that is not worth it.

3148 I yield back my time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3149 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Fred. Next is Darren Soto,  
3150 his hand is up. He is recognized for five minutes.

3151 \*Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
3152 the last word. This is yet another sabotage amendment that  
3153 would break the reconciliation rules and kill the bill.

3154 I think it is important we have a fact-check time.

3155 Thank you, Representative Barragan, for highlighting that  
3156 Pfizer was not -- it was not part of Operation Warp Speed.  
3157 This is the second time in two weeks we have had to bring up  
3158 that fact. Operation Warp Speed promised 20 million  
3159 vaccinations before the end of 2020. It failed miserably.  
3160 Tragically, fewer than 3 million Americans even received one  
3161 dose in that time period, by the end of 2020. They achieved  
3162 less than 15 percent of their goal, and we have folks calling  
3163 it a success. That is not a success. That is a failure.  
3164 And the American people understand this was a failure, and  
3165 that more Americans needlessly died because of this failure.

3166 And that is why we have a new president. And President  
3167 Biden came in and got to work. He invoked the Defense  
3168 Production Act to accelerate vaccine supplies. He developed  
3169 a public dashboard so that we actually have transparency, and  
3170 purchased 100 million more doses of Pfizer and Moderna.

3171 Even as important, Biden has provided vaccine supply  
3172 certainty to states. Florida received a 16 percent increase  
3173 in our allotment to 307,000 doses a week. And we are  
3174 guaranteed this amount for the next few weeks. Under  
3175 President Trump, our state held back half our doses because  
3176 our vaccine allotments were only announced one week in  
3177 advance. We were literally fighting the pandemic in Florida  
3178 with one hand tied behind our back. Now, vaccines come off  
3179 the assembly line. They are quickly getting to states with



3180 reliable certainty weeks in advance, and shots are getting  
3181 into arms. Constituents can register online, go to health  
3182 departments, and now we have federally-qualified health  
3183 clinics. Publix and Walmart, under the federal pharmacy  
3184 program, are now in the mix,

3185 In discussing the federal pharmacy program, a major  
3186 Florida leader stated this week, "This is a great day because  
3187 we are announcing the expansion of vaccine availability in  
3188 Florida, working with the Feds for about a month.'" That  
3189 leader? Our Republican governor, Ron DeSantis.

3190 Biden's American Rescue Plan is working. That is why we  
3191 are here today to vote to support it and to continue this  
3192 expansion of vaccines so we could get back to normal.

3193 Thank you, and I yield back.

3194 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Daren. Next is -- Gus  
3195 Bilirakis is recognized for five minutes.

3196 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate  
3197 it very much. I rise in support of -- I strike the last word  
3198 by rising in support of Whip Scalise's amendment.

3199 You know, folks, in my opinion Operation Warp Speed has  
3200 done a great job. Let's build, let's not get negative.  
3201 Let's build on this success with the current Administration.  
3202 I don't see a darn thing wrong with this amendment.

3203 First of all, it doubles to 2 million vaccines over 100  
3204 days. I believe that is the case. I haven't -- I don't have

3205 the amendment in front of me, unfortunately. And what is  
3206 wrong with us setting these goals? Let's move forward.  
3207 Let's don't look back. Let's move forward.

3208 And I am not --if I am not mistaken, Representative  
3209 Scalise talked about HHS. What is wrong with asking HHS for  
3210 advice on what they need? That is responsible, that is  
3211 responsible legislation. Why wouldn't we want to do that?  
3212 Why would we be against that? I just don't understand it.

3213 You know, and also, we need to train our health care  
3214 officials to administer the vaccine. And also, we need more  
3215 health care officials. So we do need more funds.

3216 So, you know, again, in Florida we made improvements.  
3217 My friend, Mr. Soto, is right. I had a suggestion just the  
3218 other day. I mean, our seniors in particular, when they sign  
3219 up and they register for the vaccine, they shouldn't have to  
3220 go back online and log in when they are informed that there  
3221 are more vaccines available. But -- so the state listened to  
3222 us. So you register once, and you get informed, you get a  
3223 call back when the vaccine is available.

3224 We are making strides. We need to work together. And I  
3225 believe that this amendment does just that.

3226 So I will yield back the balance of my time. Thank you.

3227 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Gus.

3228 A lot of people still have their hand up, even though  
3229 they spoke. But I -- so I think the only one that hasn't is

3230 Debbie, Debbie Lesko.

3231 Is your hands still up?

3232 \*Mrs. Lesko. Yes, thank you, Mr. --

3233 \*The Chairman. You are recognized for five minutes.

3234 \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
3235 the last word.

3236 I am totally in support of Whip Scalise's amendment.

3237 Only nine percent -- or I think less than nine percent -- of  
3238 this overall COVID relief package is actually dedicated to  
3239 vaccinations. Yet that is probably the biggest problem we  
3240 have right now in the United States. So why not ask the  
3241 powers to be (sic) what could get us more vaccinations so we  
3242 could solve it?

3243 I can share with you what is happening in Arizona. I  
3244 have -- my district is -- has a huge senior citizen  
3245 population. And I can tell you, from firsthand experience,  
3246 that these folks are desperate. We are talking people in  
3247 their 80s and their 90s. Some of them don't have computers.  
3248 They are calling in, trying to get vaccine appointments.  
3249 And, you know, the phone lines are busy. As I said earlier  
3250 in my opening statement, last week there was 21,000  
3251 vaccination appointments available through the state website,  
3252 and it was snapped up. All the slots were filled in 39  
3253 minutes. We have constituents calling my office all the time  
3254 saying, "Help. How do we get more vaccines?"

3255           And so, because of this, there is obviously not a  
3256 problem with people wanting vaccines. I mean, that was --  
3257 originally people thought, okay, people are going to be  
3258 nervous about getting vaccines. Well, that is not the case  
3259 here in Arizona. We have more demand than we have supply.  
3260 Every night, just about, on our local TV stations there are  
3261 stories of senior citizens sharing how they are scared to  
3262 death because they are not able to get their vaccines. And,  
3263 you know, these people are in their 80s and 90s, and they  
3264 have to travel hours just to get over to the football  
3265 stadium, which operates 24 hours a day to vaccinate people.

3266           And so the governor of our state, our two Democratic  
3267 Senators, Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly. I led a letter --  
3268 we have all asked for more vaccines from the Biden  
3269 Administration, and so has all of the Republican Congress  
3270 members, and I believe all of the Democrat Congress members  
3271 from Arizona. We keep asking the Biden Administration and  
3272 FEMA for more vaccines, and so far we have been denied.

3273           And so, to me, I keep hearing these stories, similar  
3274 stories from my colleagues about how there is this huge  
3275 demand and we are not getting enough vaccines. So why in the  
3276 world would we not want to approve an amendment of Mr.  
3277 Scalise's that says, "Let's get to the bottom of this, let's  
3278 figure out how we can get more vaccines," because this is  
3279 what people care about. I mean, I don't know about your

3280 districts, but this is what -- this is the number-one issue,  
3281 is people are scared to death. And if they can get more  
3282 vaccines, then more people can get back to work, more  
3283 businesses can open. You know, it is like that is what is  
3284 needed first.

3285 And so I totally support Representative Scalise's  
3286 amendment, and I yield back.

3287 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Do we have any -- oh, Dan.  
3288 Okay, oh no, we have a whole bunch.

3289 \*Mr. Bucshon. Larry Bucshon wants to speak, Mr.  
3290 Chairman.

3291 \*The Chairman. All right, I think Larry is next, in  
3292 terms of seniority.

3293 Dr. Bucshon, you are recognized.

3294 \*Mr. Bucshon. Thank you. Sorry, I had my video off for  
3295 a short period of time. I thought others ahead of me would  
3296 be speaking, but they didn't.

3297 Look, we -- you know, as it relates to viruses, of  
3298 course, you know, we don't want to forget about therapeutics.  
3299 But what is really critical in viral disease -- and that is  
3300 vaccinations. I mean, if you look historically, from a  
3301 medical standpoint, how do you deal with viral diseases? And  
3302 that is preventing people from getting the disease in the  
3303 first place, because, up until only really recently, when we  
3304 developed a treatment and cure for Hepatitis C, there was no

3305 substantial cure for a viral illness, once you have it. And  
3306 just some, like the measles and others, the chicken pox, your  
3307 body responds to them, and most of the time you recover.

3308         So the critical thing for this disease is we have to get  
3309 people vaccinated. But there is just no other way, if we  
3310 want to decrease the death rates and case rates in this  
3311 country, we have to get more people vaccinated more quickly,  
3312 because the longer it takes to get our population vaccinated,  
3313 the longer it is going to take to develop a herd immunity for  
3314 people who haven't had the vaccine yet. And we are going to  
3315 continue to have cases.

3316         I mean, it -- the virus is endemic. You are not going  
3317 to stamp out the virus by hoping that it goes away, or  
3318 treating people who have it. You are going to get it to go -  
3319 - to be minimized by getting people immune.

3320         So this is a really important amendment that I support.  
3321 I mean, the faster we get people immunized -- again, remember  
3322 -- the faster we get the death rates down and, then  
3323 critically, we get our economy and our lives back. Because  
3324 the other things that we don't think about a lot is what are  
3325 the other detrimental effects? You are -- yes, there are  
3326 people that are -- that get the disease, and that is tragic  
3327 when we have deaths. And also, people are very sick. But  
3328 the other things that are happening in our society -- high  
3329 suicide rates, recidivism on drug and alcohol abuse, which I

3330 spoke to earlier on another amendment, child abuse cases not  
3331 being reported because kids aren't in school, where about  
3332 half the cases are reported by educators -- I mean, the list  
3333 is long.

3334         So this is a critical amendment to up the rate of  
3335 vaccination so that we can get back to normal. We can cure  
3336 people -- well, prevent people from getting the disease, but  
3337 we can also get our lives back, and get our economy back, get  
3338 people back to work, and stop all these other problems, get  
3339 kids back in school. So I am very supportive of this, again,  
3340 from a medical standpoint, and how do you deal with a virus.  
3341 You prevent people from getting it, and that is what we need  
3342 to do here.

3343         With that, I yield back. Thank you.

3344         \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next is John Curtis, who is  
3345 recognized for five minutes.

3346         \*Mr. Curtis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman, I move  
3347 to strike the last word.

3348         \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

3349         \*Mr. Curtis. Thank you. I would like to point out that  
3350 Pfizer did take advantage of the regulatory easing on  
3351 Operation Warp Speed, and I want to make sure that is very  
3352 clear, and that the government agreed to buy \$200 million of  
3353 their doses.

3354         And with that I yield my time to Buddy Carter.

3355           \*Mr. Carter. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I  
3356 want to make the same point that that Mr. Curtis just made,  
3357 and that is that Pfizer did benefit from Operation Warp  
3358 Speed. Granted, we appreciate everything they have done, but  
3359 not only did the --did we in the federal government guarantee  
3360 that we would buy vaccines from them so that they could go  
3361 ahead and manufacture, but also the original genome for the  
3362 virus came from the National Institutes of Health. So Pfizer  
3363 was assisted in that respect, as well. So I just want to go  
3364 on the record as stating that this is a correction to what  
3365 was said earlier, that Pfizer did indeed benefit from  
3366 Operation Warp Speed. At the same time, we appreciate  
3367 everything that Pfizer has done. They have gotten the  
3368 vaccine out, it has been very helpful.

3369           Obviously, vaccines are the single most lifesaving  
3370 innovation in the history of medicine. And we have got to  
3371 get more vaccines out there. That is why we are making such  
3372 a big deal out of this.

3373           And I will yield back to the gentleman from Utah.

3374           \*Mr. Curtis. Mr. Chairman, I yield my time.

3375           Oh, let me yield to Gary Palmer.

3376           \*Mr. Palmer. I thank the gentleman. I just want to  
3377 really clarify a little -- put it a little more clearly what  
3378 these other gentlemen have been saying, particularly Dr.  
3379 Bucshon, that getting this up to 2 million vaccinations a



3380 day, and vaccinating 100 million people, a vote on this  
3381 amendment is really a vote on life and death.

3382 If you look at the effectiveness of the vaccines, it  
3383 should reduce infection rates by about 85 percent. But even  
3384 if someone gets COVID, it reduces the severity in a very  
3385 demonstrable way. So this is a life and death vote on this  
3386 amendment. We shouldn't even be talking about this, we ought  
3387 to just do it.

3388 And I yield back to the gentleman from Utah, Mr. Curtis.

3389 \*Mr. Curtis. Thank you. Seeing none other of my  
3390 colleagues, I yield my time.

3391 \*The Chairman. Thank you. And next we go to Dan  
3392 Crenshaw for five minutes.

3393 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
3394 strike the last word.

3395 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

3396 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you. Look, I -- it seems to me  
3397 that opposition to this amendment seems to be rooted in  
3398 continuing the false narrative that the Trump Administration  
3399 had no plan. Because if my Democratic colleagues were to  
3400 acknowledge that indeed the Trump Administration had a very  
3401 good plan called Operation Warp Speed, and then that plan  
3402 manifested into a distribution plan that resulted, by the  
3403 time Joe Biden took office, around a million vaccinations a  
3404 day, they would have to acknowledge that, and then they would

3405 have to further acknowledge that the Biden Administration's  
3406 current plan is just the same thing -- which is fine, it was  
3407 a good plan, but I don't know why we don't have -- I don't  
3408 know why we have such a problem simply asking them to do  
3409 better, and offering our assistance to do so.

3410         There has been a lot of talk about Pfizer not being part  
3411 of Operation Warp Speed. That is not true, not true at all.  
3412 They received a contract for almost \$2 billion back in July,  
3413 and contracting through the Operation Warp Speed program.

3414         There is this other talk that the U.S. Government had  
3415 the option to purchase more from Pfizer, in particular. But  
3416 this neglects the fact that, in good governance, and  
3417 especially trying to plan ahead for vaccinations, you might  
3418 want to buy and contract with other companies creating the  
3419 vaccine, too, with a limited amount of resources, which is  
3420 exactly what that Administration did. I have heard no  
3421 arguments as to why that would not be a prudent thing to do.

3422         Look, so instead of focusing on the past, and instead of  
3423 desperately trying to continue to win the election that was -  
3424 - that you already won, and trying to bash the Trump  
3425 Administration, why not look forward? Why not look forward?  
3426 Every single person here, I think, wants more vaccines. I  
3427 don't know why this is such a hard thing to get behind.

3428         I yield the remainder of my time to Representative  
3429 Scalise.

3430           \*Mr. Scalise. Well, I thank my friend for yielding, Mr.  
3431 Crenshaw.

3432           And, look, again, I don't know why some people want to  
3433 act like they are self-appointed fact checkers and say things  
3434 that just aren't accurate. This is a statement from Pfizer.  
3435 In December, December 23rd of 2020, where they talk about the  
3436 additional work that they are doing with the U.S. Government  
3437 to supply more vaccine -- in fact, 100 million more  
3438 vaccinations -- and they go on to say, "Securing more doses  
3439 from Pfizer-BioNTech for delivery in the second quarter of  
3440 2021 further expands our supply of doses across the Operation  
3441 Warp Speed portfolio.'" That is from the HHS Secretary.

3442           And then you have got the CEO of Pfizer saying, "With  
3443 these 100 million additional doses" -- the CEO of Pfizer --  
3444 "with these 100 million additional doses, the United States  
3445 will be able to protect more individuals and hopefully end  
3446 this devastating pandemic more quickly," said Albert Bourka,  
3447 chairman and CEO of Pfizer. "We look forward to continuing  
3448 our work with the U.S. Government and health care providers  
3449 across the country."

3450           Again, you don't have to like Donald Trump to at least  
3451 recognize that it was the Trump Administration. We were here  
3452 when there were no vaccines. Operation Warp Speed we all  
3453 worked on with the President to get Operation Warp Speed up  
3454 and running, fully funded, and other -- under President Trump

3455 we were ramping up, ramping up on vaccines every day until  
3456 when President Biden right here took office. Over 800,000  
3457 people a day were getting vaccinated. If you are going to  
3458 say that wasn't a plan, and -- where did these vaccines come  
3459 from? They came from Operation Warp Speed. You just saw the  
3460 CEO of Pfizer acknowledging that, and that they worked with  
3461 the U.S. Government to add an additional 100 million. And,  
3462 of course, you need two shots for somebody to be fully  
3463 vaccinated.

3464 All we are saying is let's be more bold. We have asked  
3465 the Biden Administration to get us their data on what it will  
3466 take to get to 200 million in the first 100 days. The Trump  
3467 plan was 100 million. Let's be bigger. Let's be bolder.  
3468 But tell us what you need. And they haven't been able to do  
3469 that yet.

3470 This amendment just says when they do, and hopefully it  
3471 is tomorrow or next week, but this bill will be gone by then.  
3472 Let's make sure in this bill we have given them the tools  
3473 they need to do it, to build on what has already been done  
3474 with Operation Warp Speed, but let's continue to do more.

3475 And I would yield back to my friend from Texas, Mr.  
3476 Crenshaw.

3477 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you. I yield back the rest of my  
3478 time.

3479 \*The Chairman. Thank you. I yield myself five minutes,

3480 and yield to Ms. Eshoo, whose hand is up.

3481 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
3482 the last word.

3483 For the record, I think that there are some things that  
3484 are -- some issues that are being conflated here. Operation  
3485 Warp Speed, successful. We invested in that. We did the  
3486 right thing. Pfizer did not get a dime, take a dime. That  
3487 was their own choice. They did all of their own research and  
3488 development. What we did was to guarantee a market for that  
3489 vaccine if, in fact, it was approved by the FDA. It was  
3490 approved by the FDA. Thank God, thank God for all of that.  
3491 Thank God for all of that, and to the scientists and the work  
3492 that they did. NIH developed Moderna. Those are the two  
3493 vaccines that are out on the market now.

3494 Where I fault the Trump Administration is when Pfizer  
3495 got their approval and went to the Trump Administration, they  
3496 said, "We will buy 100 million doses," which was limiting,  
3497 and then had a fit when Pfizer went to sell in the UK.

3498 Now we are in the Biden Administration. They are  
3499 purchasing more from Pfizer, so that is all good. It is up  
3500 to 200 million doses. So I think it is important to know --  
3501 to have those facts on the record. The Biden Administration  
3502 is three weeks old, three weeks old.

3503 And going back to the limited contract with Pfizer, I  
3504 called Dr. Kadlec and said, "Why are you limiting the

3505 contract? Why are we not buying more from Pfizer?''

3506 And he said, "Well, it is a long story, it is  
3507 complicated." It is this, it is that.

3508 I said, "Why don't you start with the population of the  
3509 people of the United States of America? Doesn't that make  
3510 sense? We know we have to inoculate at least 300 million  
3511 people. Why not buy that dosage?'' But they didn't. They  
3512 limited it to 100 million doses.

3513 Now the Administration is three weeks old. They are  
3514 buying more. And we are providing the resources in the  
3515 American Rescue Act for even more than that, the goal being  
3516 that 300 million Americans will be inoculated, receive the  
3517 vaccine, whether it is Pfizer, Moderna, hopefully Johnson and  
3518 Johnson, and hopefully another pharmaceutical company will  
3519 receive approval -- at least an EUA -- from the FDA.

3520 So I think that, you know, to conflate this, we don't  
3521 have enough, we should be doing more, the more is on the  
3522 table. The more is on the table. It is in the bill. I  
3523 don't know who has read the bill or hasn't read the bill. It  
3524 seems to me that there are a lot of people that haven't read  
3525 the bill. They have read their amendments, written their  
3526 amendments. We are talking past each other. What you are  
3527 suggesting in your amendments is that we don't have enough,  
3528 we need to do more. The more is in the bill.

3529 So I hope that this is somewhat enlightening, especially

3530 when it comes to Pfizer, because the Trump Administration had  
3531 the ability -- and I know that Pfizer offered more, but they  
3532 would only do a contract for 100 million doses. So go  
3533 figure. But those are the facts.

3534 I yield back.

3535 \*The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman, and I yield  
3536 back.

3537 Now I see no other Republican, so I am going to move to  
3538 Mr. O'Halleran.

3539 Mr. O'Halleran, Tom, you are recognized for five  
3540 minutes.

3541 [Pause.]

3542 \*The Chairman. Is he there?

3543 \*Mr. O'Halleran. Yes, he is here.

3544 \*The Chairman. All right.

3545 \*Mr. O'Halleran. I am just trying to get my picture up  
3546 there, but hopefully it gets up there in a second.

3547 Anyway, not to lose time here, I am just trying to do  
3548 some simple math. At the end of December, we approved \$20  
3549 billion for a vaccine. We are approving more in this bill.  
3550 I thought I heard a little while ago that 100 million doses  
3551 were bought back in the prior Administration from Pfizer for  
3552 \$2 billion. You can buy a whole lot of vaccine for \$20  
3553 billion plus another about \$5 billion this time around. And  
3554 we have already bought 200 million doses. So -- at the end

3555 of January.

3556           So we have a lot more -- I haven't seen where the  
3557 discrepancy is that we don't have any money to buy more  
3558 doses, and that we don't have money to buy more doses in the  
3559 hundreds of millions going forward between now and, say,  
3560 June. So if somebody can just let me know about that, I  
3561 would appreciate it. But that is the fact of how that bill  
3562 looked. And that is all I would like to know. The analysis  
3563 is do we have enough money or not enough money. It appears  
3564 we do have enough money to buy -- continue buying hundreds of  
3565 millions of doses, potentially. If the 100 million and 2  
3566 billion is correct, we have enough to buy, you know, 600,  
3567 700, 800 million doses right now without doing this  
3568 amendment. So -- and I yield.

3569           \*The Chairman. I don't see any other members that wish  
3570 to speak on the Scalise amendment.

3571           \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chair?

3572           \*The Chairman. Yes. Is that --

3573           \*Ms. Kelly. This is Robin Kelly. I withdraw my point  
3574 of order.

3575           \*The Chairman. Oh, thank you. Thank you, Madam Vice  
3576 Chair.

3577           So we will -- if there is no further debate, we will  
3578 proceed to a vote on the Scalise amendment. Please unmute  
3579 yourselves so that we can hear your response to the voice



3580 vote. Unless somebody is asking for a recorded one, we are  
3581 going to go to a voice vote.

3582 All those in favor of the Scalise amendment will signify  
3583 by saying aye.

3584 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman, we are asking for a  
3585 recorded vote.

3586 \*The Chairman. Okay, we will go to a recorded vote.  
3587 Again, please unmute yourself, and please say, you know,  
3588 "Pallone votes no," or "Rodgers votes yes," so we know who  
3589 is saying it.

3590 Those in favor of the amendment will say aye, those  
3591 opposed to the Scalise amendment will say no, and the clerk  
3592 shall call the roll.

3593 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

3594 \*Mr. Rush. Rush of Illinois votes no.

3595 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

3596 Ms. Eshoo?

3597 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo of California votes no.

3598 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.

3599 Ms. DeGette?

3600 [Pause.]

3601 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle?

3602 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.

3603 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.

3604 Ms. Schakowsky?

3605 [No response.]

3606 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield?

3607 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.

3608 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.

3609 Ms. Matsui?

3610 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.

3611 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.

3612 Ms. Castor?

3613 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.

3614 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

3615 Mr. Sarbanes?

3616 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.

3617 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.

3618 Mr. McNerney?

3619 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes no.

3620 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.

3621 Mr. Welch?

3622 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.

3623 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.

3624 Mr. Tonko?

3625 \*Mr. Tonko. Mr. Tonko votes no.

3626 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.

3627 Ms. Clarke?

3628 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke votes no.

3629 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.

3630 Mr. Schrader?  
3631 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
3632 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
3633 Mr. Cardenas?  
3634 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas of California votes no.  
3635 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
3636 Mr. Ruiz?  
3637 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
3638 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
3639 Mr. Peters?  
3640 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
3641 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
3642 Mrs. Dingell?  
3643 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
3644 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
3645 Mr. Veasey?  
3646 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey from Fort Worth votes no.  
3647 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
3648 Ms. Kuster?  
3649 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
3650 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
3651 Ms. Kelly?  
3652 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly from Illinois votes no.  
3653 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
3654 Ms. Barragan?

3655 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan, no.  
3656 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
3657 Mr. McEachin?  
3658 \*Mr. McEachin. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
3659 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
3660 Ms. Blunt Rochester?  
3661 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
3662 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
3663 Mr. Soto?  
3664 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
3665 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
3666 Mr. O'Halleran?  
3667 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
3668 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
3669 Miss Rice?  
3670 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
3671 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
3672 Ms. Craig?  
3673 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
3674 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
3675 Ms. Schrier?  
3676 [No response.]  
3677 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan?  
3678 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
3679 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.

3680 Mrs. Fletcher?  
3681 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
3682 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
3683 Mrs. Rodgers?  
3684 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
3685 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
3686 Mr. Upton?  
3687 \*Mr. Upton. Upton from Michigan votes aye.  
3688 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
3689 Mr. Burgess?  
3690 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess from Texas votes aye.  
3691 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
3692 Mr. Scalise?  
3693 \*Mr. Scalise. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
3694 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
3695 Mr. Latta?  
3696 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
3697 \*The Clerk. -- aye.  
3698 Mr. Guthrie?  
3699 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
3700 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
3701 Mr. McKinley?  
3702 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
3703 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
3704 Mr. Kinzinger?

3705 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
3706 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
3707 Mr. Griffith?  
3708 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith, aye.  
3709 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
3710 Mr. Bilirakis?  
3711 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, Bilirakis votes aye.  
3712 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
3713 Mr. Johnson?  
3714 \*Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
3715 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
3716 Mr. Long?  
3717 [No response.]  
3718 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?  
3719 \*Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
3720 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
3721 Mr. Mullin?  
3722 [No response.]  
3723 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?  
3724 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
3725 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
3726 Mr. Walberg?  
3727 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
3728 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
3729 Mr. Carter?

3730 [No response.]

3731 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan?

3732 \*Mr. Duncan. Duncan votes aye.

3733 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.

3734 Mr. Palmer?

3735 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

3736 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

3737 Mr. Dunn?

3738 \*Mr. Dunn. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

3739 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

3740 Mr. Curtis?

3741 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.

3742 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.

3743 Mrs. Lesko?

3744 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko from Arizona votes aye.

3745 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.

3746 Mr. Pence?

3747 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

3748 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.

3749 Mr. Crenshaw?

3750 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.

3751 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

3752 Mr. Joyce?

3753 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

3754 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

3755 Mr. Armstrong?

3756 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes yes.

3757 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.

3758 Chairman Pallone?

3759 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.

3760 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.

3761 \*The Chairman. Ms. Schakowsky?

3762 [No response.]

3763 \*The Chairman. I thought I heard her.

3764 \*Mrs. Rodgers. This is Cathy.

3765 \*The Chairman. Yes?

3766 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Ah, there we go. Schakowsky votes no.

3767 \*The Chairman. Mrs. Rodgers?

3768 \*Mrs. Rodgers. We -- Markwayne Mullin is having trouble

3769 connecting.

3770 \*Mr. Mullin. I am on now.

3771 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Oh --

3772 \*Mr. Mullin. I am on now, I just got on.

3773 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Okay, great. There he is.

3774 \*Mr. Mullin. So I -- you guys are going to have to --

3775 \*Mrs. Rodgers. This is a -- yes, just ask how you --

3776 \*The Chairman. How is Mr. Mullin recorded?

3777 \*Mr. Mullin. Or how did Armstrong vote?

3778 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin is not recorded.

3779 \*Mr. Mullin. How did Kelly -- I vote yes.



3780 \*The Chairman. Vote yes, okay.

3781 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

3782 \*The Chairman. And Ms. Schakowsky is recorded as a no,  
3783 correct?

3784 \*The Clerk. Ms. --

3785 \*Ms. Schakowsky. I am a no.

3786 \*The Clerk. Ms. --

3787 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky is no.

3788 \*The Chairman. Mr. --

3789 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.

3790 \*The Chairman. Okay. Is there anyone else who is not  
3791 recorded?

3792 \*Mr. Mullin. I am out on --

3793 \*The Chairman. Markwayne voted yes. All right.  
3794 Kim Schrier? How is Ms. Schrier recorded?

3795 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier is not recorded.

3796 \*The Chairman. Ms. Schrier, can you hear us?

3797 \*Ms. Schrier. Kim Schrier.

3798 \*The Chairman. How do you want to vote?

3799 [No response.]

3800 \*The Chairman. Ms. Schrier, did she say how she wants  
3801 to vote?

3802 \*The Clerk. I don't have a recorded vote for her, sir.

3803 \*Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, can you clarify what we  
3804 are voting on?

3805           \*The Chairman. We are voting on the Scalise amendment,  
3806 which -- I mean, I guess I could ask him to describe it.

3807           \*Ms. Schrier. Ms. Schrier votes no. I don't know if  
3808 you can hear me.

3809           \*The Chairman. We can. Madam Clerk, how is Ms.  
3810 Schrier --

3811           \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, this is Buddy Carter. Can  
3812 you hear me?

3813           \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.

3814           \*The Chairman. All right, Ms. Schrier is a no. Mr.  
3815 Carter, is he recorded?

3816           \*The Clerk. Carter is not recorded.

3817           \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.

3818           \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter votes yes.

3819           \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

3820           \*The Chairman. All right, so let's review this. Mr.  
3821 Carter is an aye. Mr. Mullin is an aye. Ms. Schrier is a  
3822 no.

3823           \*Voice. Can you hear us?

3824           \*The Clerk. Schrier votes no.

3825           \*Voice. Can you hear us?

3826           \*The Chairman. Yes.

3827           \*Voice. They can't hear you.

3828           \*The Chairman. Schrier is recorded as a no.

3829           \*The Clerk. Schrier votes no.

3830 \*The Chairman. I can hear her.

3831 All right, Madam Clerk, let's just review the ones who  
3832 came later: Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Schrier, Mr. Mullin, and Mr.  
3833 Carter. How are they recorded?

3834 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no; Ms. Schrier votes  
3835 no; and you said Mr. Mullin?

3836 \*The Chairman. Is recorded as -- should be an aye.

3837 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin is aye, and Mr. Carter is an  
3838 aye.

3839 \*The Chairman. Okay. Is there anyone else who is  
3840 missing, and who wants to vote?

3841 [No response.]

3842 \*The Chairman. Okay, the only people that are missing  
3843 right now are Long and DeGette, who I think are not here. So  
3844 I think we are okay.

3845 All right, the clerk will report the tally.

3846 [Pause.]

3847 \*The Clerk. Mr. Chair, the yeas were 25, and the nays  
3848 were 31.

3849 \*The Chairman. Okay. Thank you, Madam Clerk. The vote  
3850 is 25 ayes to 31 noes. The Scalise amendment is not agreed  
3851 to.

3852 Are there any further amendments to the amendment in the  
3853 nature of a substitute for this first title?

3854 Mr. Crenshaw?

3855 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Chairman?

3856 \*The Chairman. Mr. Crenshaw is recognized. Do you --  
3857 what is your amendment labeled?

3858 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the  
3859 desk, amendment 37.

3860 \*The Chairman. Does the clerk have the Crenshaw  
3861 amendment?

3862 \*The Clerk. I do.

3863 \*The Chairman. The clerk will report the amendment.

3864 \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
3865 a substitute to committee print relating to public health  
3866 offered by Mr. Crenshaw of Texas. Page three, after line --

3867 \*The Chairman. Without objection, Madam Clerk, without  
3868 objection, the reading of the --

3869 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chair, I would like to reserve a point  
3870 of order.

3871 \*The Chairman. The vice chair --

3872 \*Ms. Kelly. This is Robin Kelly.

3873 \*The Chairman. Ms. Kelly reserves a point of order.

3874 And without objection, the reading of the Crenshaw amendment  
3875 will be dispensed with.

3876 [The amendment of Mr. Crenshaw follows:]

3877

3878 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

3879

3880           \*The Chairman. And the gentleman is recognized for five  
3881 minutes in support of his amendment.

3882           \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment  
3883 is a common-sense one, it deals with the current allocation  
3884 of vaccines to the states. My amendment is not partisan. It  
3885 simply asks for transparency in how vaccines are allocated to  
3886 our states. I have heard many of my Democratic colleagues  
3887 ask for the same.

3888           This is particularly important for Texas. As of CDC  
3889 reporting this morning, Texas is still being allocated less  
3890 vaccines for 100,000 people than 45 other states, and this  
3891 isn't going unnoticed. Houston Chronicle ran a story last  
3892 week under the headline "Nobody's Getting Enough." So Why  
3893 Texas ranks near the bottom for COVID-19 vaccines per capita,  
3894 this is the question we are asking.

3895           We started to look into this, and found that the formula  
3896 for allocations was severely lacking in transparency. The  
3897 formula, according to the DOD, is done on a strictly pro  
3898 rata, or population, basis. Adults over the age of 18 should  
3899 be the only consideration, according to their own guidelines,  
3900 which makes sense. But even when you adjust the CDC numbers  
3901 to account for only the 18-plus population, Texas is still  
3902 not getting its fair share. We would like to know why.

3903           One key factor, I believe, is that the DOD is using data  
3904 from either a 2017 or a 2018 release of the American

3905 Community Survey, the Census Bureau's annual population  
3906 measure. The DOD is unclear on the reporting. It is either  
3907 population data from 2017 reported in 2018, or the population  
3908 data from 2018 reported in 2019. Regardless, we would like  
3909 to know why Palantir, the contractor that came up with the  
3910 software, why aren't they using the most recent ACS data when  
3911 designing this formula. There was 2019 data available in  
3912 2020, even before the software contract was signed. Why  
3913 wasn't this used?

3914 States like Texas have seen a massive shift in  
3915 population in the last few years, and that shift in  
3916 population could be the reason for Texas getting  
3917 shortchanged. Understandably, Texans simply want to know  
3918 exactly how the formula is designed, so they know Texas is  
3919 getting its fair share. That is why I offer this amendment.

3920 Members of this committee from Texas and, frankly, any  
3921 other state should want to see the formula being used to  
3922 allocate these vaccines to the states, especially as Texas  
3923 has been hustling to vaccinate a massive population.

3924 Mr. Chair, I hope we are able to get a vote on this  
3925 amendment. It is really important for the people that I  
3926 represent. I think it is important for everyone across  
3927 America. And I certainly asked my Democrat colleagues from  
3928 Texas to please support this amendment. It simply calls for  
3929 transparency in the vaccine allocation process.

3930 I yield back.

3931 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next we'll go to -- Ms.  
3932 Eshoo is recognized for five minutes.

3933 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
3934 the last word in opposition to this amendment because it  
3935 violates the Byrd rule and it would detail this very large  
3936 bill.

3937 I share Mr. Crenshaw's and other members' enthusiasm for  
3938 wanting more information about the support available to  
3939 States, localities, and Federal departments to distribute the  
3940 vaccine. The \$7.5 billion that is in this bill for the CDC  
3941 vaccine distribution will bring urgent relief to State and  
3942 local public health departments who are already stretched  
3943 thin responding to the pandemic.

3944 Vaccines do not save lives. Vaccinations do. And the  
3945 funding in this bill is going to help vaccinate the -- as I  
3946 said earlier, 300 million Americans in the next several  
3947 months.

3948 So there's the urgency of now. We need to move quickly  
3949 to provide this funding. We all know that it's important to  
3950 have the metal on the pedal to get them out as quickly as  
3951 possible. The failures of the past administration, we have  
3952 already learned hard lessons from that of what happens when  
3953 our local public health departments receive the help that  
3954 they need too late.

3955           So hopefully we are going to have a third vaccine, from  
3956 Johnson & Johnson, available soon. And on the production of  
3957 the vaccines, I think it's important to note that on January  
3958 26, the Biden administration announced that they're seeking  
3959 100 million more doses from Pfizer BioNTech and 100 million  
3960 more doses from Moderna. And that's an order that would be  
3961 made available that would take us through the summer with the  
3962 grand total of 300 million doses.

3963           So to give you a perspective on the cost going back to  
3964 this amendment, the perspective on the cost for local  
3965 providers, what they are facing for vaccination distribution,  
3966 right here in my own district the Ravenswood Family Health  
3967 Network is planning to give between 400 and 1600 vaccinations  
3968 to patients and community members every Saturday between now  
3969 and the end of July. This costs up to \$40,000 per week. And  
3970 right now, right now, without this legislation, they have no  
3971 idea where this money's going to come from.

3972           So what I've told them is that help is on the way. So  
3973 with that, I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

3974           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Would the lady yield?

3975           \*Ms. Eshoo. I would be happy to. Who is asking?

3976           \*Mrs. Rodgers. This is --

3977           \*The Chairman. Mrs. Rodgers is recognized.

3978           \*Mrs. Rodgers. -- Mrs. Rodgers. Yes.

3979           \*Ms. Eshoo. Sure.



3980           \*Mrs. Rodgers. I think this transparency is very  
3981 important as we move forward so that we understand where we  
3982 are all across the States. And I guess my question is:  
3983 Around the Byrd rule -- because it has been raised a couple  
3984 of times -- if we were going through regular order, then we  
3985 could address the Byrd rule. Isn't that correct?

3986           \*Ms. Eshoo. Well, that is correct. But the Republicans  
3987 do not support it. You put up \$600 billion. That does not  
3988 meet the needs of the American people. You are all saying  
3989 that you want more. You want more vaccines. You want more  
3990 for community centers. You want more for mental health. You  
3991 want more fill-in-the-blank because the needs are so great.

3992           But the Republicans have put on the table -- who do you  
3993 choose to leave out, or what do you choose to leave out?  
3994 Because you have to leave out a lot with \$600 billion. So  
3995 transparency -- our public health departments really need  
3996 upgrading. And as the money goes to them, they will be able  
3997 to do that and meet the -- I don't know whether they will be  
3998 able to meet all of the transparency needs that we have. But  
3999 it will certainly be a large down payment for them.

4000           So maybe the Republicans should tell us who and what  
4001 they are willing to leave out with \$600 billion. I think  
4002 that is really the major question of the day. And I do not  
4003 say this to be sarcastic because there is a huge chasm  
4004 between \$1.9 billion and the needs of the country.

4005           Do you want to leave out cash transfers? Do you want to  
4006 leave out community centers? Do you want to leave our more  
4007 vaccines, the purchase of them? Do you want to leave out  
4008 mental health? Do you want -- I mean, the list goes on and  
4009 on. The help to the businesses in our local communities?

4010           So maybe in some part of today or tonight, come up with  
4011 the list so that we will know. Or maybe you will change your  
4012 minds. But we believe, and the new administration believes,  
4013 that the 1.9 meets the tremendous needs that have already  
4014 been stated so many times from both sides of the aisle. We  
4015 know what people need in our districts. There is no denying  
4016 it. So you are saying you want more, but I do not know how  
4017 you do all the "more" for \$600 billion.

4018           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman, can I  
4019 strike the last word?

4020           \*The Chairman. You would go next anyway.

4021           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers, yes.

4022           \*The Chairman. So I will recognize Mrs. Rodgers for  
4023 five minutes.

4024           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4025           We are committed to working together. That is what  
4026 regular order would allow us to do, would be to work through  
4027 all of these issues. Clearly there is common ground. There  
4028 is a commitment by Republicans and Democrats to addressing  
4029 then need. We just came together six weeks ago with a large

4030 package, \$900 billion. We stand ready.

4031 And regular order is the best process to address that,  
4032 to be able to bring all of these priorities forward,  
4033 including transparency of where the vaccines are being  
4034 distributed all over the country. It seems pretty basic as  
4035 we are trying -- as we need to identify where the gaps are,  
4036 State by State, continue to know where the needs are, and to  
4037 make sure that we are doing everything we can to get those  
4038 vaccines distributed as soon as possible.

4039 Does anyone want the remainder of my time? I would  
4040 yield.

4041 \*Mr. Griffith. Madam Chair? Excuse me. Madam --

4042 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes. Yes, I will yield to Mr. Griffith.

4043 \*Mr. Griffith. Well, I would ask if you would yield for  
4044 a question.

4045 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Sure, I will yield for a question.

4046 \*Mr. Griffith. And I would ask, are you referencing, in  
4047 part, Jefferson's manual in which Jefferson opens by saying  
4048 that:

4049 "Nothing tended more to throw power into the hands of  
4050 administration and those who acted with the majority of the  
4051 House of Commons than in neglect or departure from the rules  
4052 of proceeding that these forms, as instituted by our  
4053 ancestors, operated as a check and control on the actions of  
4054 the majority, and that they were in many instances a shelter

4055 and protection to the minority against the attempts of power.

4056         So far, the maxim is certainly true and is founded in  
4057 good sense that it is always in the power of the majority by  
4058 their numbers to stop any improper Mrs. Rodgers proposed on  
4059 the part of their opponents.

4060         The only weapons by which the minority can defend  
4061 themselves against similar attempts from those in power are  
4062 the forms and rules of proceeding which have been adopted  
4063 from time to time as they were found necessary and are become  
4064 the law of the House, by a strict adherence to which the  
4065 weaker party can only be protected from those irregularities  
4066 and abuses which these forms were intended to check and which  
4067 the wantonness of power is but too often airport to suggest  
4068 to large and successful majorities.'

4069         Is that what the gentlelady is attempting to say?

4070         \*Mrs. Rodgers. I think Thomas Jefferson said it very  
4071 well, and thank you for raising it. I can't compare to  
4072 Thomas Jefferson. But I would say to the majority on this  
4073 committee that there has been no discussion. We are the  
4074 Republicans. You talk about a number; we have not discussed  
4075 that number. We have not discussed any numbers with you.

4076         And we are all duly elected representatives of the  
4077 people from districts all over this country. We stand ready  
4078 to go to work. And regular order would be the best way to  
4079 approach this and to identify the priorities, identify the

4080 gaps, and to meet the need to get our kids back in school, to  
4081 get our businesses open, to address the mental health crisis  
4082 -- the suicides, the addiction -- that is happening today in  
4083 America. That is our plea to you. And I think Thomas  
4084 Jefferson said it really well.

4085 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4086 \*Mr. Griffith. And accordingly, if the gentlelady would  
4087 yield for additional question --

4088 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes.

4089 \*Mr. Griffith. -- I would assume that you would support  
4090 the motion that I have pending at the table, when the time is  
4091 proper, to refer this measure to a subcommittee, as would be  
4092 proper with the rules of the House and this committee, and in  
4093 regular order, and in keeping with Jefferson's intent.

4094 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Absolutely. I will support that motion.  
4095 I believe fundamentally that as representative of the House,  
4096 one of our biggest responsibilities right now is to restore  
4097 Article I. Our fundamental responsibilities to the people --  
4098 and that means doing our jobs; it means legislating, doing  
4099 the hard work of legislating.

4100 And these committees that will yield the best outcomes,  
4101 that is what is going to restore trust and confidence with  
4102 the people. That is desperately right now, and is what they  
4103 are looking to us to do.

4104 And with that, I yield back.

4105           \*The Chairman. Thank you.

4106           All right. So next we go to Mr. Welch, the gentleman  
4107 from Vermont, for five minutes.

4108           \*Mr. Welch. Thank you very much. This is a very good  
4109 amendment by Mr. Crenshaw, and in fact, Lisa Blunt Rochester,  
4110 Annie Kuster, and I have similar concerns, which we have  
4111 brought to your attention. We are in small States. The  
4112 formula had been changed last time by HHS, and it adversely  
4113 affected us. And it really makes a difference in our ability  
4114 to get out the vaccine. So there's a lot of merit to what  
4115 Mr. Crenshaw is talking about.

4116           I am going to oppose the amendment, and I will explain  
4117 why. What Ms. McMorris Rodgers has said is true. We all, on  
4118 this committee particularly, want to work together. But we  
4119 have got a sign here where we have got two ways forward. And  
4120 there is the regular order way, which would require Senator  
4121 McConnell and it would require Leader McCarthy to be reaching  
4122 agreement on a bipartisan basis on something that we could  
4123 move forward.

4124           Or we have, as an alternative, the reconciliation  
4125 process, which is not the favorite path forward for us, but  
4126 it may be the necessary path forward. What we cannot afford  
4127 in the name of any alternative is to not act. And on this  
4128 question of bipartisanship, the proposals in this  
4129 legislation, as my colleague Jan Schakowsky mentioned

4130 earlier, have brought some pork among independents, among  
4131 Republicans, and among Democrats.

4132 Now, that is not to say that good discussion could no  
4133 improve it. We might want to spend more in one place, less  
4134 in another. But the fact is that is broad support in the  
4135 country among all stripes of people in politics, Republican,  
4136 Democrat, and Independent.

4137 So we have to act. And we have made a decision in the  
4138 majority, and that is to have the option of reconciliation or  
4139 the alternative, of an agreement, but that remains to be seen  
4140 as to whether we can get. And it is for that reason that I  
4141 have to oppose this amendment because what it would do was  
4142 violate the Byrd rule, and it would result in disempowering  
4143 Congress, potentially, if we do not reach a bipartisan  
4144 agreement outside of reconciliation for moving forward to do  
4145 exactly what needs to be done immediately.

4146 I would be glad to yield the remainder of my time to any  
4147 of my colleagues.

4148 \*Mr. McNerney. Peter, I will take some time.

4149 \*The Chairman. Who yields?

4150 \*Mr. McNerney. Jerry.

4151 \*The Chairman. Jerry? He is recognized.

4152 \*Mr. McNerney. Well, I thank the gentleman from Vermont  
4153 for that measured statement. And I do appreciate the  
4154 amendment being offered.

4155           But the American Rescue Plan makes critical investments  
4156 in our vaccine distribution. It will provide \$7.5 billion to  
4157 the CDC to establish the vaccination centers, mobile  
4158 vaccination units, and enhanced technology to ensure that  
4159 vaccines are getting where they are needed the most.

4160           This invests \$1 billion to strengthen vaccine confidence  
4161 in the United States through increased education and  
4162 information related to vaccines, including at the community  
4163 level. The American Rescue Plan is a critical step forward  
4164 in getting Americans vaccinated and closer to resuming a safe  
4165 and normal life.

4166           This amendment will significantly delay the vaccine from  
4167 reaching the American people. Therefore, I strongly oppose  
4168 the amendment and urge my colleagues, if they want swift and  
4169 decisive action, to join me in opposing the amendment. And I  
4170 yield back to Mr. Welch.

4171           \*Ms. Craig. Mr. Welch? Congresswoman Craig.

4172           \*The Chairman. You want to recognize Angie Craig?  
4173 Angie is recognized.

4174           \*Mr. Welch. Yes, I do. I yield to Angie Craig.

4175           \*Ms. Craig. Thank you so much for yielding.

4176           I just want to say that I agree with my colleague, Mr.  
4177 Crenshaw, that we absolutely need transparency to know where  
4178 these vaccines are and how they are arriving in States. I,  
4179 too, would like more information on who is getting these



4180 vaccines, and also make sure that they are getting  
4181 distributed most equitably to the most vulnerable.

4182         Today, in fact, I reintroduced a bill that would require  
4183 this administration to report additional data on who is  
4184 getting vaccines, along with any barriers they are facing in  
4185 carrying out those plans. I originally introduced this bill  
4186 last Congress, before any vaccines were authorized for use,  
4187 because I knew it was going to be critically important for  
4188 the administration to plan to ensure that these vaccines were  
4189 reaching especially the hardest-hit areas.

4190         Unfortunately, the plan was never implemented in the  
4191 last Congress, and now the current administration has spent  
4192 the last several weeks trying to understand where all the  
4193 vaccines are, how many doses are left sitting on shelves by  
4194 the prior administration.

4195         As they figure this out, the Biden administration has  
4196 already begun publicly releasing the State allocations of  
4197 each of the vaccines outlined, something that the previous  
4198 admit that the previous administration never did. I know  
4199 President Biden is already working on report actively,  
4200 including through an online real-time dashboard to provide  
4201 much of this information, and this is the work that we have  
4202 to do. And I appreciate all of us want to get that work  
4203 done.

4204         But I don't think we can let this derail our efforts to

4205 get the relief that we need to get done today. I pledge to  
4206 work with all of you to increase transparency. But I urge my  
4207 colleagues today to get this reporting made public. I look  
4208 forward to working with all of my colleagues on both sides of  
4209 the aisle to increase transparency, but I urge my colleagues  
4210 today to join me in voting no in this amendment so we can  
4211 move forward.

4212 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4213 \*The Chairman. All right. Mr. Welch's time is expired.  
4214 I do not see a Republican; unless somebody raises a hand, I'm  
4215 going to go to Lizzie Fletcher. You are recognized for five  
4216 minutes.

4217 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
4218 strike the last word.

4219 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

4220 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you. I share my colleagues'  
4221 concern, Mr. Crenshaw's concern, about the distributions of  
4222 vaccine in Houston and in Texas in particular, as well as  
4223 transparency in the process of allocating vaccines, which Mr.  
4224 Welch noted he and Ms. Blunt Rochester also share, as do many  
4225 others on the Committee. And I associate myself with the  
4226 comments of Mr. Welch.

4227 But because this amendment violates the Byrd rule, I  
4228 have to oppose the amendment in this form. But I would be  
4229 glad to work with my colleagues to work together to

4230 accomplish this objective through other avenues.

4231           And I would note that President Biden signed an  
4232 executive order for increased transparency in vaccine  
4233 distribution just a few weeks ago, implementing a more  
4234 reliable three-week supply look ahead to provide State and  
4235 local leaders with greater certainty around supply so that  
4236 they could plan their vaccination efforts and administer  
4237 vaccines effectively and efficiently.

4238           But certainly, I think, understanding the formula and  
4239 understanding how those decisions are made is an important  
4240 endeavor, and I'm glad to work toward that end with my  
4241 colleagues on this committee. But I will oppose this  
4242 amendment at this time.

4243           Thank you, and I yield back.

4244           \*The Chairman. All right. The only other hand I see up  
4245 is Lisa Blunt Rochester, another one of those small but  
4246 powerful States. Ms. Rochester.

4247           \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you, Mr. --

4248           \*The Chairman. You are recognized for five minutes.

4249           \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you, machine. I move to  
4250 strike the last word.

4251           \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

4252           \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you. To build on Mr.  
4253 Welch's comments and in support of Annie Kuster as well as  
4254 Mr. Crenshaw's comments as well, the coronavirus response and

4255 relief supplemental appropriations act Congress passed in  
4256 December 2020, through that billions of dollars were included  
4257 to support State, local, territorial, and tribal COVID-19  
4258 vaccination testing and mitigation efforts.

4259       Because if the formula used to distribute this funding,  
4260 however, small and rural States, like the one I represent,  
4261 were disadvantaged. Delaware should have received at least  
4262 twice the amount of funding to help with our COVID vaccine  
4263 Administration and mitigation efforts.

4264       Our constituents deserve to have equal access to the  
4265 critical testing and vaccination resources that we know are  
4266 the key to responding to this pandemic. I look forward to  
4267 working with you, Mr. Chairman, my colleagues, and the  
4268 administration to address this inequity and ensure that small  
4269 States have the resources that we need.

4270       I also cannot at this time support this amendment, but  
4271 again, I do support us working together. Thank you, and I  
4272 yield back.

4273       \*Mr. Cardenas. Will the gentlewoman yield the balance  
4274 of her time?

4275       \*The Chairman. Thank you. Tony, are you seeking to be  
4276 recognized?

4277       \*Mr. Cardenas. Well, I didn't want to take five  
4278 minutes, but --

4279       \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. You can take my time, Mr.

4280 Cardenas.

4281 \*Mr. Cardenas. Is that still in order, Mr. Chairman?

4282 \*The Chairman. You are recognized, Tony.

4283 \*Mr. Cardenas. Okay. Thank you very much to the great  
4284 lady representative from Delaware, from the powerful State of  
4285 Delaware.

4286 I just wanted to state for the record, just because I  
4287 have heard time and time again from our Republican colleagues  
4288 about how the process that we are using right now we should  
4289 not use it, we should slow it down, we should go to regular  
4290 order, et cetera.

4291 But I just want to state for the record when the  
4292 Republicans, in times past, controlled the House of  
4293 Representatives, they have, based on the urgent occasions of  
4294 their liking, such as to make the biggest tax cuts to benefit  
4295 the richest Americans and corporations in America, they did  
4296 not use regular order and they pass non-bipartisan  
4297 legislation and they did, in fact -- have on several  
4298 occasions and most recently, when they had control of the  
4299 House, actually use budget reconciliation to advance policies  
4300 that they have done, all within the rules allowed by the  
4301 House, all done legally, all done and processed.

4302 So I just wanted to state for the record this is a  
4303 public meeting. I do not want the public to believe that  
4304 this process that we are using today is outside the rules.

4305 It is not. I do not want the public to believe that what is  
4306 going on today is unprecedented or has never been done  
4307 before.

4308 What is unprecedented is the number of Americans whose  
4309 lives have been lost. And when things are not done right,  
4310 whether it is legislatively or by an administration, we lose  
4311 lives and potentially lose more lives if we do not act  
4312 quickly.

4313 So I do not support this amendment, but I do support the  
4314 process that we are going through today, be it take this  
4315 committee one day or two or three to get this process done.  
4316 I appreciate and applaud the urgency that we are tending to  
4317 these life-threatening issues, such as this global pandemic  
4318 that has hit the United States as hard as any country on the  
4319 planet.

4320 Thank you. I yield back.

4321 \*The Chairman. Thank you. And the gentlewoman from  
4322 Delaware, do you yield back as well?

4323 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.  
4324 Thank you.

4325 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

4326 I do not see anybody else whose hand is up, so we will  
4327 proceed to a vote. I have to ask the vice chair, Ms. Kelly,  
4328 do you withdraw the reservation?

4329 \*Ms. Kelly. I withdraw the point of order.

4330 \*The Chairman. You withdraw it? Okay. Thank you.

4331 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman?

4332 \*The Chairman. Yes?

4333 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I would like to request a recorded vote.

4334 \*The Chairman. Okay. A recorded vote has been

4335 requested by the committee ranking member. The staff had

4336 just reminded me that it would be best if you stay on mute

4337 until you are about to record your vote. I mean, that may

4338 not always be possible, but if you can until you are ready or

4339 about ready to record your vote. And again, mention your

4340 name, if you will, when you are voting.

4341 So those in favor of the -- we are on the Crenshaw

4342 amendment. Those in favor of the Crenshaw amendment will say

4343 aye. Those opposed to the amendment will say no. And the

4344 clerk shall call the roll.

4345 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.

4346 \*Mr. Rush. Rush. I vote no.

4347 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

4348 Ms. Eshoo.

4349 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo of California votes no.

4350 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.

4351 Ms. DeGette.

4352 [No response.]

4353 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle.

4354 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.

4355 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.  
4356 Ms. Schakowsky.  
4357 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.  
4358 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
4359 Mr. Butterfield.  
4360 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.  
4361 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.  
4362 Ms. Matsui.  
4363 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
4364 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
4365 Ms. Castor.  
4366 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.  
4367 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
4368 Mr. Sarbanes.  
4369 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes, no.  
4370 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
4371 Mr. McNerney.  
4372 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes no.  
4373 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
4374 Mr. Welch.  
4375 \*Mr. Welch. Welch votes no.  
4376 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
4377 Mr. Tonko.  
4378 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes no.  
4379 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.



4380 Ms. Clarke.  
4381 \*Ms. Clarke. Clarke votes no.  
4382 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
4383 Mr. Schrader.  
4384 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
4385 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
4386 Mr. Cardenas.  
4387 Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas representing California votes  
4388 no.  
4389 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
4390 Mr. Ruiz.  
4391 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
4392 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
4393 Mr. Peters.  
4394 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
4395 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
4396 Mrs. Dingell.  
4397 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
4398 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
4399 Mr. Veasey.  
4400 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
4401 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
4402 Ms. Kuster.  
4403 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
4404 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.

4405 Ms. Kelly.  
4406 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
4407 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
4408 Ms. Barragan.  
4409 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
4410 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
4411 Mr. McEachin.  
4412 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
4413 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
4414 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
4415 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
4416 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
4417 Mr. Soto.  
4418 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
4419 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
4420 Mr. O'Halleran.  
4421 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
4422 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
4423 Miss Rice.  
4424 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
4425 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
4426 Ms. Craig.  
4427 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
4428 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
4429 Ms. Schrier.

4430 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
4431 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
4432 Mrs. Trahan.  
4433 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
4434 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
4435 Mrs. Fletcher.  
4436 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
4437 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
4438 Mrs. Rodgers.  
4439 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
4440 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
4441 Mr. Upton.  
4442 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
4443 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
4444 Mr. Burgess.  
4445 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
4446 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
4447 Mr. Scalise.  
4448 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.  
4449 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
4450 Mr. Latta.  
4451 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
4452 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
4453 Mr. Guthrie.  
4454 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.

4455 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
4456 Mr. McKinley.  
4457 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
4458 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
4459 Mr. Kinzinger.  
4460 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
4461 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
4462 Mr. Griffith.  
4463 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.  
4464 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
4465 Mr. Bilirakis.  
4466 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
4467 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
4468 Mr. Johnson.  
4469 \*Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
4470 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
4471 Mr. Long.  
4472 [No response.]  
4473 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon.  
4474 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
4475 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
4476 Mr. Mullin.  
4477 \*Mr. Mullin. Aye.  
4478 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
4479 Mr. Hudson.

4480 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
4481 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
4482 Mr. Walberg.  
4483 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
4484 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
4485 Mr. Carter.  
4486 \*Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.  
4487 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
4488 Mr. Duncan.  
4489 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
4490 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
4491 Mr. Palmer.  
4492 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
4493 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
4494 Mr. Dunn.  
4495 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.  
4496 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
4497 Mr. Curtis.  
4498 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
4499 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
4500 Mrs. Lesko.  
4501 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
4502 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
4503 Mr. Pence.  
4504 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

4505           \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
4506           Mr. Crenshaw.  
4507           \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.  
4508           \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
4509           Mr. Joyce.  
4510           \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.  
4511           \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
4512           Mr. Armstrong.  
4513           \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong vote yes.  
4514           \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
4515           Chairman Pallone.  
4516           \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.  
4517           \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
4518           \*The Chairman. Does any other member still need to  
4519 record their vote? I do not think we have missed anybody.  
4520 No? Okay.  
4521           The clerk then will report the tally.  
4522           \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas were 25  
4523 and the nays were 31.  
4524           \*The Chairman. Thank you. So on the Crenshaw  
4525 amendment, the vote is 25 ayes to 31 noes, and the amendment  
4526 is not agreed to.  
4527           Are there any other -- are there further amendments to  
4528 the amendment in the nature of a substitute? Mr. Carter, do  
4529 you have an amendment? You have to unmute, Buddy.

4530           \*Mr. Carter. Yes, sir. I do have an amendment at the  
4531 desk.

4532           \*The Chairman. What is your amendment labeled?

4533           \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is number 48.

4534           \*The Chairman. Does the clerk have that amendment?

4535           \*The Clerk. Yes, sir.

4536           \*The Chairman. The clerk will report the amendment,  
4537 please.

4538           \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
4539 a substitute to committee print relating to public health  
4540 offered by Mr. Carter of Georgia. Page 7, after line --

4541           \*The Chairman. Without objection, Madam Clerk, the  
4542 reading of the Carter amendment will be dispensed with, and  
4543 the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for five minutes in  
4544 support of his amendment.

4545           [The amendment of Mr. Carter follows:]

4546

4547           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

4548           \*Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,  
4549 last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made  
4550 clear that public schools should be open for in-person  
4551 learning. President Biden's CDC director, Dr. Rochelle  
4552 Walensky, stated in an official White House press briefing  
4553 last Wednesday that the data suggests schools can safely  
4554 reopen, and that safe reopening does not suggest that  
4555 teachers need to be vaccinated in order to reopen safely.

4556           CDC officials even published peer reviewed data in the  
4557 Journal of the American Medical Association just two weeks  
4558 ago that the preponderance of available evidence shows rapid  
4559 COVID-19 spread does not occur in a school setting, and  
4560 instruction can be safe. Doctors, health experts, and  
4561 scientists widely agree that the schools can be very safe for  
4562 students and teachers if proper social distancing, mask  
4563 wearing, and disinfectant procedures are put in place.

4564           Now, I believe that teachers should be front of the line  
4565 to receive a vaccination, and many States are doing just  
4566 that. But millions of kids across our country have not set  
4567 foot in a classroom for almost a year. It is time that they  
4568 go back.

4569           Staying out of the classroom is having immense  
4570 educational, mental health, and physical health consequences  
4571 on children. For example, just across the Potomac River in  
4572 Fairfax County, there has been an 83 percent increase in F's.



4573 Students with disabilities have had a 111 percent increase in  
4574 F's, and English learners have 106 percent more F's.

4575 The CDC has also reported a 31 percent increase in  
4576 teenage mental health issues. A large increase in student  
4577 suicides this year forced a Las Vegas school system to  
4578 reopen. Additionally, data suggests one in five children are  
4579 now overweight due to poor diets and decreased exercise  
4580 associated with staying at home.

4581 Enough is enough. We are the adults in the room, and  
4582 our children are suffering because of decisions we are making  
4583 to keep them out of the classroom. We should be doing  
4584 everything we can to get our children back in school. I  
4585 repeat, we should be doing everything we can to get our  
4586 children back in school.

4587 That is why I urge support of my amendment, to increase  
4588 funding by \$10 billion so States can reconfigure their  
4589 classrooms, provide teachers with needed resources, and  
4590 safely reopen their schools immediately. I ask that this be  
4591 paid for by reallocating \$10 billion from the State and local  
4592 aid funding, something that has nothing to do with the  
4593 pandemic.

4594 Every day a school stays closed is another day for our  
4595 children to fall behind. Again, every day a school stays  
4596 closed is another day our children fall behind. I urge  
4597 support of my amendment. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I

4598 yield back.

4599 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Carter.

4600 I yield now to the chairwoman of the Health  
4601 Subcommittee, Ms. Eshoo, for five minutes.

4602 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I move to  
4603 strike the last word in opposition to the gentleman's  
4604 amendment.

4605 I think that there is a real upside here, and that it is  
4606 great that our Republican colleagues are interested in  
4607 increasing funding available for testing, including for  
4608 teaches. I remember when President Trump said -- I think it  
4609 was last June or July -- slow the testing down, please, so we  
4610 all agree on this. Read the bill. Forty-six billion dollars  
4611 is in the bill for nationwide testing strategy.

4612 Now, to your point about the CDC, there will be more  
4613 recommendations coming out of the CDC because they are  
4614 needed. And we do need more tests. Right now we are only  
4615 testing 1-1/2 million Americans a day. This is not nearly  
4616 enough to ensure that our schools can reopen. That is why  
4617 \$46 billion, with a B, is in the bill.

4618 We also need a comprehensive and coordinated national  
4619 strategy that gives States and local governments the guidance  
4620 and the support they need to implement the testing protocols  
4621 and effectively contact trace. I so disagree with my friend  
4622 from Georgia that States and local governments do not need

4623 anything, and that you are saying that they do not -- that  
4624 the bill does not draw a nexus between COVID, COVID-related  
4625 needs -- where do you think everybody lives? They do not  
4626 live in Washington, D.C. They live in your State. They live  
4627 in mine. They live in the local communities that we  
4628 collectively represent.

4629 Now, a November 2020 report, which is not all that long  
4630 ago, from the GAO found that 21 States reported shortages of  
4631 testing reagents, 16 States reported shortages of testing  
4632 instruments, and 24 States reported shortages of rapid point-  
4633 of-care tests in just the prior month. That is almost half  
4634 of the States without the testing supplies they need.

4635 The \$46 billion -- again, B, not M, B, billion -- in  
4636 funding for testing in this bill will support the increased  
4637 domestic manufacturing to ensure we have a steady supply of  
4638 tests and the PPE to administer those tests. The bill  
4639 purposely does not divide up the testing money based on the  
4640 type of worker so that we can target it in real time with  
4641 flexibility wherever the country needs it most. We all agree  
4642 that testing is essential to be able to open schools, but  
4643 those GAO statistics show the vast deficit we are at for  
4644 testing nationwide.

4645 And Mr. Chairman, I ask for unanimous consent to place  
4646 that report in the report.

4647 \*The Chairman. Without objection, so ordered.

4648 [The report follows:]

4649

4650 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

4651

4652           \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you. The underlying bill,  
4653 colleagues, finally fills the gap that I just pointed out  
4654 that the GAO pointed out in their most recent report, and it  
4655 puts us on the offensive against this virus. So I urge my  
4656 colleagues to reject the amendment. The bill clearly  
4657 addresses it with more than a robust sum of dollars, \$46  
4658 billion.

4659           I yield back.

4660           \*The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman.

4661           Based on -- yes. Next would be Mrs. Lesko. The  
4662 gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for five minutes.

4663           \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strongly  
4664 support this amendment. I mean, I know firsthand from my  
4665 grandchildren that virtual learning is very difficult not  
4666 only for the child but for the parent. And so the quicker we  
4667 can get the kids in the classroom for in-person learning, the  
4668 better.

4669           And I am a big advocate for giving the parents the  
4670 option. So if the parents feel comfortable sending their  
4671 kids into school in person, they can. And if they do not  
4672 feel comfortable, they can continue with the virtual  
4673 learning.

4674           But I think it is totally unacceptable what I guess the  
4675 Biden administration's definition of "open schools" is, and  
4676 that we heard from the White House press secretary just --

4677 was it yesterday or the day before -- when asked by a  
4678 reporter, "What is your definition of opening the schools in  
4679 the first hundred days?" And they said, "The definition is  
4680 if just a little more than 50 percent of the schools in the  
4681 nation teach in person at least one day a week."

4682 Well, my goodness. At least one day a week is not going  
4683 to cut it. And so that is why I support Buddy Carter's  
4684 amendment, and I yield back.

4685 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman yields back? Yes.

4686 So amongst the Democrats, I think some people might have  
4687 left their hands up from last time. So I have Lisa Blunt  
4688 Rochester. Does she wish to speak on this? Okay. And then  
4689 I have Kim Schrier would be next. Did you want to speak on  
4690 this?

4691 \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, please. I  
4692 move to strike the last word.

4693 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

4694 \*Ms. Schrier. I just want to agree that it is so  
4695 important to get our children back into school as quickly as  
4696 possible, for all of the reasons that Mr. Carter talked  
4697 about. And that is why I am so glad that there are so many  
4698 provisions in this bill that will allow us to open schools  
4699 safely, which is really how those CDC reports came out that  
4700 you have to have ventilation, testing, spacing, masking, et  
4701 cetera.

4702           And one of the things I wanted to talk about that we are  
4703 even piloting here in Washington State is the issue of  
4704 testing. And just last week, I asked the former FDA acting  
4705 chief scientist about getting home COVID testing approved so  
4706 we could get this to every person in this country, they could  
4707 test every day or every other day, do it cheaply, and know  
4708 when they are asymptomatic and carrying so they can pull  
4709 themselves out of circulation, and how this would make our  
4710 schools perhaps the safest places in the country.

4711           So the barrier that we learned that day of getting these  
4712 tests into everybody's hands is really twofold. One, we have  
4713 to know which test is the best; and two, we have to be able  
4714 to manufacture these at scale and get them to people cheaply.  
4715 And so we already know that there are tests in the pipeline  
4716 for evaluation. We know that they can be inexpensive.

4717           We know industry here is shifting millions of these  
4718 overseas because they have not been able to get approval yet  
4719 through the FDA. And that is why I just want to echo  
4720 Chairwoman Eshoo's comments about having \$46 billion in here  
4721 to go to the FDA to get these on a path to authorization, to  
4722 get them into the hands of people, to get schools safe, and  
4723 then to get our children back into school safely.

4724           So thank you very much, and I yield back.

4725           \*The Chairman. Thank you. I do not see any Republican  
4726 hand up. Is there any Republican that wanted to speak? If

4727 not, we go to Mrs. Trahan. The gentlewoman from  
4728 Massachusetts.

4729 \*Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
4730 strike the last word.

4731 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

4732 \*Mrs. Trahan. I would like to thank the gentleman for  
4733 his amendment to provide \$10 billion in funding to assist  
4734 States in testing teachers and school personnel for COVID-19.  
4735 Look, I could not agree more. I do not have to show a  
4736 picture of a family struggling with homeschooling in my  
4737 district because I am that family.

4738 My 6- and 10-year-old daughters attend public schools,  
4739 first and fifth graders, who have been remote learning for  
4740 nearly a year now. And we are juggling remote schooling  
4741 today, I mean literally right now. So like so many, I am  
4742 living the toll that it is taking on our children, and I  
4743 intimately understand how important it is to safely get our  
4744 kids back to school.

4745 And I want nothing more than return our children and our  
4746 teachers to their classrooms. In fact, that is a key reason  
4747 why I support the American Rescue Plan. We finally have an  
4748 administration that is focused on taking the necessary steps  
4749 to reopen our schools safely. And it is also why I joined  
4750 over 200 of our colleagues in supporting the Rebuild`  
4751 America's Schools Act, to make the necessary improvements to



4752 our HVAC systems and such to safely return to school as soon  
4753 as possible.

4754 That bill and other good policies to help protect our  
4755 children and teachers were marked up by the Ed and Labor  
4756 Committee this week. The bill provides nearly \$130 billion  
4757 to help schools take the steps recommended by the CDC to  
4758 ensure that students and educators can return to the  
4759 classroom safely. Yet I do not believe a single Republican  
4760 on that committee supported the bill.

4761 My concern with this amendment is that it is actually  
4762 insufficient to meet the need. Our current text has \$46  
4763 billion for texting, tracing, and mitigation measures.  
4764 Discretion is left to the Secretary for the purpose of  
4765 determining how much of that \$46 billion goes to schools.  
4766 And in talking with the Biden administration, it is our  
4767 understanding that a large portion of these dollars are going  
4768 to be used for the purposes laid out in this amendment,  
4769 possibly even more than \$10 billion.

4770 So I do not want to hamstring the administration's  
4771 efforts to reopen schools. And let's face it, \$10 billion is  
4772 a number picked out of the air. It could very well be the  
4773 floor. Unlike the last administration, our current President  
4774 is not going to throw his hands up and tell States and  
4775 schools that they are on their own. So let's not tie their  
4776 hands.

4777           It is for that reason that I intend to vote against this  
4778 amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. Thank  
4779 you. I yield back.

4780           \*The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman.

4781           I do not have any other speakers on the Carter  
4782 amendment. Unless anyone wants to raise their hand here,  
4783 virtually or otherwise, we are going to move to a vote.

4784           So we will proceed to a vote. I am going to do a voice  
4785 vote unless I hear otherwise. Please unmute --

4786           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

4787           \*The Chairman. You want a recorded vote?

4788           \*Mrs. Rodgers. I would request a recorded vote.

4789           \*The Chairman. Okay. We will -- a recorded vote is so  
4790 ordered. Please unmute yourself when you respond, and again,  
4791 use your name. Those in favor of the Carter amendment will  
4792 say aye. Those opposed to the amendment will say no. And  
4793 the clerk shall call the roll.

4794           \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.

4795           [No response.]

4796           \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo.

4797           \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo of California votes no.

4798           \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.

4799           Ms. DeGette.

4800           [No response.]

4801           \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle.

4802 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.  
4803 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.  
4804 Ms. Schakowsky.  
4805 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.  
4806 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
4807 Mr. Butterfield.  
4808 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.  
4809 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.  
4810 Ms. Matsui.  
4811 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
4812 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
4813 Ms. Castor.  
4814 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.  
4815 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
4816 Mr. Sarbanes.  
4817 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
4818 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
4819 Mr. McNerney.  
4820 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney of California votes no.  
4821 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
4822 Mr. Welch.  
4823 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
4824 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
4825 Mr. Tonko.  
4826 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko of New York votes no.

4827 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
4828 Ms. Clarke.  
4829 [No response.]  
4830 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader.  
4831 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
4832 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
4833 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke of New York votes no.  
4834 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
4835 Mr. Cardenas.  
4836 Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes no.  
4837 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
4838 Mr. Ruiz.  
4839 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
4840 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
4841 Mr. Peters.  
4842 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
4843 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
4844 Mrs. Dingell.  
4845 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
4846 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
4847 Mr. Veasey.  
4848 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
4849 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
4850 Ms. Kuster.  
4851 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.

4852 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
4853 Ms. Kelly.  
4854 [No response.]  
4855 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan.  
4856 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
4857 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
4858 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
4859 Ms. Kelly votes no.  
4860 Mr. McEachin.  
4861 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
4862 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
4863 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
4864 Mr. Soto.  
4865 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
4866 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
4867 Mr. Soto.  
4868 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
4869 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
4870 Mr. O'Halleran.  
4871 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
4872 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
4873 Miss Rice.  
4874 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
4875 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
4876 Ms. Craig.

4877 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
4878 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
4879 Ms. Schrier.  
4880 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
4881 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
4882 Mrs. Trahan.  
4883 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
4884 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
4885 Mrs. Fletcher.  
4886 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
4887 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
4888 Mrs. Rodgers.  
4889 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
4890 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
4891 Mr. Upton.  
4892 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
4893 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
4894 Mr. Burgess.  
4895 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
4896 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
4897 Mr. Scalise.  
4898 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.  
4899 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
4900 Mr. Latta.  
4901 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.

4902 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
4903 Mr. Guthrie.  
4904 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
4905 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
4906 Mr. McKinley.  
4907 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
4908 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
4909 Mr. Kinzinger.  
4910 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
4911 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
4912 Mr. Griffith.  
4913 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.  
4914 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
4915 Mr. Bilirakis.  
4916 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
4917 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
4918 Mr. Johnson.  
4919 \*Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
4920 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
4921 Mr. Long.  
4922 [No response.]  
4923 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon.  
4924 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
4925 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
4926 Mr. Mullin.

4927 [No response.]  
4928 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson.  
4929 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
4930 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
4931 Mr. Walberg.  
4932 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
4933 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
4934 Mr. Carter.  
4935 \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
4936 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
4937 Mr. Duncan.  
4938 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
4939 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
4940 Mr. Palmer.  
4941 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
4942 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
4943 Mr. Dunn.  
4944 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.  
4945 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
4946 Mr. Curtis.  
4947 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
4948 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
4949 Mrs. Lesko.  
4950 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
4951 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.



4952 Mr. Pence.

4953 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

4954 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.

4955 Mr. Crenshaw.

4956 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.

4957 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

4958 Mr. Joyce.

4959 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

4960 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

4961 Mr. Armstrong.

4962 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong vote yes.

4963 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.

4964 Chairman Pallone.

4965 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.

4966 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.

4967 \*Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman?

4968 \*The Chairman. Yes, Mr. Rush?

4969 \*Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

4970 \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk?

4971 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush is not recorded.

4972 \*Mr. Rush. Rush votes no.

4973 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

4974 \*The Chairman. Mr. Mullin, is Mr. Mullin recorded?

4975 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin is not recorded.

4976 \*The Chairman. Mr. Mullin?

4977 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.

4978 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

4979 \*The Chairman. Anyone else who is not recorded?

4980 [No response.]

4981 \*The Chairman. I think that is everyone. Thank you.

4982 Madam Clerk, will you report the tally?

4983 \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas were 25

4984 and the nays were 31.

4985 \*The Chairman. Okay. Thank you. So on the Carter

4986 amendment, the vote is 25 ayes to 31 noes, and the amendment

4987 is not agreed to.

4988 Do we have any more amendments to the amendment in the

4989 nature of a substitute?

4990 \*Mr. Hudson. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hudson seeks

4991 recognition.

4992 \*The Chairman. Okay. Do we have a number for the

4993 Hudson amendment? Do you want to tell us?

4994 \*Mr. Hudson. It is amendment 38, Mr. Chairman.

4995 \*The Chairman. Will the clerk report the amendment,

4996 please?

4997 \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of

4998 a substitute to committee print relating to public health --

4999 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve a

5000 point of order.

5001 \*The Chairman. The vice chair reserves a point of

5002 order.

5003 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve a  
5004 point of order. This is Robin Kelly.

5005 \*The Chairman. Yes. The vice chair has reserved a  
5006 point of order. So ordered. And we will go back to the  
5007 clerk reading the -- or reporting the amendment.

5008 \*The Clerk. -- offered by Mr. Hudson of North Carolina,  
5009 page 1, line 11, strike "\$7.5 billion'" and insert "\$9.5  
5010 billion.'" Page 1, line 12 --

5011 \*The Chairman. Without objection, Madam Clerk, the  
5012 reading of the amendment will be dispensed with, and Mr.  
5013 Hudson is recognized for five minutes in support of his  
5014 amendment.

5015 [The amendment of Mr. Hudson follows:]

5016

5017 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

5018           \*Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am  
5019 disappointed that the majority drafted this \$1.9 trillion  
5020 package behind closed doors with no input from Republicans.  
5021 Mr. Chairman, I am proud of the bipartisan work we have done  
5022 together over the years, and I offer this amendment in that  
5023 spirit.

5024           My amendment will provide \$1 billion to vaccinate  
5025 teachers. Across the country, our children's education has  
5026 been suffering while schools have been closed. We have two  
5027 vaccines with emergency approval and several more promising  
5028 candidates in the pipeline.

5029           Working in a bipartisan way, Congress has borrowed and  
5030 spent over \$50 billion to develop vaccines and over \$15  
5031 billion to distribute approved vaccines. To date, we have  
5032 over 65 million doses of vaccines distributed to States, and  
5033 almost 45 million vaccines already in arms.

5034           It is time for us to prioritize teachers and provide  
5035 States with the resources to ensure our teachers are  
5036 vaccinated so that they can get back to work safely,  
5037 educating our children in the classroom. Our children are  
5038 suffering.

5039           Keeping children in the virtual classroom instead of the  
5040 actual classroom has had a devastating impact on their mental  
5041 health. The CDC reported in November that a higher  
5042 proportion of children's emergency room visits since mid-

5043 March have been related to mental health struggles, more than  
5044 was the case in 2019. We have all seen the reports. Child  
5045 suicide attempts are up. Childhood obesity is on the rise.  
5046 It may be years before we completely understand the impacts  
5047 of this COVID shutdown on our children.

5048 Let's vaccinate our teachers, get our students in the  
5049 classroom, and get them back on the right track. This  
5050 package that we are rushing through includes a lot of  
5051 wasteful spending that could instead go to helping our  
5052 efforts to vaccinate teachers and the public in general: for  
5053 example, tax cuts for the rich in States with high State and  
5054 local tax rates.

5055 Or another example: Under this legislation, California  
5056 is going to receive \$41 billion for State and local  
5057 assistance. Now, despite my colleague from Florida's  
5058 assertion earlier in this markup, the California governor  
5059 announced just a week ago on TikTok that they added \$10  
5060 billion more to the already \$15 billion budget surplus. That  
5061 is a \$25 billion budget surplus. Why is the Federal  
5062 Government going to borrow more money so we can give it to  
5063 California?

5064 Instead, we should be using this money to vaccinate  
5065 teachers and get our children back in school. In North  
5066 Carolina, our governor has announced teachers will be  
5067 eligible for vaccines starting February 24th This is welcome

5068 news after a difficult year for our students and our  
5069 educators. With the money from my amendment, States like  
5070 North Carolina will get the resources they had to vaccinate  
5071 our teachers as quickly as possible.

5072 Mr. Chairman, I know the argument will be made that  
5073 again, we cannot do anything to amendment this bill. But  
5074 there is plenty of time between this markup today and even  
5075 tomorrow until this bill comes to the floor almost two weeks  
5076 from now to make adjustments to this bill so that we stay  
5077 within the rules and the framework of reconciliation.

5078 I ask my Democratic colleagues, let's put aside  
5079 partisanship. Let's send a message to our teachers that we  
5080 hear you, that we value you, and we will make you a priority.

5081 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and with that, I will yield  
5082 back.

5083 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Hudson.

5084 Next I have the chair of the Health Subcommittee. Ms.  
5085 Eshoo is recognized for five minutes.

5086 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
5087 the last word. I want to thank Mr. Hudson for his amendment,  
5088 but I have good news for you. And I do not know if members  
5089 of the committee know this because it is very recent.

5090 This is all relative to opening schools. The education  
5091 and Labor Committee just finished marking up the part of the  
5092 bill that will help K through 12 schools safely reopen and

5093 address the lost time in the classroom. That has been  
5094 raised. It provides nearly \$130 billion, with a B, to help  
5095 schools take the steps recommended by the CDC to ensure  
5096 students and educators can return to the classroom safely.

5097 So it goes to the heart of what you are -- many members  
5098 have spoken to. We all agree that vaccines are a priority.  
5099 Currently, at least 27 States, the District of Columbia, and  
5100 Puerto Rico have made some or all teachers eligible to  
5101 receive COVID-19 vaccine. So if you think teachers -- we all  
5102 think that teachers need to be vaccinated. I do not think  
5103 anyone here disagrees with that. The deal, essentially, is  
5104 on the table to accomplish that.

5105 So in addition to what is in the Energy and Commerce  
5106 underlying legislation, I think it is important for everyone  
5107 to know, in case you do not, and why would you know unless  
5108 you are following Ed and Labor Committee, and I do not know  
5109 how many Republicans voted for that, but that does provide  
5110 nearly \$130 billion to help schools take the steps  
5111 recommended by the CDC.

5112 I think that is very good news for parents, for  
5113 teachers, for schools, or our communities across the country.  
5114 And with that, I yield back.

5115 \*Mr. Hudson. Will the gentlelady yield? This is Mr.  
5116 Hudson.

5117 \*Ms. Eshoo. Sure.

5118           \*Mr. Hudson. That is great news. I appreciate you  
5119 giving us that update. I know the committee finished at 5:30  
5120 this morning, so I have not seen their report.

5121           Do you know if vaccines were specifically part of that  
5122 \$130 billion?

5123           \*Ms. Eshoo. I do not know. But it is -- we have --  
5124 ours specifically has vaccines, our -- what is in the Energy  
5125 & Commerce mark. And there are several -- to reopen schools  
5126 safely, it is more than having vaccines, as essential as they  
5127 are for teachers. They have to really revamp their airflow  
5128 systems; in order to distance students, there are going to  
5129 have to be more teachers, more space. So there are a lot of  
5130 costs involved.

5131           I cannot tell you specifically that, vaccinations.  
5132 Maybe someone else knows that, or the committee staff knows  
5133 that, to answer your question. But I do not give answers  
5134 when I am not sure. But it is a ton of money for the  
5135 reopening of schools and we have to --

5136           \*The Chairman. If the gentlewoman would yield to me --

5137           \*Ms. Eshoo. I would be glad to.

5138           \*The Chairman. Without knowing for sure, Richard, I  
5139 would say that vaccination is within the jurisdiction of our  
5140 committee because it is a health matter. So I would assume  
5141 that -- I do not think that they can specify money for  
5142 vaccine and added labor. I don't think they can.



5143 I yield back.

5144 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I am glad you  
5145 made that point. I failed to, and it is good that you did.  
5146 And I thank you and Mr. Hudson, and I yield back.

5147 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Eshoo.

5148 So now we are going to go to the ranking member of the  
5149 full committee, Mrs. Rodgers.

5150 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5151 Well, it sounds like maybe we have some agreement here,  
5152 that the goal is to get the schools open. And we all agree  
5153 that making sure that our teachers get the vaccine should be  
5154 a top priority. So what we are asking is that that is made  
5155 clear since that is within this committee's jurisdiction that  
5156 we take some of that money and make sure that our teachers  
5157 are being vaccine'd (sic).

5158 President Biden said that he was promising that schools  
5159 would be opened within the first hundred days. Now we are  
5160 hearing that it is actually one day a week by the end of  
5161 April. So part of question is: What really is the plan? Is  
5162 there a plan to open our schools?

5163 And we all know, fundamentally, making sure that our  
5164 teachers have the vaccine is a key component to getting out  
5165 schools open. We are hearing the desperate pleas from  
5166 parents in our district. We are hearing about there are  
5167 children that are suffering. They are isolated. They are

5168 falling behind. Their education is suffering. They are  
5169 fighting anxiety. They are turning to social media. They  
5170 are becoming more and more isolated, lonely, and vulnerable.

5171 Not a day goes by that we are not hearing from these  
5172 moms and dads. And I know that they are desperate. I have  
5173 told you some of my stories. Our son -- we have three kids.  
5174 Two of them are actually in school. But our son is in a  
5175 public school in Spokane, and he is in a hybrid situation.  
5176 He is in seventh grade. And like any seventh grade boy, if  
5177 you are not with him every moment of every day, he is  
5178 watching football. He has figured that out pretty quickly.  
5179 Keeping him on track has been extremely different.

5180 We have had the technology and the communication  
5181 challenges. His teachers are anxious to open. Let's come  
5182 together. Let's make sure that we are providing the support  
5183 that our teachers need. Make this a priority. Whatever the  
5184 plan is to open our schools, we know that this is a part of  
5185 it.

5186 So I urge support. Let's help our kids. Let's help our  
5187 teachers. And let's get our kids back on track. With that,  
5188 I will yield back.

5189 \*The Chairman. Thank you. So it would appear that the  
5190 next person on the Democratic side would be Lisa -- well, I  
5191 think John Sarbanes is more senior, I think. Mr. Sarbanes is  
5192 recognized for five minutes.

5193           John, are you there?

5194           \*Mr. Sarbanes. Yes. I am here, Mr. Chairman. Can you  
5195 hear me okay?

5196           \*The Chairman. Yes. You are recognized.

5197           \*Mr. Sarbanes. I will be very brief. I just wanted to  
5198 make the point that the American Rescue Plan is not just a  
5199 collection of resources and budget priorities. It is in fact  
5200 a plan. It has been very carefully constructed by the Biden  
5201 administration, and we have been working closely with them to  
5202 make it a plan.

5203           When it comes to do COVID relief, and getting vaccines  
5204 out, and improving on testing and therapeutics, and making  
5205 sure our schools are opening safely, they step back and done  
5206 with -- unfortunately, I don't think it happened under the  
5207 last administration, was put everything into a framework and  
5208 very carefully design it. And that includes making  
5209 determinations about how you allocate resources to all of the  
5210 various components of a broad, robust plan for dealing with  
5211 the pandemic.

5212           So a large part of the exercise we are going through  
5213 right now is just kind of cherry-picking, where many of these  
5214 amendments being proposed -- and maybe they are being offered  
5215 in good faith; I'm not going to question that -- but they  
5216 have the effect of unraveling what has been a very carefully  
5217 designed plan.

5218           If you have made a judgment, looking at the entire  
5219 situation, that X dollars should go for safety measures to  
5220 open our schools, and Y dollars should go for a particular  
5221 vaccine effort or therapeutics or testing, and you have done  
5222 that in a comprehensive way, then our coming in and changing  
5223 the numbers from \$7.5 billion to \$9 billion, or pulling a  
5224 billion from here, from a State and local government  
5225 allocation, into a vaccine, that completely upsets the  
5226 applectart and undermines a plan.

5227           And one of the benefits, I think, that we are getting  
5228 from the Biden administration is they have come in to provide  
5229 this kind of global, comprehensive approach in a way that  
5230 makes sense across all of these different baskets of  
5231 resources. So that is the basis upon which I am resisting  
5232 these various amendments that are coming forward, recognizing  
5233 that many of them look appealing when they are taken out of  
5234 context and addressed in a specific way.

5235           But you plug them into the overall effort and they can  
5236 undermine the effectiveness of what the Biden administration  
5237 and we, working very closely with them, are trying to achieve  
5238 in terms of delivering these resources quickly and  
5239 effectively.

5240           I yield back.

5241           \*The Chairman. Thank you, John.

5242           Next I see -- Jeff Duncan is recognized for five

5243 minutes.

5244 \*Mr. Duncan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
5245 the last word.

5246 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

5247 \*Mr. Duncan. Thank you. You know, I have sat here and  
5248 listened for however long the committee has been going on,  
5249 for hours, I guess, now, and I keep hearing we cannot afford  
5250 not to act. And I hear the rhetoric and I wonder: Where was  
5251 that thought process when Nancy Pelosi held up the COVID  
5252 relief package for five months?

5253 I just heard the gentleman talking about, this is a  
5254 carefully crafted plan. But then I also have heard members  
5255 on the other side saying, you know what? That is a that is a  
5256 great idea on that amendment. I am just going to have to  
5257 vote no on it. If it is a great idea, why not vote yes?

5258 It is not our job to decide the Byrd rule and whether  
5259 something is going to make the fatal mistake to the  
5260 reconciliation bill. That is for the Senators to do. That  
5261 is for the parliamentarian. If it is a good idea, vote for  
5262 it. Put it in the bill.

5263 I said earlier today, and I will hold the picture up  
5264 again, these are four children in my district who had to go  
5265 home because of COVID-19. Every one of us in our districts  
5266 have children that are struggling because they are not  
5267 getting the social interaction they need in the schools and

5268 in-person instruction.

5269           They are not getting the learning that they need. They  
5270 are not getting the social interaction with the other members  
5271 of their class and to help them mature, not just as  
5272 schoolchildren but ultimately into the adults that we need  
5273 them to be.

5274           In South Carolina, just this week 46 senators -- that is  
5275 100 percent of our South Carolina Senate, Republicans and  
5276 Democrats -- voted to move teachers to the front of the line  
5277 so that they can receive the vaccine. Why? Because they  
5278 understand the importance of putting children back in our  
5279 classrooms.

5280           This amendment would allow the teachers across the  
5281 country to get vaccinated, increase the number of vaccines.  
5282 You heard all the talking points today. This is the future  
5283 of our country. Our children are the future of our country.  
5284 Their education is the future of our country. This is a dang  
5285 good amendment. It should be included in this bill.

5286           And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

5287           \*The Chairman. Thank you.

5288           Next we go to the gentlewoman from Delaware, Lisa Blunt  
5289 Rochester, for five minutes.

5290           \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. I move to strike the last word,  
5291 Mr. Chairman.

5292           \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

5293            \*Mrs. Rodgers. Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you. Thank  
5294 you so much. I am going to try to be brief as well.

5295            I think I will start off by saying that I do not think  
5296 there is a member in this committee, whether they are a  
5297 Democrat or a Republican, who does not want to see our  
5298 children go back to school. We all know it is an  
5299 understatement to say that virtual learning has been a  
5300 challenge for students, parents, caretakers, and educators  
5301 alike.

5302            We know students learn best when they are in the  
5303 classroom with teachers and other students. And we know how  
5304 difficult this time has been for moms and dads and  
5305 caretakers, who have had to balance being a teacher or a  
5306 tutor while parenting at the same time. And we have heard it  
5307 even from Mrs. Trahan, our colleague, as well as I have heard  
5308 it from Delaware teachers and parents and students. The lack  
5309 of in-person learning is one of the tragedies of this  
5310 pandemic.

5311            However, I must urge my colleagues to reject this  
5312 amendment because it will not put kids back into the  
5313 classroom any faster, and it could actually slow down us  
5314 getting these vaccines into communities. Time is of the  
5315 essence. And it is true: We do have to pay attention, too,  
5316 what the process is and what is going to get over to the  
5317 Senate because we need to have it get passed as quickly as

5318 possible.

5319           And what is so powerful about the President's American  
5320 Rescue Plan is that it is comprehensive, is that it realizes  
5321 it is not just a wish list of things and ideas we all have.  
5322 It is science-based. It takes into account the impact on all  
5323 of us.

5324           And so I urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment  
5325 even with its good intentions, and to vote yes on passing the  
5326 underlying bill and support our country.

5327           Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

5328           \*The Chairman. Thank you.

5329           Next is -- Mr. Guthrie is recognized for five minutes.

5330           \*Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike  
5331 the last word.

5332           \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

5333           \*Mr. Guthrie. I just want to point out, and I will be  
5334 brief with this, but we just heard that the bill before us a  
5335 Biden administration plan, carefully put together with all  
5336 the pieces, that if we pull one piece out it could hurt the  
5337 overall plan working with us. I assume that would be  
5338 committee Democrats. Because we didn't say any of this.

5339           And so we are offering amendments for stuff that are  
5340 important to us -- getting our kids back to school, getting  
5341 people tested, increasing the tests moving forward, have an  
5342 amendment moving forward as well.



5343           So if there are concerns about this process in the  
5344 amendments we are filing, this could have been handled  
5345 differently because we are saying we all agree on these. And  
5346 we could have helped negotiate some of this.

5347           And you say, well, you are just saying that. We have  
5348 had four previous COVID bills we have worked on bipartisan.  
5349 There are areas where we can agree. And as far as I know --  
5350 and being the ranking member of health subcommittee, I can  
5351 say this for sure -- we just did not have the opportunity to  
5352 participate in this. And I just wanted to make that point.

5353           So I will yield time to any other member or I will yield  
5354 back.

5355           \*Mr. Walberg. Representative Guthrie, do you yield?

5356           \*Mr. Guthrie. Yes. I am not sure who asked.

5357           \*Mr. Walberg. Jim Walberg.

5358           \*Mr. Guthrie. Oh, yes. I will yield to Mr. Walberg.

5359           \*Mr. Walberg. Thank you. I just wanted to comment,  
5360 following up your point.

5361           I do sit on the Education and Workforce -- or Education  
5362 and Labor -- Committee. And we did finish up our markup of  
5363 the bill at 4:30 yesterday morning. There is nothing  
5364 significant in that bill, or anything that pushes money  
5365 toward vaccinating teachers. I have many teachers that I  
5366 have talked with in my district who say it this way: We need  
5367 a kid fix. We want to get back in the classroom.

5368 I tell you what, if indeed what I have heard in earlier  
5369 statements that this is a carefully crafted plan, it is put  
5370 together for best interests of our Nation and our students,  
5371 and we are following science, well, maybe we do not need this  
5372 money that is being offered in the amendment because science  
5373 says kids can get back in the classroom. We can open up the  
5374 schools.

5375 But it seems that this administration has backed away  
5376 from that now. So I think we need money in for vaccination  
5377 of our front line worker teachers that need to get back to  
5378 the classroom for all sorts of reasons. Let's not give in to  
5379 the teacher unions. Let's give in to the teachers and give  
5380 them a chance to get back.

5381 So I strongly support Mr. Hudson's amendment, and I hope  
5382 we will all think it through a second time and say, you know  
5383 what? This makes sense. And I think, ultimately, if you  
5384 said it, we will decide it makes sense as well.

5385 I yield back.

5386 \*Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I yield back.

5387 \*Mr. Hudson. Would the gentleman yield?

5388 \*Mr. Guthrie. I will yield. I will yield to Mr.  
5389 Hudson.

5390 \*Mr. Hudson. I appreciate that, and appreciate the  
5391 comments about all my colleagues, both sides of the aisle.  
5392 And I think Ms. Rochester was right: There is no one on this

5393 committee that does not agree that we ought to get our kids  
5394 back in schools. And I appreciate Ms. Eshoo's leadership and  
5395 her comments.

5396 And I think the ED & Labor Committee apparently  
5397 demonstrated a real commitment to getting kids back in the  
5398 classroom, and I think this is our opportunity. And some of  
5399 my colleagues made the comment that this was going to derail  
5400 a carefully crafted plan, and others said that this will slow  
5401 down getting kids back in the classroom.

5402 This makes no sense to me. We are talking about over  
5403 \$188 billion just in our jurisdiction, and I am talking about  
5404 just a billion of that redirected. There are lots of places  
5405 that we can go to do that. California is getting \$41  
5406 billion; they have a \$25 billion surplus. Let's take one of  
5407 their billion and redirect it to teachers.

5408 This is insignificant in the grand scheme of things. It  
5409 will not derail this bill. There is plenty of time to find  
5410 somewhere in this \$1.9 trillion bill to find a billion  
5411 dollars. And I think, frankly, we all want to get kids back  
5412 in the classroom. Let's prove it. Let's vote for this  
5413 amendment. Let's send a message to our teachers.

5414 We have all been talking to our teachers back home.  
5415 Some are scared of getting back in a classroom. They are  
5416 certainly frustrated. We have all had a tough year. Our  
5417 teachers have had a really tough year; this at-home learning

5418 has been hard on teachers, having to adapt to this new style.

5419 We can come together here in a bipartisan way, in a way  
5420 that will not impact this bill at all going forward, and send  
5421 a message to our teachers: We hear you. We stand with you.  
5422 And so I just ask my colleagues on the other side of the  
5423 aisle, come together and join me on this. It is not going to  
5424 detail this bill. It is going to strengthen this bill, and  
5425 it is going to send a message that Republicans and Democrats  
5426 stand with you.

5427 Thank you. With that, I will yield back.

5428 \*Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, and I will yield back.

5429 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

5430 Next we have -- Dr. Schrier is recognized for five  
5431 minutes.

5432 \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike  
5433 the last word.

5434 And I agree in principle with Mr. Hudson. I think  
5435 everybody on the committee agrees that we want our teachers  
5436 immunized. We want our children back into school. As a  
5437 pediatrician, I understand acutely how important it is to get  
5438 children into school. And as a mom with a 12-year-old  
5439 upstairs right now in Social Studies class, I understand on a  
5440 personal level how important it is to get children back into  
5441 so.

5442 And fundamentally, I don't believe that funding is

5443 really the barrier to getting our teachers immunized. But  
5444 the underlying bill puts tons of money into shoring up  
5445 vaccines to getting our communities immunized. And what we  
5446 really need here is to prioritize teachers.

5447         And that is something that is in States' control. And  
5448 in fact, some States, like Oregon, have put teachers right at  
5449 the top of the list because they know that in about two  
5450 weeks' time, they can get all educators and school staff  
5451 taken care of, whereas if they are just another frontline  
5452 worker, it could take months for that to happen.

5453         And so I have written an op-ed in this regard. I think  
5454 if we all want this to be done, we need to talk with our  
5455 States to lift teachers up to the top of the priority is, get  
5456 them vaccinated, get them back into school safely, and do  
5457 everything that Education and Labor has done to make it safe  
5458 to open our schools.

5459         So I yield back. I will vote no on this amendment  
5460 simply because I do not believe this is a financial issue. I  
5461 share the theory. But I think that just by shoring up  
5462 vaccines overall and prioritizing teachers, this will happen.  
5463 Thank you.

5464         \*The Chairman. Thank you.

5465         Next is Fred Upton. Fred is recognized for five  
5466 minutes.

5467         \*Mr. Upton. Well, thanks, Mr. Chairman. When we think

5468 about this pandemic and the impact on lives and small  
5469 businesses, and if you had to list the top five things where  
5470 it has really impacted people, certainly schools and  
5471 education would be on anyone's top five.

5472 I have got some schools that next month will be out for  
5473 a year. A year. I live in a district where I get not only  
5474 Indiana media, but I get Michigan media, where I am from.  
5475 But also, right across the lake, and I can look out of my  
5476 window here across lake Michigan, I have Chicago, across the  
5477 lake, 65 miles across the lake. And I get their media, both  
5478 on the radio as well as on TV.

5479 And the story for about the last 10 days -- and I know  
5480 my colleagues Bobby Rush and Jan and Adam and others -- the  
5481 largest story in this media market the last 10 days has been  
5482 the Chicago Teachers Union refusing to go back to school  
5483 because they feel that their teachers are going to an unsafe  
5484 workplace. They just got it resolved in the last day or two,  
5485 but those tens of thousands, maybe 100,000, kids, all those  
5486 different schools, delayed because of the issue of health and  
5487 safety, not only for the teachers and their families but  
5488 obviously the kids as well.

5489 If you think about a bill that we really want -- as we  
5490 look now at the fourth or fifth COVID package moving forward,  
5491 assistance for our teachers and our schools out to be at the  
5492 top of the list. Until COVID, I was speaking in a school for

5493 all my years literally every single week. My mom was a  
5494 teacher. My brother and sisters were teachers. My wife was  
5495 a preschool teacher. Teaching is a mighty important  
5496 profession.

5497         And if we cannot assure their safety, and the kids that  
5498 they teach, we are in the wrong job. And that is why this  
5499 amendment, what I would think that if we had somewhat of  
5500 regular order, that this could be -- if we actually assembled  
5501 a package, assembled a bill, block by block, this would be an  
5502 amendment that would be bipartisan, that we could get done.

5503         It does not cost a lot of money in the relative -- in  
5504 the scheme of things, \$1.9 trillion. As we heard, Tim  
5505 Walberg and a few others on this committee that also on Ed  
5506 and Labor, there were not any provisions in that bill -- in  
5507 those provisions either for reconciliation.

5508         Here is something that we can do. There are other  
5509 things that clearly are going to be -- fall under the Byrd  
5510 rule when it goes to the Senate. There is no reason why we  
5511 cannot add this in and actually feel good about what we are  
5512 trying to do for our students and our kids, and actually  
5513 resolve a problem that all of us, every single one of us,  
5514 would say, it is in the top five issues in terms of what this  
5515 pandemic has done to America.

5516         So I would hope that we could accept this. We will let  
5517 it go by voice, if you let us. And with that, if I have got

5518 other colleagues on my side of the aisle, I will be glad to  
5519 yield them some of my time. If not, I will yield back.

5520 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Upton.

5521 Seeing no Democrat, we will go to -- Kelly Armstrong is  
5522 recognized for five minutes.

5523 \*Mr. Armstrong. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
5524 strike the last word.

5525 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

5526 \*Mr. Armstrong. And I have no doubt this was -- can you  
5527 hear me?

5528 \*The Chairman. Yes, we can. You are recognized.

5529 \*Mr. Armstrong. Okay. I have no doubt -- I move to  
5530 strike the last word. I have no doubt that this was a  
5531 carefully crafted plan. But I also have no doubt that these  
5532 amendments are in good faith, and we are putting them  
5533 forward. And the reason is because this is what we hear from  
5534 our people at home.

5535 I mean, amendments to give more vaccines. Amendments  
5536 for more testing for teachers. Amendments for more vaccines  
5537 for teachers. First and foremost, we have the ability, then,  
5538 to protect the safety and security of our citizens.  
5539 Secondly, we have the able to open our economy back up -- two  
5540 things you need to be able to do to do that.

5541 And we know this because we are the number one State in  
5542 the Nation in vaccine rollout in North Dakota. But our



5543 economy does not work unless the world's economy is open. We  
5544 just produce a lot of things we do not consume at home.

5545 But also, I just want to point out -- and every district  
5546 is different -- I agree we should prioritize teachers. But  
5547 without more vaccines and without more testing and more money  
5548 for those things, they do not jump ahead of somebody -- or of  
5549 nobody. They jump ahead of somebody else.

5550 And if you are community that is elderly in population,  
5551 like a lot of places I have in North Dakota, in order to move  
5552 teachers up you have to move them down, move somebody else  
5553 down, which is why we are offering these amendments. And I  
5554 think it is important, and I would just reiterate the fact  
5555 that as for us, and as a committee and as a Congress, if we  
5556 are -- these are our priorities as we are trying to get  
5557 ourselves out of this pandemic.

5558 But if we are going to be as concerned about passing  
5559 something as quickly and efficiently as possible, and worried  
5560 about Senate rules, then I hope our colleagues consider that  
5561 as well when they are offering other amendments that very  
5562 possibly may violate the Byrd rule.

5563 And I hope we consider that in the future moving forward  
5564 when reconciliation goes away because if likelihood in the  
5565 Senate requires 60 votes when reconciliation is not there,  
5566 then we are going to have to work together as Democrats and  
5567 Republicans on all bills moving forward.

5568 And with that, I will yield back.

5569 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

5570 I see no other members that would like to speak, so we  
5571 will move to a vote. The vice chair may want to --

5572 \*Ms. Kelly. Yes. I withdraw my point of order.

5573 \*The Chairman. All right.

5574 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman, I would request a recorded  
5575 vote.

5576 \*The Chairman. Recorded vote. Okay. Great. A  
5577 recorded vote is ordered. I don't have to repeat everything;  
5578 I think we know what to do.

5579 Those in favor of the Richard Hudson amendment will say  
5580 aye. Those opposed say no. And the clerk should call the  
5581 roll on the Hudson amendment.

5582 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.

5583 \*Mr. Rush. Rush from Illinois votes no.

5584 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

5585 Ms. Eshoo.

5586 Ms. Eshoo of California votes no.

5587 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.

5588 Ms. DeGette.

5589 [No response.]

5590 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle.

5591 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.

5592 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.

5593 Ms. Schakowsky.  
5594 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.  
5595 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
5596 Mr. Butterfield.  
5597 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.  
5598 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.  
5599 Ms. Matsui.  
5600 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
5601 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
5602 Ms. Castor.  
5603 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.  
5604 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
5605 Mr. Sarbanes.  
5606 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
5607 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
5608 Mr. McNerney.  
5609 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney of California votes no.  
5610 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
5611 Mr. Welch.  
5612 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
5613 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
5614 Mr. Tonko.  
5615 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko of New York votes no.  
5616 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
5617 Ms. Clarke.

5618 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke of New York votes no.  
5619 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
5620 Mr. Schrader.  
5621 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
5622 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
5623 Mr. Cardenas.  
5624 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes no.  
5625 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
5626 Mr. Ruiz.  
5627 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
5628 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
5629 Mr. Peters.  
5630 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
5631 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
5632 Mrs. Dingell.  
5633 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
5634 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
5635 Mr. Veasey.  
5636 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
5637 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
5638 Ms. Kuster.  
5639 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
5640 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
5641 Ms. Kelly.  
5642 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.

5643 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
5644 Ms. Barragan.  
5645 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
5646 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
5647 Mr. McEachin.  
5648 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
5649 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
5650 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
5651 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
5652 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
5653 Mr. Soto.  
5654 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
5655 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
5656 Mr. O'Halleran.  
5657 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
5658 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
5659 Miss Rice.  
5660 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
5661 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
5662 Ms. Craig.  
5663 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
5664 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
5665 Ms. Schrier.  
5666 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
5667 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.

5668 Mrs. Trahan.  
5669 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
5670 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
5671 Mrs. Fletcher.  
5672 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
5673 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
5674 Mrs. Rodgers.  
5675 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes yes.  
5676 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
5677 Mr. Upton.  
5678 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
5679 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
5680 Mr. Burgess.  
5681 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
5682 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
5683 Mr. Scalise.  
5684 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.  
5685 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
5686 Mr. Latta.  
5687 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
5688 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
5689 Mr. Guthrie.  
5690 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
5691 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
5692 Mr. McKinley.

5693 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
5694 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
5695 Mr. Kinzinger.  
5696 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
5697 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
5698 Mr. Griffith.  
5699 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.  
5700 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
5701 Mr. Bilirakis.  
5702 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
5703 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
5704 Mr. Johnson.  
5705 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.  
5706 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
5707 Mr. Long.  
5708 [No response.]  
5709 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon.  
5710 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
5711 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
5712 Mr. Mullin.  
5713 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.  
5714 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
5715 Mr. Hudson.  
5716 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
5717 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

5718 Mr. Walberg.  
5719 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
5720 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
5721 Mr. Carter.  
5722 [No response.]  
5723 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan.  
5724 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
5725 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
5726 Mr. Palmer.  
5727 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
5728 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
5729 Mr. Dunn.  
5730 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.  
5731 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
5732 Mr. Curtis.  
5733 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
5734 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
5735 Mrs. Lesko.  
5736 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
5737 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
5738 Mr. Pence.  
5739 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.  
5740 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
5741 Mr. Crenshaw.  
5742 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw, aye.



5743 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
5744 Mr. Joyce.  
5745 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.  
5746 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
5747 Mr. Armstrong.  
5748 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong vote yes.  
5749 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
5750 Chairman Pallone.  
5751 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.  
5752 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
5753 \*The Chairman. Any member who still needs to be  
5754 recorded?  
5755 \*Mr. Doyle. Mr. Chairman, am I recorded? Mr. Doyle?  
5756 \*The Chairman. Mr. Doyle. Madam Clerk, is he recorded?  
5757 \*The Clerk. Yes. Mr. Doyle is recorded as no.  
5758 \*Mr. Doyle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5759 \*The Chairman. Anyone else who we missed?  
5760 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman?  
5761 \*The Chairman. Yes?  
5762 \*Mrs. Rodgers. How am I recorded?  
5763 \*The Chairman. How is the --  
5764 \*Mrs. Rodgers. This is Mrs. Rodgers, yes. How am I  
5765 recorded?  
5766 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
5767 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you.

5768 \*The Chairman. Anyone else that we think is missing?

5769 \*Mr. Joyce. This is Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania. Can you  
5770 ask, please, how I am recorded?

5771 \*The Chairman. Mr. Johnson. Madam Clerk, how is he  
5772 recorded?

5773 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is recorded as aye.

5774 \*The Chairman. Mr. Carter -- he just came back. Mr.  
5775 Carter, how is he recorded?

5776 \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter votes yes.

5777 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

5778 \*The Chairman. I think that was the last one that is  
5779 here.

5780 All right, Madam Clerk. Will you report the tally?

5781 \*The Clerk. Yes. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas  
5782 were 25 and the nays were 31.

5783 \*The Chairman. Okay. Thank you. So this is on the  
5784 Hudson amendment. The vote is 25 ayes to 31 noes, and the  
5785 amendment is not agreed to.

5786 Do we have any further amendments to the --

5787 \*Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bucshon has an  
5788 amendment at the desk.

5789 \*The Chairman. Yes. And how was that labeled?

5790 \*Mr. Bucshon. Amendment number 49.

5791 \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk, do you have that one?

5792 \*The Clerk. Yes, sir.

5793           \*The Chairman.  Would you report the Bucshon amendment?

5794           \*The Clerk.  Yes.  Amendment to the amendment in the  
5795 nature of a substitute to committee print relating to public  
5796 health offered by Mr. Bucshon of Indiana.  Page 7, after line  
5797 19, add the following:  "See priority'" --

5798           \*The Chairman.  Without objection, Madam Clerk, the  
5799 reading of the Bucshon amendment will be dispensed with.  
5800 Those --

5801           \*Ms. Kelly.  Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve a  
5802 point of order.

5803           \*The Chairman.  Okay.  The vice chair, Ms. Kelly,  
5804 reserves a point of order.

5805           \*Ms. Kelly.  I would like to reserve a point of order.

5806           \*The Chairman.  Okay.  So reserved.  That will be  
5807 reserved.  And Mr. Bucshon is now recognized for five minutes  
5808 in support of his amendment.

5809           [The amendment of Mr. Bucshon follows:]

5810

5811           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

5812           \*Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5813           Until the COVID-19 vaccines are widely distributed, we  
5814 must stay vigilant on testing. It is a two-pronged approach  
5815 that is necessary to not just reopen our economy but also to  
5816 keep our economy open. Employers need to be able to have  
5817 access to tests in order to adapt and make important  
5818 decisions with regard to their employees and their  
5819 operations.

5820           While I am pleased to see \$46 billion dedicated to  
5821 testing, I wish there was more prescriptive language in the  
5822 bill as to who gets the funds, how they get the funds, and  
5823 for what they can use the funds on. That is why I am  
5824 offering this amendment today that would dedicate \$10 billion  
5825 of the \$46 billion towards testing in the workplace in order  
5826 to get more workers back to work.

5827           With the several variants now crossing our borders,  
5828 catching new cases early through rapid testing will continue  
5829 to prove critical in limiting the spread. Reopening, just to  
5830 close again at the threat of the virus spreading, is not good  
5831 for business. The goal must be to reopen and stay open, and  
5832 the key to doing this is frequent, rapid testing at the  
5833 workplace.

5834           Thank you, and I yield back.

5835           \*The Chairman. Thank you, Dr. Bucshon. And let's see,  
5836 who do who do we have here? The Democrats, we have Mr.

5837 Sarbanes. Are you left over from the previous one or do you  
5838 want to talk about this? Your hand is up. Maybe not. John,  
5839 do you -- all right. I got John. I guess his hand was up  
5840 previously. I have -- Mark Veasey is recognized for five  
5841 minutes.

5842 \*Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. And  
5843 let me apologize in advance; I have a 14-year-old that is  
5844 doing band class upstairs, and the euphonium is very loud.  
5845 So I want to apologize if you hear that in the background.

5846 \*The Chairman. No need to apologize for having children  
5847 on this call.

5848 \*Mr. Veasey. I want to thank the gentleman for the  
5849 amendment to provide \$10 billion in funding to assist States  
5850 in testing individuals for COVID-19 in order to reopen  
5851 workplaces. I could not agree more. We need to get people  
5852 back to work, and we also need to get people back to school.  
5853 We all have too many constituents who are unemployed.

5854 But my concern with this amendment is that it is  
5855 actually too insufficient to meet the need. Our current text  
5856 has 46 billion for testing, tracing, and mitigation measures.  
5857 Discretion is left to the Secretary for the purposes of  
5858 determining how much of that 46 billion goes to opening  
5859 workplaces.

5860 In talking with the Biden administration, it is my  
5861 understanding that a large portion of these dollars are going

5862 to be used for purposes laid out in this amendment. I do not  
5863 want to hamstring the administration's efforts to reopen  
5864 workplaces, and because of this, I intend to vote against  
5865 this amendment, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

5866 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

5867 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mark.

5868 It is hard to see. Some people, I think, still have  
5869 their name up from the previous amendment. So I am going to  
5870 go to Mr. Pence. Mr. Pence is recognized for five minutes.

5871 \*Mr. Pence. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I rise in strong  
5872 support for my fellow Hoosier, Dr. Bucshon's, amendment to  
5873 set aside testing resources with the specific intent of  
5874 reopening workplaces.

5875 Getting Hoosiers and all Americans back to work is  
5876 critical to resume normal life and regain the extraordinary  
5877 economic advancements that we achieved over the past four  
5878 years under the Trump administration. Throughout this  
5879 pandemic I have been focused on ensuring that small  
5880 businesses have the support they need to continue serving  
5881 their communities and employing their workers. The  
5882 underlying bill provides massive amounts of mandatory funding  
5883 for testing. We should at least focus that testing on  
5884 strategies that get businesses back up and running instead of  
5885 filling unemployment lines.

5886 It is paramount that we fight back against this virus

5887 for the viability of our workforce and address the economic  
5888 effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I urge my colleagues to  
5889 support the amendment, and I yield back.

5890 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

5891 The next person I have is Kim Schrier seeks to be  
5892 recognized for five minutes. Dr. Schrier?

5893 \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike  
5894 the last word.

5895 First of all, in concept, I think you already know how  
5896 much I love this concept. I have been talking about rapid  
5897 testing, point of care testing, testing at home, for quite a  
5898 while. It is the number one thing I am pushing in addition  
5899 to vaccinations as a physician.

5900 Workplaces need it -- big workplaces, in fact, who are  
5901 buying these that have not even been FDA-approved yet so that  
5902 they can keep their workplaces safe. I have been talking  
5903 with fruit-packing plants, orchardists in my district, who  
5904 would love to have this to make their workplaces safe.

5905 I have also been talking with small business owners,  
5906 like restaurants. I mean, imagine this: If you had these  
5907 rapid home tests, you could have them as a pre-appetizer,  
5908 where before you even go into the restaurant, you take a  
5909 test. You test negative. And suddenly we can put more  
5910 people inside in our restaurants. And we extend the same  
5911 concept to schools.

5912           So I would just say I love the idea. I think we can be  
5913 less prescriptive. And frankly, if we just had a broad  
5914 category for rapid, inexpensive -- like a dollar each -- at-  
5915 home testing, that that could have a much wider application  
5916 for businesses, for schools, for homes, for restaurants, you  
5917 name it.

5918           So again, I agree on principle and am just excited to  
5919 have funding in this bill to expand testing in general.  
5920 Thank you, and I yield back.

5921           \*Mr. McNerney. Would the gentlelady yield to McNerney?

5922           \*The Chairman. Mr. McNerney?

5923           \*Ms. Schrier. Yes. I will yield to Mr. McNerney.

5924           \*Mr. McNerney. I thank the gentleman, and I thank you  
5925 for your comments; the same, Mr. Bucshon, for your efforts.  
5926 But currently there is an average of only 1.5 million tests  
5927 being conducted each day. Testing and contact-tracing, as  
5928 everyone knows, are essential to reducing the spread of  
5929 COVID, getting our kids back to school, and rebuilding the  
5930 economy.

5931           Fortunately, the American Rescue Plan invests \$46  
5932 billion to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor these  
5933 infections. This includes putting a national strategy into  
5934 action. That is something that has been missing up 'til now,  
5935 and it is something I have been advocating for since the  
5936 beginning of this public health crisis.



5937           It will also enable the CDC to deploy mobile vaccination  
5938 units, community vaccination centers in underrepresented  
5939 areas, which is really critically important in this pandemic.  
5940 And I am especially pleased to see that the bill will  
5941 advocate \$1.75 billion to the CDC for genomic testing. The  
5942 United States is behind other nations in our use of this  
5943 important tool to track COVID-19 and its variants.

5944           Some variants of the virus are circulating, and appear  
5945 to be more dangerous and more contagious and more resistant  
5946 to the vaccines in production. Genomic sequencing is  
5947 critical to keeping track of COVID-19 and its mutations  
5948 throughout the country.

5949           The American Rescue Plan will ensure that vaccines get  
5950 to the American people as soon as possible. This amendment  
5951 will ensure that the vaccine distribution is delayed. For  
5952 that reason, I oppose this amendment, and urge my colleagues  
5953 who want the kids back in schools as soon as possible to  
5954 oppose this amendment.

5955           And I yield back to Ms. Schrier -- Dr. Schrier.

5956           \*Ms. Schrier. And I yield back.

5957           \*The Chairman. Thank you.

5958           Next I have Buddy Carter. Buddy, you are recognized for  
5959 five minutes.

5960           \*Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5961           Mr. Chairman, once again, this is a partisan-bloated

5962 bill. There is not a single reason why any of us would not  
5963 want to include more funding to bolster testing for our  
5964 communities. Now, I know that my colleagues across the aisle  
5965 will argue that we cannot do this due to budget  
5966 reconciliation rules, but that is exactly the problem.  
5967 Republicans did not choose to do this under reconciliation.  
5968 My colleagues across the aisle did.

5969         They shut us out of the opportunity to get provisions  
5970 like this included, provisions that are nonpartisan. I  
5971 agree, the American people need a package to provide relief.  
5972 We have acknowledged that. We have continued to acknowledge  
5973 that, that there are needs out there. There are people who  
5974 still need help. We acknowledge that, and we want to do  
5975 something about that. I wish we could work together on it,  
5976 but we are not even getting the chance to do so.

5977         The Federal Reserve said just this week that the  
5978 unemployment rate is likely twice as high as the official  
5979 rate and could be nearly 10 percent. This matches the worst  
5980 unemployment rate in our country's history, the Great  
5981 Depression.

5982         Yet I make the point again that my colleagues across the  
5983 aisle will not even collaborate with us. It is disappointing  
5984 and heartbreaking for our country, and I hope we can change  
5985 the directory of how we are legislating and work together.  
5986 Anyone in, any time.

5987 Mr. Chairman, I will yield back.

5988 \*The Chairman. Mr. Carter -- okay.

5989 So next I have Dr. Ruiz. We have a lot of doctors on  
5990 our committee now.

5991 \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strike the last  
5992 word. I move to strike the last word.

5993 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

5994 \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you very much.

5995 I am a very big proponent for work site testing and  
5996 vaccination programs. The American Rescue Plan will help do  
5997 just that, both in the \$6 billion that it has for diagnostic  
5998 testing as well as the mobile clinics. And also Biden is  
5999 also moving the vaccination clinic sites with mobile units to  
6000 be able to move from one place to another.

6001 In addition to that, we need to focus on equity in the  
6002 workplace sites that are chosen. So are we going to focus on  
6003 testing and vaccinating Fortune 500 companies that have  
6004 individuals who can work from home, or are we going to  
6005 prioritize the hardest hit industries like the food industry,  
6006 who have the highest rates of infection rates and deaths, so  
6007 we can focus on, for example, meat packets, produce packets,  
6008 grocery workers, and farm workers?

6009 In fact, regarding the workplace testing, I myself as a  
6010 physician and public health expert has helped a local  
6011 collaborative of growers with Tudor Ranch, the healthcare

6012 districts, as well as the nonprofit advocacy organizations,  
6013 to go into the fields to be able to provide not only vaccines  
6014 but also vaccine educational outreach to the most vulnerable,  
6015 the farmworkers, who have been devastated in my district.

6016 So I absolutely believe that we should incorporate  
6017 health equity with workplace testing and vaccination. This  
6018 American Rescue Plan will allow us to do that. The Biden  
6019 administration has already included provisions like those in  
6020 their efforts. And I would like to partner with Dr. Bucshon  
6021 to advocate for workplace testing and vaccination, and focus  
6022 on equity in doing so. It is a big priority for the  
6023 Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

6024 Doing so now is, I do not believe, is the right place.  
6025 It would delay the aid that the American people need. The  
6026 American Rescue Plan already addresses it. But there is more  
6027 work that we can do.

6028 Thank you. I yield back.

6029 \*Mr. Bucshon. Will the gentleman yield? This is  
6030 Bucshon.

6031 \*Mr. Ruiz. Sure, my good friend.

6032 \*Mr. Bucshon. Thank you for those comments, and you and  
6033 have both done a lot of things together and will continue to.  
6034 We are friends.

6035 Yes. I mean, leaving things to the discretion of a  
6036 Federal agency, it is not only on this issue but a lot of

6037 other issues, I think it has been a mistake. I think  
6038 Congress has really given away a lot of our control about  
6039 where we should direct spending, and given that to agencies.

6040 So in this situation, I am concerned, like you are, of  
6041 the workers you describe, not only ones that work for large  
6042 companies, but what about people in rural America also? You  
6043 may or may not know I have a big melon district, farms in my  
6044 district. Indiana is -- and pumpkins, for example. We grow  
6045 a lot of the pumpkins.

6046 So I think this amendment's intent is to make sure at  
6047 least \$10 billion of the \$46 billion actually goes to helping  
6048 testing in the workplace because my fear is that that may --  
6049 they may get shortchanged. So that's the intent.

6050 But I appreciate your comments. I yield back to you.

6051 \*Mr. Ruiz. Yes. Dr. Bucshon, I just want to also  
6052 inform you that the Ag Committee just, during their budget  
6053 reconciliation, put \$4 billion within the USDA in order to  
6054 focus on the farmworkers. And that is part of the American  
6055 Rescue Plan that we are in such a hurry to pass so that we  
6056 can start using that aid to start inoculating those.

6057 And then I would also like to work to help our  
6058 farmworkers in our responsive districts and districts around  
6059 the country to get the vaccines and the testing that they so  
6060 desperately need.

6061 Thank you. I yield back.

6062 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

6063 Now I see Kelly Armstrong, but I don't know if that is  
6064 left over from the last one. Kelly, did you want to talk  
6065 about --

6066 \*Mr. Armstrong. That is left over. Sorry.

6067 \*The Chairman. Mr. Armstrong, did you want to speak on  
6068 this? No? Okay.

6069 So I don't see anybody else who wants to talk on the  
6070 Bucshon amendment.

6071 We will go to a vote. Mrs. Rodgers, did you want to  
6072 have a recorded vote?

6073 \*Mr. Bucshon. This is Mr. Bucshon. I would like to  
6074 have -- I will request a recorded vote.

6075 \*The Chairman. You want a recorded vote. Okay. So we  
6076 will move to a recorded vote.

6077 And the vice chair, you withdrew your reservation? Is  
6078 that what I heard?

6079 \*Ms. Kelly. Yes, she did. That is what I said.

6080 \*The Chairman. All right. So we are going to go to a  
6081 recorded vote on the Bucshon amendment. Please -- well,  
6082 those in favor of the Bucshon amendment will vote aye. Those  
6083 opposed will vote no. And the clerk shall call the roll.

6084 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.

6085 \*Mr. Rush. Rush from Illinois votes no.

6086 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

6087 Ms. Eshoo.  
6088 Ms. Eshoo of California votes no.  
6089 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.  
6090 Ms. DeGette.  
6091 [No response.]  
6092 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle.  
6093 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.  
6094 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.  
6095 Ms. Schakowsky.  
6096 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.  
6097 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
6098 Mr. Butterfield.  
6099 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.  
6100 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.  
6101 Ms. Matsui.  
6102 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
6103 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
6104 Ms. Castor.  
6105 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.  
6106 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
6107 Mr. Sarbanes.  
6108 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
6109 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
6110 Mr. McNerney.  
6111 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney of California votes no.

6112 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
6113 Mr. Welch.  
6114 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
6115 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
6116 Mr. Tonko.  
6117 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko of New York votes no.  
6118 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
6119 Ms. Clarke.  
6120 [No response.]  
6121 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader.  
6122 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
6123 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
6124 Mr. Cardenas.  
6125 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas, representing California, votes  
6126 no.  
6127 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
6128 Mr. Ruiz.  
6129 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
6130 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
6131 Mr. Peters.  
6132 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
6133 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
6134 Mrs. Dingell.  
6135 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
6136 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.



6137 Mr. Veasey.  
6138 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
6139 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
6140 Ms. Kuster.  
6141 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
6142 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
6143 Ms. Kelly.  
6144 [No response.]  
6145 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan.  
6146 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
6147 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
6148 Ms. Kelly.  
6149 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
6150 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
6151 Mr. McEachin.  
6152 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
6153 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
6154 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
6155 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
6156 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
6157 Mr. Soto.  
6158 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
6159 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
6160 Mr. O'Halleran.  
6161 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.

6162 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
6163 Miss Rice.  
6164 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
6165 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
6166 Ms. Craig.  
6167 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
6168 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
6169 Ms. Schrier.  
6170 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
6171 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
6172 Mrs. Trahan.  
6173 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
6174 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
6175 Mrs. Fletcher.  
6176 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
6177 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
6178 Mrs. Rodgers.  
6179 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes yes.  
6180 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
6181 Mr. Upton.  
6182 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
6183 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
6184 Mr. Burgess.  
6185 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
6186 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.

6187 Mr. Scalise.  
6188 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.  
6189 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
6190 Mr. Latta.  
6191 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
6192 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
6193 Mr. Guthrie.  
6194 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
6195 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
6196 Mr. McKinley.  
6197 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
6198 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
6199 Mr. Kinzinger.  
6200 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
6201 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
6202 Mr. Griffith.  
6203 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.  
6204 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
6205 Mr. Bilirakis.  
6206 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
6207 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
6208 Mr. Johnson.  
6209 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.  
6210 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
6211 Mr. Long.

6212 [No response.]

6213 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon.

6214 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.

6215 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.

6216 Mr. Mullin.

6217 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.

6218 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

6219 Mr. Hudson.

6220 [No response.]

6221 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg.

6222 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.

6223 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.

6224 Mr. Carter.

6225 \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter votes aye.

6226 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

6227 Mr. Duncan.

6228 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan votes aye.

6229 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.

6230 Mr. Palmer.

6231 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

6232 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

6233 Mr. Dunn.

6234 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.

6235 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

6236 Mr. Curtis.

6237 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
6238 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
6239 Mrs. Lesko.  
6240 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
6241 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
6242 Mr. Pence.  
6243 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.  
6244 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
6245 Mr. Crenshaw.  
6246 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Crenshaw, votes aye.  
6247 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
6248 Mr. Joyce.  
6249 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.  
6250 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
6251 Mr. Armstrong.  
6252 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong vote yes.  
6253 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
6254 Chairman Pallone.  
6255 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.  
6256 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
6257 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.  
6258 \*Mr. Rush. Rush from Illinois votes no.  
6259 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.  
6260 Ms. Eshoo.  
6261 \*Ms. Eshoo. Ms. Eshoo of California votes no.

6262 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.  
6263 Ms. DeGette.  
6264 [No response.]  
6265 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle.  
6266 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.  
6267 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.  
6268 Ms. Schakowsky.  
6269 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.  
6270 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
6271 Mr. Butterfield.  
6272 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.  
6273 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.  
6274 Ms. Matsui.  
6275 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
6276 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
6277 Ms. Castor.  
6278 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.  
6279 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
6280 Mr. Sarbanes.  
6281 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
6282 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
6283 Mr. McNerney.  
6284 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney of California votes no.  
6285 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
6286 Mr. Welch.

6287 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
6288 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
6289 Mr. Tonko.  
6290 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko of New York votes no.  
6291 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
6292 Ms. Clarke.  
6293 [No response.]  
6294 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader.  
6295 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
6296 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
6297 Mr. Cardenas.  
6298 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas, representing California, votes  
6299 no.  
6300 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
6301 Mr. Ruiz.  
6302 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
6303 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
6304 Mr. Peters.  
6305 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
6306 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
6307 Mrs. Dingell.  
6308 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
6309 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
6310 Mr. Veasey.  
6311 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.

6312 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
6313 Ms. Kuster.  
6314 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
6315 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
6316 Ms. Kelly.  
6317 [No response.]  
6318 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan.  
6319 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
6320 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
6321 Ms. Kelly.  
6322 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
6323 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
6324 Mr. McEachin.  
6325 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
6326 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
6327 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
6328 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
6329 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
6330 Mr. Soto.  
6331 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
6332 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
6333 Mr. O'Halleran.  
6334 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
6335 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
6336 Miss Rice.



6337 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
6338 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
6339 Ms. Craig.  
6340 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
6341 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
6342 Ms. Schrier.  
6343 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
6344 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
6345 Mrs. Trahan.  
6346 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
6347 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
6348 Mrs. Fletcher.  
6349 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
6350 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
6351 Mrs. Rodgers.  
6352 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes yes.  
6353 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
6354 Mr. Upton.  
6355 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
6356 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
6357 Mr. Burgess.  
6358 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
6359 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
6360 Mr. Scalise.  
6361 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.

6362 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
6363 Mr. Latta.  
6364 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
6365 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
6366 Mr. Guthrie.  
6367 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
6368 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
6369 Mr. McKinley.  
6370 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
6371 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
6372 Mr. Kinzinger.  
6373 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
6374 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
6375 Mr. Griffith.  
6376 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.  
6377 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
6378 Mr. Bilirakis.  
6379 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
6380 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
6381 Mr. Johnson.  
6382 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.  
6383 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
6384 Mr. Long.  
6385 [No response.]  
6386 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon.

6387 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
6388 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
6389 Mr. Mullin.  
6390 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.  
6391 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
6392 Mr. Hudson.  
6393 [No response.]  
6394 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg.  
6395 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
6396 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
6397 Mr. Carter.  
6398 \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
6399 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
6400 Mr. Duncan.  
6401 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
6402 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
6403 Mr. Palmer.  
6404 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
6405 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
6406 Mr. Dunn.  
6407 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.  
6408 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
6409 Mr. Curtis.  
6410 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
6411 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.

6412 Mrs. Lesko.

6413 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.

6414 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.

6415 Mr. Pence.

6416 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

6417 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.

6418 Mr. Crenshaw.

6419 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

6420 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

6421 Mr. Joyce.

6422 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

6423 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

6424 Mr. Armstrong.

6425 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong vote yes.

6426 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.

6427 Chairman Pallone.

6428 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.

6429 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.

6430 \*Ms. Clarke. Mr. Chairman?

6431 \*The Chairman. Yes, Ms. Clarke?

6432 \*Ms. Clarke. How am I recorded?

6433 \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk?

6434 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke has no recorded vote.

6435 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke votes no.

6436 \*Ms. Clarke. Thank you.

6437           \*The Chairman.  Anyone else?

6438           \*Mr. Hudson.  Mr. Chairman?

6439           \*The Chairman.  Yes?

6440           \*Mr. Hudson.  Mr. Hudson votes aye.

6441           \*The Clerk.  Mr. Hudson votes aye.

6442           \*The Chairman.  Anyone else?  I think that is it.

6443           All right.  Madam Clerk will report the tally on the

6444 Bucshon amendment.

6445           \*The Clerk.  On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas were 25

6446 and the nays were 31.

6447           \*The Chairman.  Thank you.  And on the Bucshon

6448 amendment, the vote is 25 ayes to 31 noes, and the amendment

6449 is not agreed to.

6450           Do we have any other amendments to the amendment in the

6451 nature of a substitute?

6452           \*Mr. Dunn.  Mr. Chairman, Mr. Dunn here.  I have an

6453 amendment at the desk.

6454           \*The Chairman.  All right.  What is your amendment

6455 labeled?

6456           \*Mr. Dunn.  Eighty-six.

6457           \*The Chairman.  Madam Clerk, do you have the amendment?

6458           \*The Clerk.  Yes, sir.

6459           \*The Chairman.  And you want to report the amendment,

6460 please.

6461           \*The Clerk.  Amendment to the amendment in the nature of

6462 a substitute to committee print relating to public health,  
6463 offered by Mr. Dunn of Florida. Page 5, line 4 --

6464 \*The Chairman. Without objection, Madam Clerk, the  
6465 reading of the amendment will be dispensed with.

6466 Does the vice chair wish to reserve --

6467 \*Ms. Kelly. Yes, Mr. Chair. I would like to reserve a  
6468 point of order.

6469 \*The Chairman. Ms. Kelly reserves a point of order.

6470 And the gentleman is now recognized for five minutes on  
6471 his amendment.

6472 [The amendment of Mr. Dunn follows:]

6473

6474 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

6475           \*Mr. Dunn. Thank you very much, Chairman Pallone. I  
6476 rise today to offer an amendment which will set aside funding  
6477 for FDA to review applications for COVID-19 therapeutics. As  
6478 manufacturers, the Federal Government, and States come  
6479 together to increase vaccinations, it is imperative that we  
6480 continue to evaluate the effectiveness of novel repurposed  
6481 drugs against COVID -- novel and repurposed drugs against  
6482 COVID-19.

6483           FDA could be laser-focused on rigorously evaluating  
6484 early intervention therapies that reduce hospitalizations and  
6485 severe cases of COVID-19. We already see variants of the  
6486 virus outwitting the vaccine in South Africa. It is possible  
6487 that we will be dealing with coronavirus transmission for  
6488 years to come.

6489           Treatments that reduce death and serious illness need to  
6490 be studied expeditiously at the FDA. They are far more  
6491 broad-specimen than the vaccines. I have seen compelling  
6492 evidence from throughout the medical community about early,  
6493 simple -- and I am talking take-it-home simple --  
6494 interventions that prevent serious complications and decrease  
6495 transmission of COVID-19.

6496           I am frustrated that more emphasis has not been placed  
6497 on identifying legacy drugs for the treatment of this  
6498 disease. My amendment funds the review of therapeutics-  
6499 related applications at FDA. Combined with the billions of

6500 dollars previously appropriately and included in the  
6501 underlying bill for therapeutics, this should give the  
6502 administration tools it needs to evaluate potential COVID-19  
6503 treatments.

6504 This will help research and development as well as  
6505 clinical trials and review. And we need to deliver more  
6506 options for treatment to our healthcare providers back home.  
6507 I encourage my colleagues to support allocated \$100 million  
6508 of the \$500 million directed to the FDA in this bill to be  
6509 specifically directed to the review of therapeutics.

6510 And with that, I yield back.

6511 \*The Chairman. I thank the gentleman.

6512 We recognize Ms. Eshoo now for five minutes.

6513 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I move to  
6514 strike the last word. I thank the gentleman for what he is  
6515 offering, but I think that we need to broaden this out.

6516 This is a really critical part of the overall plan that  
6517 we are taking up today, the FDA. Now, the FDA is working  
6518 around the clock to process EUA applications for COVID-19  
6519 vaccines, for diagnostics, for treatments, and these EUAs do  
6520 not generate user fees, my colleagues, to help fund the FDA's  
6521 work. So that is very important. I think Congress has  
6522 gotten almost a little ahead of their skis over the years  
6523 because we know there are user fees. But this area does not  
6524 generate any user fees, number one.



6525           FDA has been stretched to the limits and beyond. Since  
6526 the start of the pandemic, the FDA's Center for Devices and  
6527 Radiological Health has received almost 6,000 COVID-19 EUA  
6528 applications. That is more than in any of the six last  
6529 public health emergencies combined. So this is an  
6530 overwhelming workload.

6531           On testing alone, FDA is receiving 40 to 50 new  
6532 applications each week. This is on top of all of their other  
6533 vital work that they do that our committee knows very well  
6534 what they do, none of which has lessened during the pandemic.  
6535 For example, the Center for Devices and Radiological Health  
6536 still had 8,000 non-COVID -- 8,000 non-COVID -- premarket  
6537 medical device submissions in 2020. I just had a long  
6538 conversation with Dr. Shuren, and he was telling me how they  
6539 have had to move resources around, but all these new layers  
6540 of applications are coming in.

6541           So the FDA's work has essentially at least doubled  
6542 during the pandemic, only exacerbating the fact that the FDA  
6543 is, I think, chronically underfunded and under-resourced.  
6544 Now, that is why we specifically worked with the FDA -- you  
6545 can tell by the tone of my voice how strongly I feel about  
6546 this -- because it is so central to our overall effort  
6547 relative to COVID.

6548           So that is why we worked so hard with the FDA and the  
6549 Biden administration to specifically include \$500 million in

6550 funding to the FDA to provide -- and if you are listening to  
6551 me -- really much-needed resources in these critical areas.  
6552 The funding is to support the review, to facilitate the  
6553 development, and the post-marketing surveillance -- that is  
6554 so important with these vaccines, and certainly with other  
6555 drugs, but certainly for the vaccines -- the post-marketing  
6556 surveillance of the vaccines and therapeutics, address the  
6557 drug shortages, and ramp up the manufacturer inspections.

6558         We heard -- in fact, many of the members, myself leading  
6559 the charge -- really came down rather hard on the FDA for  
6560 overseas inspections because so much of our drug supply,  
6561 which is something we have to address, are not manufactured  
6562 in the United States. And so these manufacturing inspections  
6563 are really essential. And they have been delayed,  
6564 colleagues, during the pandemic.

6565         So this funding is provided with the flexibility that  
6566 the FDA needs to target this emergency funding across their  
6567 urgent priorities. So I think Dr. Shuren should be able to  
6568 say to the FDA commissioner, "This is what has come in the  
6569 door. I need this. We have caught up so I don't need  
6570 that.'" But this is all under the roof of the FDA. So I  
6571 really urge my colleagues to join me in moving the underlying  
6572 bill forward for all of the reasons that I stated.

6573         Now, on the issue that the gentleman raises in his  
6574 amendment, under vaccines and therapeutics, we have one

6575 billion going to the CDC to strengthen vaccine confidence;  
6576 5.2 to HHS for research, development, manufacturing,  
6577 production, purchase of vaccines and therapeutics. That is  
6578 in there, in that \$7.5 billion.

6579         So I would not step up and say that this is a solid plan  
6580 unless therapeutics were addressed, Mr. Dunn, because you are  
6581 absolutely right that this is a very important tool. And all  
6582 of last year we really did not make the kind of progress that  
6583 we should have. But we do have the resources in the  
6584 underlying bill. So we should not take a dime out of FDA, my  
6585 colleagues. They really need this money. They really need  
6586 this money.

6587         So I yield back probably no time.

6588         \*The Chairman. Thank you.

6589         So next we have -- Mr. Bilirakis is recognized.

6590         \*Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
6591 strike the last word in support of Mr. Dunn's amendment.

6592         One death, as you know, my colleagues, is too many.  
6593 While preventive measures like vaccines and safe practices  
6594 are key in our public response, treatment through therapeutic  
6595 intervention that can impede an escalation of disease  
6596 severity is also mission critical in our nonpartisan work to  
6597 save lives.

6598         As we work together to continue to turn the corner in  
6599 the fight against COVID-19, in addition to more vaccines, our

6600 providers should have access to as many treatment options as  
6601 possible to keep, again, COVID-19 patients out of the ICU and  
6602 this virus from continuing to claim lives. And that is the  
6603 goal, is to keep them out of the ICU.

6604 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and also  
6605 I want to make sure that our providers have access to  
6606 therapeutics and they are trained to administer these  
6607 therapeutics. And again, Dr. Dunn, this is a great  
6608 amendment. And I know we have doctors on the panel here, so  
6609 if anyone would like to elaborate, I will yield the rest of  
6610 my time.

6611 Dr. Dunn, do you want to say something?

6612 \*Mr. Dunn. I would like to jump in and take a couple  
6613 minutes here, if I could.

6614 \*Mr. Bilirakis. I yield the time to you.

6615 \*Mr. Dunn. Okay. So just to clarify, this amendment  
6616 does not take any money from the FDA. It moves money about  
6617 that is already directed to the FDA, and it focuses attention  
6618 specifically on therapeutics which, quite honestly, as  
6619 Chairwoman Eshoo noted, therapeutics have been ignored over  
6620 the last year, largely. With the exception of monoclonal  
6621 antibodies, convalescent plasma, and Remdesivir, we really  
6622 have not seen the progress in therapeutics that we feel is  
6623 warranted by the discoveries in the field.

6624 So there are subject drugs out there that we should be

6625 studying and offering guidance on to the general physician  
6626 and healthcare provider community that we are not doing. And  
6627 that is what I want to call attention to. There are other  
6628 things. Think Tamiflu when it was introduced back during the  
6629 avian and swine flu epidemics. That was a game-changer, so  
6630 if we could have a drug like Tamiflu -- Tamiflu does not work  
6631 in this disease, but a drug like Tamiflu for coronavirus, a  
6632 totally different game.

6633 And I yield back the remaining 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

6634 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. And is there anyone else  
6635 who would like to speak? I would be happy to yield. All  
6636 right -- oh, yes, Doctor? Please. Dr. Joyce, correct?

6637 \*Mr. Joyce. Yes. John Joyce from Pennsylvania. Thank  
6638 you, Gus. And I would like to strongly echo the words and  
6639 offer support for this amendment offered by my fellow  
6640 physician and my colleague from Florida.

6641 We are facing new strains of COVID-19, new strains from  
6642 the U.K., from Brazil and South Africa. And in light of  
6643 these new threats, now is not the time to let up on  
6644 innovation in face of these ongoing challenges. We have the  
6645 first generation vaccines. They have been developed, and  
6646 they are incredibly significant. We have all acknowledged  
6647 that this afternoon. But I believe that it is imperative  
6648 that we begin thinking about our government's approach to how  
6649 we fight this virus in the months and in the years to come.

6650           It is critical that we not lose sight of the development  
6651 of new and advanced therapeutics to prevent and treat this  
6652 virus. Just last week I was in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania at  
6653 a large public health clinic where they have vaccines and  
6654 they are administering them. But they asked me, "Where are  
6655 we with therapeutics?" Joanne Cochran, the lady who founded  
6656 this public health clinic and continues 25 years later to  
6657 make it strong, posed that question to me.

6658           This amendment brought forth by Neal Dunn is important,  
6659 and I encourage all of my colleagues to listen to what his  
6660 words are and to vote yes for the Dunn amendment. Thank you,  
6661 and I yield the remainder of my time.

6662           \*The Chairman. Mr. Bilirakis -- did he yield back, I  
6663 guess?

6664           \*Ms. Eshoo. Is there anyone that has time to yield  
6665 back, yield to me?

6666           \*Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, I do. I yield to the chairwoman  
6667 of the Health Subcommittee.

6668           \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Gus. I just want to add  
6669 something to this. The FDA does not do the development. It  
6670 examines the products and then renders their decision. The  
6671 development is done elsewhere. So this \$500 million, Mr.  
6672 Dunn and all of my colleagues, is the dollar figure that the  
6673 FDA came up with in terms of their needs. Therapeutics and  
6674 their examination of them to bring them forward for approval

6675 is all part of it.

6676           And if they did not have that in there, I would not be  
6677 standing next to it. I would have raised it with them, and I  
6678 would raise it with you. So I think we need to keep in mind  
6679 the lanes that the agency actually moves down. And they do  
6680 not do the development, but they do do the approval. And  
6681 they are the gold standard in the world for the approval of  
6682 what comes to the agency.

6683           And if the demands shift, the dollars will be there for  
6684 them. If they have to move them over to vaccine approval, a  
6685 little more there, less in Jeff Shuren's shop, I don't know.  
6686 But the commissioner will know that. And they are the ones  
6687 that came up with \$500 million. I feel very confident in  
6688 that number. But I do not want it fooled around with.

6689           So I appreciate your yielding to me, Gus. You probably  
6690 gave me more time than you even had.

6691           \*Mr. Bilirakis. That is all right.

6692           Before I yield, I just want to compliment the clerk for  
6693 doing an outstanding job today. I yield back the balance of  
6694 my time.

6695           \*The Chairman. All right. Thank you.

6696           Next I have the gentlewoman from New Hampshire, Ms.  
6697 Kuster, for five minutes.

6698           \*Ms. Kuster. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to  
6699 strike the last word.

6700 I agree with my colleague Dr. Dunn that we need to  
6701 invest more in novel therapeutics. And as we heard in the  
6702 Health Subcommittee last week, new therapeutics are a crucial  
6703 part of getting us through the COVID-19 pandemic. We must do  
6704 more to get these therapeutics developed, approved, and out  
6705 the door.

6706 And that is why I am so glad that the bill before us  
6707 already includes \$5.2 billion for new investments in  
6708 therapies, vaccines, and medical supplies. This funding  
6709 comes on the heels of the breaking news today that President  
6710 Biden has secured 200 million additional vaccine doses for  
6711 administration in the coming months. He is literally at the  
6712 NIH making that announcement as we meet.

6713 This language was written to allow flexibility to ensure  
6714 that investments are made where they make the most sense for  
6715 where we are in the pandemic, as the chair of the  
6716 subcommittee, Ms. Eshoo, has so eloquently pointed out. This  
6717 is very similar to how language was written in the bipartisan  
6718 CARES Act and the omnibus bill that passed at the end of  
6719 2020.

6720 My colleagues on both sides of the aisle supported that  
6721 legislation because it ensured flexibility for the Secretary  
6722 to invest more in resources where they need it most. That is  
6723 what led to multiple vaccines, authorized in record time, and  
6724 has allowed for additional therapies, including one therapy



6725 authorized just this week. I agree we need more therapies.  
6726 But I think the best path forward is to allow flexible  
6727 funding, as we did in CARES and the omnibus.

6728 I thank my colleague for this amendment, but I must urge  
6729 all members of the committee to vote no so we can move  
6730 forward and provide the relief that is so urgently needed by  
6731 the American people.

6732 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

6733 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

6734 I don't see anyone else's hand up at this point, so I'm  
6735 going to move to a vote. And --

6736 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chairman?

6737 \*The Chairman. Yes?

6738 \*Ms. Kelly. I withdraw my point of order. I withdraw  
6739 my point of order.

6740 \*The Chairman. The vice chair withdraws her point --

6741 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman, I request a recorded vote.

6742 \*The Chairman. The ranking member requests a recorded  
6743 vote. A recorded vote is ordered. Again, those in favor of  
6744 Dr. Dunn's amendment -- we have so many doctors now it is  
6745 like I am at the Medical Society conference here -- so we've  
6746 got those in favor of the Dunn amendment will say aye. Those  
6747 opposed to the amendment will say no.

6748 And the clerk shall call the roll.

6749 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.

6750 \*Mr. Rush. Rush from Illinois votes no.  
6751 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.  
6752 Ms. Eshoo.  
6753 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo of California votes no.  
6754 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.  
6755 Ms. DeGette.  
6756 [No response.]  
6757 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle.  
6758 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.  
6759 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.  
6760 Ms. Schakowsky.  
6761 [No response.]  
6762 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield.  
6763 [No response.]  
6764 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui.  
6765 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
6766 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
6767 Ms. Castor.  
6768 \*Ms. Castor. Castor votes no.  
6769 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
6770 Mr. Sarbanes.  
6771 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
6772 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
6773 Mr. McNerney.  
6774 [No response.]

6775 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch.  
6776 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
6777 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
6778 Mr. Tonko.  
6779 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko of New York votes no.  
6780 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
6781 Ms. Clarke.  
6782 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke of New York votes no.  
6783 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
6784 Mr. Schrader.  
6785 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
6786 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
6787 Mr. Cardenas.  
6788 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas, representing California, votes  
6789 no.  
6790 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
6791 Mr. Ruiz.  
6792 \*Mr. Ruiz. Dr. Ruiz, from the newly formed Energy and  
6793 Commerce Medical Society by the chairman, votes no.  
6794 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
6795 Mr. Peters.  
6796 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
6797 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
6798 Mrs. Dingell.  
6799 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.

6800 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
6801 Mr. Veasey.  
6802 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
6803 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
6804 Ms. Kuster.  
6805 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
6806 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
6807 Ms. Kelly.  
6808 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
6809 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
6810 Ms. Barragan.  
6811 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
6812 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
6813 Mr. McEachin.  
6814 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
6815 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
6816 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
6817 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
6818 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
6819 Mr. Soto.  
6820 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
6821 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
6822 Mr. O'Halleran.  
6823 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
6824 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.

6825 Miss Rice.  
6826 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
6827 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
6828 Ms. Craig.  
6829 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
6830 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
6831 Ms. Schrier.  
6832 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
6833 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
6834 Mrs. Trahan.  
6835 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
6836 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
6837 Mrs. Fletcher.  
6838 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
6839 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
6840 Mrs. Rodgers.  
6841 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
6842 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
6843 Mr. Upton.  
6844 [No response.]  
6845 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess.  
6846 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
6847 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
6848 Mr. Scalise.  
6849 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.

6850 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
6851 Mr. Latta.  
6852 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
6853 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
6854 Mr. Guthrie.  
6855 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
6856 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
6857 Mr. McKinley.  
6858 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
6859 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
6860 Mr. Kinzinger.  
6861 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
6862 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
6863 Mr. Griffith.  
6864 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith, aye.  
6865 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
6866 Mr. Bilirakis.  
6867 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
6868 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
6869 Mr. Johnson.  
6870 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.  
6871 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
6872 Mr. Long.  
6873 [No response.]  
6874 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon.

6875 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
6876 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
6877 Mr. Mullin.  
6878 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.  
6879 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
6880 Mr. Hudson.  
6881 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
6882 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
6883 Mr. Walberg.  
6884 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
6885 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
6886 Mr. Carter.  
6887 \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
6888 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
6889 Mr. Duncan.  
6890 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
6891 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
6892 Mr. Palmer.  
6893 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
6894 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
6895 Mr. Dunn.  
6896 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.  
6897 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
6898 Mr. Curtis.  
6899 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.

6900 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
6901 Mrs. Lesko.  
6902 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
6903 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
6904 Mr. Pence.  
6905 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.  
6906 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
6907 Mr. Crenshaw.  
6908 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.  
6909 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
6910 Mr. Joyce.  
6911 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.  
6912 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
6913 Mr. Armstrong.  
6914 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong vote yes.  
6915 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
6916 Chairman Pallone.  
6917 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.  
6918 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
6919 \*The Chairman. Does any member still need to record  
6920 their vote?  
6921 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
6922 \*The Chairman. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
6923 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
6924 \*The Chairman. Mr. Upton, do you have your hand up?



6925 \*Mr. Upton. Yes. Votes aye.

6926 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.

6927 \*Mr. McNerney. Mr. Chairman, McNerney votes no.

6928 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.

6929 \*The Chairman. Anyone else? Billy?

6930 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I think he is having connection issues.

6931 So I think it is his -- can we see him now?

6932 \*The Chairman. I can see him, yes.

6933 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Can he do a thumbs up? He said he was

6934 having audio issues.

6935 \*The Chairman. It has to be verbal, I think, under the

6936 rules, Cathy.

6937 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Okay.

6938 \*The Chairman. But, I mean, we can wait if --

6939 \*Mr. Long. Can you hear me now?

6940 \*The Chairman. Yes. I can hear you.

6941 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, Billy.

6942 \*Mr. Long. I cannot see me. It looked like I am not

6943 on. But I vote aye, yes.

6944 \*The Chairman. He votes aye.

6945 \*The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.

6946 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Billy. Good to see you.

6947 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Oh, now he is front and center.

6948 \*The Chairman. I can see him.

6949 Mr. Butterfield has not voted. Is he -- I see him. I

6950 do not think he has voted. Has Mr. Butterfield voted, Madam  
6951 Clerk?

6952 \*The Clerk. He does not have a recorded vote.

6953 \*The Chairman. Does he know that we -- G.K.? How do we  
6954 get his attention? Somebody send him a note or something.  
6955 No, he is not frozen. He is on the phone. G.K.?

6956 \*Mr. Butterfield. Mr. Chairman?

6957 \*The Chairman. Is that G.K.? You are not recorded,  
6958 G.K. I don't know. Is he trying to say something? Mr.  
6959 Butterfield, you are not recorded. All right. Well, we  
6960 cannot wait forever.

6961 \*Mr. Butterfield. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?  
6962 G.K. Butterfield.

6963 \*The Chairman. You are not recorded.

6964 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.

6965 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

6966 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.

6967 \*The Chairman. I think that is everybody who is  
6968 present. Madam Clerk, on the Dunn amendment, will you report  
6969 the tally?

6970 \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas were 26  
6971 and the nays were 31.

6972 \*The Chairman. Okay. So on the Dunn amendment, the  
6973 vote is 26 aye to 31 no, and the amendment is not agreed to.

6974 Are there any further amendments to the amendment in the

6975 nature of a substitute?

6976 \*Mr. McKinley. Yes. Mr. Chairman? Mr. McKinley.

6977 \*The Chairman. All right.

6978 \*Mr. McKinley. I have an amendment at the desk.

6979 \*The Chairman. Do we have -- what is it labeled?

6980 \*Mr. McKinley. Number 67. Number 67.

6981 \*The Chairman. Okay. And Madam Clerk, you have it?

6982 \*The Clerk. Yes, sir.

6983 \*The Chairman. Okay. Will you report the McKinley  
6984 amendment, please?

6985 \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
6986 a substitute to committee print relating to public health,  
6987 offered by Mr. McKinley of West Virginia. Page 28 --

6988 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Without objection -- Madam Clerk,  
6989 without objection, the reading the McKinley amendment will be  
6990 dispensed with. Does --

6991 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve a  
6992 point of order.

6993 \*The Chairman. The vice chair reserves a point of  
6994 order. And the gentleman is recognized on his amendment.  
6995 Mr. McKinley.

6996 [The amendment of Mr. McKinley follows:]

6997

6998 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

6999           \*Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7000           The drug abuse epidemic did not go away when the virus  
7001 arrived from China, so America has been fighting two  
7002 epidemics. In fact, COVID made the overdose epidemic even  
7003 worse. Before the virus arrived, opioid deaths in America  
7004 had already increased by 18 percent nationwide over the  
7005 previous year, and emergency visits were up almost 30  
7006 percent.

7007           Now fast followed to today, just 12 months later.  
7008 Overdose rates are now up nearly 30 percent more over last  
7009 year. Allegheny County in Maryland is up 111 percent since  
7010 last year. You heard Gus Bilirakis in Florida refer to one  
7011 of his counties; it is 71 percent. And for Ms. Blunt  
7012 Rochester, last spring in Delaware they were up 11 percent,  
7013 but since that time last year they are up 47 percent in one  
7014 year's time. My home county in West Virginia is up 51  
7015 percent in the past year.

7016           So in fact, until a surge of the virus at the end of  
7017 last year, West Virginia was experiencing more deaths from  
7018 opioids than from COVID. So Congress seems to be unable to  
7019 handle two epidemics at the same time.

7020           According to a Harvard economist, COVID is going to cost  
7021 the American economy over \$16 trillion, but Congress has  
7022 committed to over \$6 trillion to address the issue. That  
7023 means Congress has invested about 35 percent of the cost of

7024 the virus to fight it. That is impressive. That investment  
7025 will hopefully put this pandemic in the rear view mirror.  
7026 But the opioid crisis will continue to be a scourge on  
7027 communities.

7028 Now, let's put this in perspective. According to the  
7029 NIH, drug abuse costs the American economy approximately \$270  
7030 billion a year, but last year we allocated just nearly \$8  
7031 billion to fight it. So when you calculate that, that is  
7032 less than 3 percent of what the disease cost the American  
7033 economy. So 3 percent with opioids versus 35 percent with  
7034 COVID; does that seem fair?

7035 Let me try framing it another way, from an engineering  
7036 perspective. COVID deaths are five times that of overdoses  
7037 with drugs, five times, but we are spending 750 times more  
7038 money to battle that over drug abuse. So what I am asking  
7039 you: Should that overdose epidemic be taken more seriously  
7040 by Congress?

7041 Since States have not necessarily followed the intent of  
7042 Congress, my amendment calls for an additional \$3 billion to  
7043 SAMHSA that would be dedicated -- dedicated -- for treating  
7044 substance abuse. Congress can fund it, for example, from the  
7045 \$350 billion allocated to State and local governments. That  
7046 amount is less than 1 percent of the funds that we would be  
7047 giving to State and local governments. A decrease of 1  
7048 percent will not hurt their efforts. But 1 percent will make

7049 a huge difference for communities and families suffering from  
7050 this pain of addiction.

7051 I urge this committee to balance the funding better  
7052 between these two epidemics. Accepting this amendment will  
7053 not hold up passage of this bill. Just think about it.  
7054 Thirty-five percent for one virus versus 3 percent for  
7055 another crisis. I don't know about you, but I don't know any  
7056 economist who would think that is a fair tradeoff.

7057 I yield back.

7058 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. McKinley.

7059 On the Democratic side, I have Annie Kuster next. The  
7060 gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for five  
7061 minutes.

7062 \*Ms. Kuster. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
7063 the last word.

7064 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

7065 \*Ms. Kuster. This amendment would change the proposed  
7066 funding level in SAMHSA's substance abuse prevention and  
7067 treatment block grant from \$1.75 billion to \$4.75 billion.  
7068 I, too, am concerned with the recent data showing that drug  
7069 overdose deaths are up to an all-time high, with one --  
7070 excuse me -- 81,230 Americans dying of drug overdose.

7071 During my time in Congress, I have made it a top  
7072 priority to combat the opioid epidemic and bring forward real  
7073 solutions to help Americans struggling with substance abuse

7074 disorder. While I appreciate my colleague's support for  
7075 these substance abuse disorder services and his partnership  
7076 to address this crisis, this amendment would likely result in  
7077 the committee exceeding its budget cap for this  
7078 reconciliation process.

7079 I welcome the opportunity to work with my colleague once  
7080 we have advanced this reconciliation bill because there is  
7081 overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress to strengthen our  
7082 Federal response to the opioid epidemic. However, the rescue  
7083 bill before us today must advance as soon as possible, and  
7084 any complications to our budget level jeopardizes our ability  
7085 to deliver critical COVID-19 relief to our communities.

7086 I recommend my colleagues to oppose this amend, and I  
7087 yield back my time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7088 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Kuster.

7089 And next I see Mr. Bilirakis' hand is up. You are  
7090 recognized for five minutes. Gus --

7091 \*Mr. Bilirakis. I am good. That was from before. I  
7092 apologize, Mr. Chairman.

7093 \*The Chairman. Okay. And so then we go to -- Dr.  
7094 Burgess is recognized for five minutes.

7095 \*Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Chairman. I do want to speak  
7096 in support of the amendment.

7097 Last week the Department of Health and Human Services  
7098 issued a report on opioid use and Medicare Part D since the

7099 beginning of the pandemic [brief audio drop] have been a  
7100 victim to opioid overdose each month since the start of the  
7101 public health emergency. Five thousand a month, a very  
7102 significant number.

7103 Mr. McKinley's amendment would ensure that the States  
7104 and localities dedicate resources for substance use disorder,  
7105 and builds on the success of the Support Act. I worry if we  
7106 do not address substance use disorder now, we will be dealing  
7107 with additional --

7108 \*The Chairman. I think we lost him. Mike? Mike, we  
7109 cannot hear you.

7110 \*Mr. Burgess. I am here.

7111 \*The Chairman. I don't know. You keep coming in and  
7112 out, Mike. All right. Start again. Start again.

7113 \*Mr. Burgess. I cannot see you.

7114 \*The Chairman. I don't know. He is frozen or  
7115 something.

7116 \*Mr. Burgess. Let me try to -- yes. I have lost you  
7117 all, too.

7118 \*The Chairman. We can hear you now. I don't know. We  
7119 may have to go -- does anyone else seek recognition? Maybe  
7120 he can correct it.

7121 \*Mr. Burgess. Everything is coming back. You know, if  
7122 they had a better congressman in this area -- I think you are  
7123 coming back, Frank. My internet had a TIA.



7124           \*The Chairman. I can see you. All right. Try again.  
7125 I can see you now.

7126           \*Mr. Burgess. All right. I have unmuted. I can see  
7127 everyone again. All right. We need better broadband, so  
7128 let's add that to the list as well.

7129           Again, I will not say all of that again, but I do  
7130 support Mr. McKinley's amendment. And just adding to that,  
7131 the discussion we have been having about bipartisanship,  
7132 working together, reconciliation, I know we did  
7133 reconciliation when we were in the majority, and it is your  
7134 right to do reconciliation.

7135           But one of the big wins for the Energy and Commerce  
7136 Committee two Congresses ago was actually the Support Act.  
7137 And remember, we started with a Member Day in October of  
7138 2017, and culminated in a signing ceremony at the White House  
7139 exactly one year later. Had input from literally everyone in  
7140 the committee, and really Congress-wide. So that is kind of  
7141 a model for how I think we should be -- how we could work  
7142 together on some of these things.

7143           But again, I just speak in support of Mr. McKinley's  
7144 amendment because I do think it is so important. We have had  
7145 an increase in overdoses in the Medicare population since the  
7146 pandemic started, and if we do not pay attention to it now,  
7147 we will be dealing with another public health emergency down  
7148 the road.

7149 I thank the gentleman for bringing the amendment to the  
7150 attention of the committee. I yield back.

7151 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mike.

7152 Jerry McNerney's hand is up. Mr. McNerney, you are  
7153 recognized for five minutes.

7154 \*Mr. McNerney. Well, thank you, Chairman, for  
7155 recognizing me. I move to strike the last word on this  
7156 amendment.

7157 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

7158 \*Mr. McNerney. The American Rescue Plan does bolster  
7159 support for critical mental health and substance abuse  
7160 disorders. Data released by the Mental Health of America  
7161 shows that more than a quarter million people screened  
7162 positive for depression and anxiety since the start of the  
7163 pandemic, noting that youth are more likely to have anxiety  
7164 and depression compared to other groups. And we know, as Mr.  
7165 McKinley would pointed out, that drug overdose deaths are up  
7166 to an all-time high, with more than 80,000 Americans dying of  
7167 drug overdose per year. This is serious.

7168 But the American Rescue act will provide \$4 billion to  
7169 enable Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
7170 Administration and Health Resources and Services  
7171 Administration to expand access to these vital mental health  
7172 and substance abuse disorder services. This American Rescue  
7173 Plan is a real opportunity for us to move forward

7174 aggressively on substance abuse disorders and treatments.

7175         So if we try to block this with changing the American  
7176 Rescue Plan, we are going to set ourselves back. And I have  
7177 said this repeatedly today: Trying to block this plan or  
7178 change this plan is going to set the rescue attempts back.  
7179 And so we need to move aggressively right now, pass this  
7180 thing, forget this amendment, and we will move forward. And  
7181 then we can negotiate other terms later, as other people have  
7182 pointed out. So I urge my colleagues to oppose this  
7183 amendment so that we can get aid to the American people as  
7184 quickly as possible.

7185         Any other Democrats wish to claim time? Seeing no one,  
7186 I yield back.

7187         \*The Chairman. Thank you. I don't see anybody else's  
7188 hand raised, so I guess we will go to a vote. Mrs. Rodgers,  
7189 do you want a recorded vote on this one?

7190         \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, please.

7191         \*The Chairman. Okay. And --

7192         \*Mrs. Rodgers. I recognize a recorded vote.

7193         \*The Chairman. Okay.

7194         \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my point of order.

7195         \*The Chairman. The vice chair withdraws her point of  
7196 order.

7197         A recorded vote is ordered on the McKinley amendment.

7198 Those in favor of the McKinley amendment will say aye. Those

7199 opposed to the amendment will say no. And the clerk shall  
7200 call the roll.

7201 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.

7202 [No response.]

7203 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo.

7204 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo of California votes no.

7205 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.

7206 Ms. DeGette.

7207 [No response.]

7208 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle.

7209 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.

7210 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.

7211 Ms. Schakowsky.

7212 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.

7213 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.

7214 Mr. Butterfield.

7215 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.

7216 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.

7217 Ms. Matsui.

7218 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.

7219 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.

7220 Ms. Castor.

7221 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.

7222 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

7223 Mr. Sarbanes.

7224 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
7225 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
7226 Mr. McNerney.  
7227 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes no.  
7228 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
7229 Mr. Welch.  
7230 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
7231 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
7232 Mr. Tonko.  
7233 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko of New York votes no.  
7234 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
7235 Ms. Clarke.  
7236 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
7237 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
7238 Mr. Schrader.  
7239 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
7240 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
7241 Mr. Cardenas.  
7242 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas, representing California, votes  
7243 no.  
7244 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
7245 Mr. Ruiz.  
7246 [No response.]  
7247 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters.  
7248 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.

7249 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
7250 Mrs. Dingell.  
7251 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
7252 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
7253 Mr. Veasey.  
7254 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
7255 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
7256 Ms. Kuster.  
7257 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
7258 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
7259 Ms. Kelly.  
7260 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
7261 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
7262 Ms. Barragan.  
7263 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
7264 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
7265 Mr. McEachin.  
7266 [No response.]  
7267 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester --  
7268 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
7269 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
7270 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
7271 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
7272 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
7273 Mr. Soto.

7274 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
7275 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
7276 Mr. O'Halleran.  
7277 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
7278 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
7279 Miss Rice.  
7280 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
7281 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
7282 Ms. Craig.  
7283 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
7284 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
7285 Ms. Schrier.  
7286 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
7287 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
7288 Mrs. Trahan.  
7289 [No response.]  
7290 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher.  
7291 [No response.]  
7292 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers.  
7293 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
7294 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
7295 Mr. Upton.  
7296 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
7297 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
7298 Mr. Burgess.

7299 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
7300 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
7301 Mr. Scalise.  
7302 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.  
7303 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
7304 Mr. Latta.  
7305 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
7306 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
7307 Mr. Guthrie.  
7308 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
7309 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
7310 Mr. McKinley.  
7311 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
7312 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
7313 Mr. Kinzinger.  
7314 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger votes aye.  
7315 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
7316 Mr. Griffith.  
7317 [No response.]  
7318 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis.  
7319 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
7320 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
7321 Mr. Johnson.  
7322 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.  
7323 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.



7324 Mr. Long.  
7325 [No response.]  
7326 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon.  
7327 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
7328 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
7329 Mr. Mullin.  
7330 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.  
7331 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
7332 Mr. Hudson.  
7333 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
7334 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
7335 Mr. Walberg.  
7336 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
7337 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
7338 Mr. Carter.  
7339 \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
7340 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
7341 Mr. Duncan.  
7342 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
7343 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
7344 Mr. Palmer.  
7345 \*Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
7346 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
7347 Mr. Dunn.  
7348 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.

7349 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
7350 Mr. Curtis.  
7351 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
7352 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
7353 Mrs. Lesko.  
7354 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
7355 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
7356 Mr. Pence.  
7357 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.  
7358 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
7359 Mr. Crenshaw.  
7360 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.  
7361 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
7362 Mr. Joyce.  
7363 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.  
7364 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
7365 Mr. Armstrong.  
7366 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong vote yes.  
7367 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
7368 Chairman Pallone.  
7369 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.  
7370 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
7371 \*Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman?  
7372 \*The Chairman. Yes, go ahead. Bobby?  
7373 \*Mr. Rush. How am I recorded? Rush votes no.

7374 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

7375 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Mr. Chairman, how is Fletcher recorded?

7376 \*The Chairman. Mrs. Fletcher, Madam Clerk?

7377 \*The Clerk. No recorded vote for Mrs. Fletcher.

7378 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.

7379 \*Mr. Ruiz. Mr. Chairman, how is Ruiz recorded?

7380 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

7381 \*The Chairman. Mr. Rush?

7382 \*The Clerk. No recorded vote for Mr. Ruiz.

7383 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.

7384 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.

7385 \*The Chairman. Anyone else?

7386 \*Mrs. Trahan. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman, how is

7387 Trahan recorded?

7388 \*The Clerk. No recorded vote for Mrs. Trahan.

7389 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.

7390 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.

7391 \*Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, this is Morgan Griffith,

7392 and I vote yes.

7393 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

7394 \*The Chairman. I don't know what happened to Billy.

7395 Did we lose him again? Billy? I see him. Mr. Long? Yes,

7396 but you got to say it. You cannot just use your finger. You

7397 are muted. You have got to come on the voice. Does he not

7398 have the ability to do it? Billy, you are unmuted now?

7399 \*Mr. Long. No. It will not let me.

7400 \*The Chairman. I can hear you. Go ahead.

7401 \*Mr. Long. I vote aye.

7402 \*The Chairman. He votes aye.

7403 \*The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.

7404 \*The Chairman. Anyone else who is missing? No? I  
7405 think we are good.

7406 All right. On the McKinley amendment, the clerk will  
7407 report the tally.

7408 \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas were 26  
7409 and the nays were 31.

7410 \*The Chairman. All right. So on the McKinley  
7411 amendment, the vote is 26 ayes to 31 noes, and the amendment  
7412 is not agreed to.

7413 Do we have any other amendments to the amendment in the  
7414 nature of a substitute?

7415 \*Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Chairman, this is Guthrie. I have an  
7416 amendment at the desk.

7417 \*The Chairman. Okay. And what is your amendment  
7418 labeled?

7419 \*Mr. Guthrie. Amendment 81.

7420 \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk, do you have that?

7421 \*The Clerk. Yes, sir.

7422 \*The Chairman. All right. Will the clerk report the  
7423 amendment?

7424           \*The Clerk.  Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
7425 a substitute to the committee print relating to public  
7426 health, offered by Mr. Guthrie of Kentucky.  At the end of  
7427 subtitle A, insert the following:  "Chapter 8, additional  
7428 appropriations to the public health and social services'" --

7429           \*The Chairman.  Without objection, Madam Clerk --  
7430 without objection, the reading of the Guthrie amendment will  
7431 be dispensed with.

7432           Ms. Kelly?

7433           \*Ms. Kelly.  Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve a  
7434 point of order.

7435           \*The Chairman.  The vice chair reserves a point of  
7436 order.

7437           And the gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for five  
7438 minutes in support of his amendment.

7439           [The amendment of Mr. Guthrie follows:]

7440

7441           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

7442           \*Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate it.

7443           I think we can all agree that the heroes of this  
7444 pandemic are the men and women on the front lines of the  
7445 COVID-19 virus. Healthcare providers have been put under  
7446 tremendous stress, and we must continue to support them.

7447           That is why this amendment will provide healthcare  
7448 providers more relief through the COVID-19 Provider Relief  
7449 Fund. Just yesterday I heard from a local county official  
7450 expressing his need for financial support for a county  
7451 ambulance service that experienced loss of revenue due to the  
7452 pandemic. Providers need our support, and I believe we  
7453 should help with increasing the provider relief fund instead  
7454 of funding other things like the multi-employer pension  
7455 bailout, which had issues prior to COVID-19, as this partisan  
7456 package does.

7457           It is amazing to me -- I know this has been presented as  
7458 a carefully designed plan by the administration and some  
7459 members of this committee. But it is amazing to me that we  
7460 are going to spend \$1.9 trillion and not provide any money to  
7461 the fund that is directly taking care of our providers. It  
7462 is \$35 billion to this fund, but that is only half of what we  
7463 are providing to the multi-employer pension program that  
7464 needed a bailout. I used to be on Ed and Labor, and needed a  
7465 bailout far prior to this COVID issue.

7466           My amendment ensures that a specific portion of the

7467 funding will go directly to providers, who have been hit  
7468 hard, to rural areas, and to Medicaid providers. I urge all  
7469 members of the committee to vote yes, and I yield back to the  
7470 chair.

7471 \*The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. I am going to  
7472 yield to myself and speak in opposition to the Guthrie  
7473 amendment.

7474 I just want to stress that I recognize that healthcare  
7475 providers' and hospital systems' normal operations have been  
7476 severely disrupted by COVID, and that many are facing new  
7477 challenges that have at times limited their ability to  
7478 deliver their routine healthcare services. And that has  
7479 resulted in financial hardships for these critical providers.

7480 And it is for that reason that both Democrats and  
7481 Republicans came together last year to provide \$175 billion  
7482 in funding to healthcare providers to ensure that they could  
7483 continue to operate without disruption or by shutting their  
7484 doors. In addition, Medicare providers have received  
7485 approximately \$107 billion in loans through the Accelerated  
7486 and Advance Payment Program to help increase their cash flow.

7487 According to the Department of Health and Human  
7488 Services, the Department currently still has available \$24  
7489 billion in unobligated funds in the provider relief fund.  
7490 And Democrats intend to work with Republicans and the Biden  
7491 administration to ensure these funds are distributed

7492 equitably across the country and reach the providers most in  
7493 need of supplemental funding.

7494       Above all else, though, for these providers to return to  
7495 normal operations and resume their typical healthcare  
7496 delivery, we have to end the pandemic. The real priority  
7497 here, obviously, is to crush this pandemic. And that is why  
7498 I think in this bill we have to significantly ramp up  
7499 investments in vaccine distribution and testing and tracing  
7500 capabilities, and healthcare workforce expansion, in order to  
7501 effectively mitigate the spread of the virus and help return  
7502 our health system to normal.

7503       So for most of 2020, States were left high and dry with  
7504 no resources for planning and implementing a vaccine  
7505 distribution strategy . And we saw the result of that when  
7506 vaccines were delivered to States in December but no plan was  
7507 really in place to get them in peoples' arms. We came  
7508 together to provide another \$8.75 billion for vaccine  
7509 distribution in the end-of-the-year omnibus, but a lot more  
7510 is needed to build the sustainable vaccination campaign that  
7511 gets into every community.

7512       The U.S. continues to lag behind other global nations  
7513 when it comes to testing as well because these initiatives  
7514 have been funded well below what was necessary to effectively  
7515 test the Nation's population or develop a strategy for  
7516 mitigation.



7517           And while we remain pleased that we could provide robust  
7518 funding for provider relief in a bipartisan way, I just think  
7519 that now is the time, given that funds are still unobligated  
7520 for providers, that our public health mechanisms critical to  
7521 crushing the virus really need to move towards the vaccine,  
7522 the testing, and the contact tracing.

7523           So the underlying legislation provides \$7.5 billion in  
7524 funding for the CDC for vaccine distribution, 46 for testing  
7525 and tracing. Also included is \$9 billion for the healthcare  
7526 workforce expansion and loan repayment programs. And the  
7527 problem is, if we provide more money to the provider relief  
7528 funds, they already have \$24 billion they are not using; we  
7529 would probably have to cut back on the vaccine or the testing  
7530 or the additional healthcare workforce, which I think does  
7531 not make sense, given that there is still unobligated money  
7532 in the Provider Relief Fund.

7533           So again, I understand why providers are so important.  
7534 I do not mean to undermine that in any way. But I just think  
7535 that if we are going to end the pandemic, this bill has to go  
7536 towards the vaccines, the testing, the contact tracing, and  
7537 improving the public health workforce. And that is why I  
7538 oppose the Guthrie amendment.

7539           I only have less than a minute left, so I will just  
7540 yield back and go to -- according to this list I go next to  
7541 Dr. Burgess.

7542           \*Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Chair. Last December we were  
7543 doing the final Coronavirus installment as well as the  
7544 Omnibus Bill kind of wrapped together in one package. I had  
7545 attempted to ameliorate the cuts that were proposed in the  
7546 evaluation and management codes at CMS and I offered a bill  
7547 along with Bobby Rush to do that and to offset the cost of  
7548 that with unobligated funds from the Provider Relief Fund.

7549           I was told at that time that the Provider Relief Fund  
7550 was completely tapped out, that all of the funds had either  
7551 been expended or obligated, and there was not the \$17 billion  
7552 that I would have needed to provide that relief on the E&M  
7553 Codes.

7554           So I think that points out an essential problem, number  
7555 one, this committee, the authorizing committee really has not  
7556 had a crisp role in the oversight in the spending from the  
7557 Provider Relief Fund. We don't really know -- you're saying  
7558 there's \$24 billion unobligated. I was told in December the  
7559 till is tapped out.

7560           So really that's a pretty big discrepancy and we should  
7561 know the answer to that. As the authorizing committee we  
7562 should know that. That's in fact embarrassing that we don't  
7563 know, Mr. Chairman.

7564           But I also think that Mr. Guthrie is exactly on point.  
7565 Look, we've asked an awful lot of our providers over these  
7566 last 11, 12 months and we all say they're our heroes, they're

7567 in charge of the coin flip at the Superbowl, but then when it  
7568 comes time to actually trying to make things right for me,  
7569 well, we've got other things that are occupying our time and  
7570 attention.

7571 Well, this time I think we ought to do the right thing.  
7572 I think Mr. Guthrie is exactly on the right track. Let us  
7573 provide some additional funding to the Provider Relief Fun. I  
7574 just heard from a group of doctors last night who had called  
7575 me about this very issue, that the Provider Relief Fund is no  
7576 longer in the business of providing provider relief. It  
7577 needs to get back in that business.

7578 If indeed it was a good thing, Mr. Chairman, when you  
7579 argued for that when we passed the CARES Act on March 27th it  
7580 would be a good thing to provide additional relief for our  
7581 providers. Again, we've said over and over again you're our  
7582 heroes, you're the ones on the frontline, you're the ones  
7583 absorbing the brunt of this pandemic, but they're also the  
7584 ones who had to pause all their elective procedures, all of  
7585 the cashflow that you depend upon to run a small or medium or  
7586 even a large medical practice essentially evaporated when the  
7587 pandemic started.

7588 So this amendment is timely and I can't speak strongly  
7589 enough in favor of it. Let's do the right thing and provide  
7590 that money where it's needed.

7591 \*The Chairman. Can I ask you if you're done, Mike, can

7592 I ask you to yield to me briefly, Doctor.

7593 \*Mr. Burgess. Sure, I'd be happy to yield to you.

7594 \*The Chairman. You know, I don't want to really make  
7595 this into a --

7596 \*Mr. Burgess. Please.

7597 \*The Chairman. Thank you. I don't see this as a  
7598 partisan issue. I mean, I think that we really have worked  
7599 very hard over the last year. I was constantly pushing, you  
7600 know, that more money be in the Provider Relief Fund, I was  
7601 constantly pushing Secretary Azar to push more money out. I  
7602 mean, you know, a lot of the was behind the scenes, but I was  
7603 on the phone with him, like, almost every other week saying  
7604 we've got to get this money out, we've got to get this money  
7605 out.

7606 I don't want to -- I don't know why it didn't all go  
7607 out, but it is -- I've been assured from HHS that there is  
7608 this 24 billion that is unobligated. And so under the  
7609 circumstances it's very hard for me to argue that we should  
7610 put more money there than do the things on the vaccine and  
7611 the testing, which we know are almost out of funds.

7612 So, I mean, that's the bottom line. I'm just going by  
7613 what they tell me. I'm not trying to make this partisan. But  
7614 we just have so many other things that are necessary that if  
7615 they're saying definitively now that there's 24 billion  
7616 unobligated it's hard to make the case that they -- we should

7617 give them more money. I mean, that's just the bottom line  
7618 and that's why I oppose this, Mike.

7619 \*Mr. Burgess. Well, reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I  
7620 think in all fairness we ought to ask to see the balance  
7621 sheet because I was told in December all of the funds had  
7622 been spent.

7623 \*The Chairman. I will definitely try to get back to you  
7624 with some more information about this 24 billion, I promise  
7625 you.

7626 \*Mr. Burgess. All right, I'll yield back.

7627 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Is -- next we have  
7628 Chairwoman Eshoo for five minutes.

7629 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing  
7630 me. I move to strike the last word.

7631 I agree that providing funding for the Provider Relief  
7632 Fund is way up at the top of the list of being important and  
7633 that's why in December I voted for the Omnibus to provide \$3  
7634 billion in provider aid, and with that supplement as you  
7635 said, Mr. Chairman, there is approximately \$24 billion in the  
7636 Provider Relief Fund that still needs to be outlaid.

7637 Now our colleague from Texas says that last year he was  
7638 told that the -- that the cupboard was empty. Let me just  
7639 say this. The Biden Administration has not been shy at all  
7640 about what was needed in this American Relief Act. They've  
7641 been upfront, they've run the numbers, and if this fund was

7642 empty they would say so.

7643           There's a difference between the two administrations. I  
7644 too was on the phone with the HHS Secretary from the previous  
7645 administration because when we did the Marshal Plan, \$175  
7646 billion for providers, he was withholding the money. So you  
7647 obviously were not given the correct information. So -- and  
7648 that's regrettable because every member of Congress deserves  
7649 to get an honest answer.

7650           But \$24 billion is there, and as I said the Biden  
7651 Administration has not been shy about what the, what the  
7652 needs are. If this pot was empty we would have known about  
7653 it and we would be doing what you essentially are saying we  
7654 need to do, but we already have it.

7655           I'm also pleased that, you know, we all have a reverence  
7656 for the frontline workers, the doctors, the nurses. What  
7657 they have done, and what they have been through, and what  
7658 they're still doing is nothing short of extraordinary every  
7659 single day.

7660           So I think that doctors that accept Medicaid, and when  
7661 we get to the next subtitle, which is going to reduce  
7662 uncompensated costs by expanding Medicaid, this is going to  
7663 go a long way to help rural hospitals and providers that  
7664 accept Medicaid.

7665           Now there's been research, including research done by  
7666 the GAO, and it shows that, demonstrates that consistently

7667 that Medicaid expansion improves hospitals' financial  
7668 performance by reducing the amount of uncompensated care. So  
7669 with this \$24 billion that remains in this particular fund  
7670 our bill focuses on other priorities, as the Chairman said,  
7671 as we discussed, including, including increased funding for  
7672 vaccinations, for testing, for PPE. Those are -- those are  
7673 real needs today, right now. Those needs need to be met.

7674 I don't think I need to say more on that. We all know  
7675 what the --

7676 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Would the general lady yield?

7677 \*Ms. Eshoo. I'd be happy to.

7678 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I appreciate that. Just so you're  
7679 aware, because you were saying that the Biden Administration  
7680 has been upfront, I would just encourage you and others to  
7681 ask them to be upfront with us also.

7682 We sent a letter last week to OMB asking for -- asking  
7683 for information as to where the gaps are so that we could be  
7684 prepared for this markup and we haven't heard from them. So  
7685 we all need to have the same information.

7686 \*Ms. Eshoo. Reclaiming my time. When you have those  
7687 questions we can send the letter on a bipartisan basis. What  
7688 happens -- either -- maybe that would speed it up a little  
7689 bit, okay. So I'm happy to work with you on it.

7690 But this is -- as I said, really colleagues, they have  
7691 not been shy about not only their estimates but their hard

7692 numbers in each area of what is the total bill. So if I  
7693 thought for a moment that this pot was empty I'd be at the  
7694 front of the line with the rest of you, with Mr. Guthrie,  
7695 with you, and every member of the committee.

7696 But it's terrific that -- I don't even know why the 24  
7697 billion is left over. It should have been spent as far as  
7698 I'm concerned, but it's good news that it's there. So we  
7699 don't need this.

7700 \*The Chairman. Chairwoman yields back.

7701 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you.

7702 \*The Chairman. And now we're going to go to Larry  
7703 Bucshon. Larry.

7704 \*Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7705 I mean, as a healthcare provider I just want to comment  
7706 on this because I've been in Washington, D.C. now for a  
7707 little over ten years and healthcare providers have to scrap  
7708 and grab at whatever we can in D.C. to prevent further  
7709 reimbursement cuts.

7710 I mean, the discussion here we're having almost borders  
7711 on absurdity. We had to struggle to try to mitigate the E&M  
7712 Code cuts that happened. We got that part of that done.  
7713 Every year CMS cuts provider reimbursement. I've just found  
7714 that when it comes to providing money for healthcare  
7715 professionals it's a struggle in Washington, D.C. and it  
7716 seems like there's always some other priority.



7717           Now we've seen what that can do, right, because now we  
7718 have a pandemic, now we have frontline workers out there  
7719 every day struggling to take care of patients in some of the  
7720 worst of circumstances, and we're continuing to argue about  
7721 whether or not they're going to get properly paid.

7722           That in the face of the fact that the overall bill that  
7723 we're proposing here today is going to eliminate the state  
7724 and local tax cap at \$10,000, eliminate that, and I wonder if  
7725 we have a CBO score on what that cost is going to be. I  
7726 would argue it's probably in the hundreds of billions of  
7727 dollars to the federal government and we're scrapping for  
7728 some money here to provide money for our healthcare  
7729 providers.

7730           I mean, it's absurd when we're going to reward some of  
7731 our wealthiest citizens in our highest taxed states because  
7732 those state government can't get their act together and cut  
7733 taxes and make it acceptable for people to live in their  
7734 state. I mean, it's just a ridiculous argument. I fully  
7735 support this amendment and I think, you know, when the  
7736 American people again find out that we have given massive tax  
7737 cuts again to some high tax states and some of our wealthiest  
7738 citizens when we're scrapping for money to provide extra  
7739 money for our healthcare providers they're going to be not  
7740 happy. I know I'm not and I know the people I represent in  
7741 Indiana are not.

7742           So I support the amendment and I yield back.

7743           \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next I have Kim Schrier is  
7744 recognized for five minutes.

7745           \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike  
7746 the last word.

7747           Thank you for this discussion. I think it's a really  
7748 important one and I've been listening carefully to what  
7749 everybody is saying, so I want to thank you, Dr. Guthrie, for  
7750 bringing this issue to attention. I want to say that I  
7751 certainly agree that providers nationwide are hurting and  
7752 they deserve our gratitude.

7753           As you know, I'm a physician myself, part of what I  
7754 believe our Chairman called the doctors convention here. So  
7755 we're talking about my colleagues and their clinics, and I  
7756 also know you don't have to be a doctor to want make sure  
7757 that healthcare providers and hospitals have what they need  
7758 to deliver care.

7759           And it's for this reason that Democrats and Republicans  
7760 came together last year to provide \$175 billion in relief  
7761 funding to healthcare providers to make sure they could  
7762 continue to operate and keep their doors open. And they also  
7763 got the Medicare to accelerate and advance payment program  
7764 with \$107 billion in loans to increase that cashflow. And  
7765 these were big policies, with big price tags, and they met  
7766 the moment because it was a big need.

7767           Now we've just heard that of the funds already spent by  
7768 Congress there's still \$24 billion in funding remaining and I  
7769 know that is now being discussed about whether it's real or  
7770 not. It's a number that I have heard as well, so we should  
7771 confirm that, but it's really close to the number that's  
7772 proposed in this amendment.

7773           And so I look forward to working the Administration to  
7774 see how much is left and make sure that these funds are  
7775 distributed in an equitable, transparent way. If the time  
7776 comes when we are still struggling with this pandemic and the  
7777 Biden Administration reports back that the funds have dry,  
7778 then I hope I can count on my colleagues here today to be  
7779 just as enthusiastic so we can work together and make sure we  
7780 meet that need.

7781           So let me just close by saying that one of the main  
7782 things we can do for our healthcare providers is to make sure  
7783 that we end this pandemic, and that's what this bill is  
7784 really all about. It's about masking, and distancing. It's  
7785 about making sure we have the funding to increase testing,  
7786 and contact tracing, vaccinations, to make sure that  
7787 everybody has access to those treatments and vaccines, and we  
7788 have to sustain important public programs like Medicaid.

7789           So the package today brings all of those important  
7790 policies along, and so for that reason, Mr. Chairman, as a  
7791 physician myself I'll be voting against this amendment. I am

7792 happy to look at it again if that -- if those funds run out.  
7793 I urge my colleagues to do the same. And again ending the  
7794 crisis is the way to best help our medical providers.

7795 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

7796 \*Mr. Bucshon. This is Bucshon. Can you yield time to  
7797 me?

7798 \*Ms. Schrier. I'm happy to yield time to Mr. Bucshon.

7799 \*Mr. Bucshon. Thank you very much.

7800 First of all I'm excited to work with you as a fellow  
7801 physician and I look forward to have more bipartisan  
7802 discussions about physician reimbursement, provider  
7803 reimbursement, and those issues.

7804 The longer you're in D.C. the more you will find out  
7805 that it takes healthcare professionals to really fight to  
7806 maintain the reimbursement, including in the Medicaid  
7807 program, which is critical to our citizens. And it does seem  
7808 like sometimes our priorities in D.C. as it relates to this  
7809 are not quite where they should be. Now as I mentioned we  
7810 have a pandemic and you see the detrimental effects of not  
7811 properly providing reimbursement to providers and other  
7812 support for graduate medical education, nursing education,  
7813 and everything else, and I hope this will help us redirect  
7814 those priorities.

7815 Thank you, I yield.

7816 \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you. I look forward to working

7817 together and I also yield back.

7818 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next we go to Dan Crenshaw  
7819 who is recognized for five minutes.

7820 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
7821 strike the last word.

7822 Like a common, a common counterargument against all of  
7823 our amendments has been, look, Republicans, you can't -- you  
7824 can't ask to spend the money here because you originally  
7825 wanted only \$600 billion as a COVID Relief Fund. And we're  
7826 more generous than you are, we want \$1.9 trillion.

7827 And I don't think that's what we're saying. Look, we  
7828 can always claim the moral high ground by claiming to want to  
7829 spend more of the taxpayers' money. I think the crux of  
7830 these amendments, and this one included, which is especially  
7831 important, especially in my district.

7832 Now hospitals are actually laying people off. They're  
7833 busier than ever but they're laying people off because  
7834 elective surgeries pay better than COVID care. That's just a  
7835 fact. These hospitals are struggling.

7836 And what we're talking about is redirecting money to the  
7837 right places, where it's needed. If we're calling this an  
7838 emergency, if we're saying this is for COVID emergency  
7839 relief, the crux of these amendments is directing it towards  
7840 the places we need it.

7841 If I look at this long list of spending line items a lot

7842 of it is not for here and now, it's for maybe long term  
7843 infrastructure, it's for long term public health  
7844 infrastructure. I'm not even necessarily against some of  
7845 this but it should definitely be talked about in regular  
7846 order, in the normal authorization process I would think  
7847 because it just doesn't have anything to do with the current  
7848 here and now.

7849         And I think that's the point we're making. Another big  
7850 point to make, if indeed there's \$24 billion already still in  
7851 waiting for this particular fund, great. To Representative  
7852 Rodgers' point, we've asked for that information, we can't  
7853 seem to get it.

7854         The information we do have is pretty insane. It looks  
7855 like there's already \$280 billion for instance in the EPP  
7856 program. Overall health spending is about \$239 billion  
7857 unspent. I've got a long list here of funds that have not  
7858 been spent by the Administration.

7859         And you would think if we were going to do a good job as  
7860 members of Congress and taking care of our taxpayers' money  
7861 in the proper way we would have a very concrete list of what  
7862 has been spent and what has not been spent already before we  
7863 undergo this process. That would be the responsible thing to  
7864 do, and I think, and I think we should engage in problem  
7865 solving within that format.

7866         I yield back my time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7867           \*The Chairman. I think thank --

7868           \*Mr. Burgess. Did the gentleman yield to me for a  
7869 point? Mr. Crenshaw, would you yield to me?

7870           \*Mr. Crenshaw. I would absolutely yield to my friend,  
7871 Dr. Burgess.

7872           \*Mr. Burgess. Well, and I thank him for his remarks.

7873           I do feel obligated to make a point about the  
7874 accelerated payment program that's been brought up a couple  
7875 of times. I think that actually predates the pandemic.  
7876 That's something that's been around for a while. A community  
7877 that gets hard by a hurricane, Mr. Crenshaw, like when Harvey  
7878 came ashore a couple of years ago, and this was to allow a  
7879 cashflow, a cash infusion to medical practices.

7880           But it's a loan, and it does have to be paid back, and  
7881 it actually has an interest rate that is significantly higher  
7882 than the rate at which you can borrow funds from any other  
7883 financial institution right now.

7884           So although that has been important in helping our  
7885 medical practices, it is by no means the stopgap, and  
7886 Mr. Guthrie's amendment will actually fille some of the holes  
7887 that have indeed been left by the accelerated payment  
7888 program. So I think that's also important to bear in mind as  
7889 we work through this.

7890           Thank you for yielding and I'll yield back.

7891           \*The Chairman. Is there a yield to anyone else?

7892           \*Mr. Crenshaw. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

7893           \*The Chairman. Thank you. I don't think we have any  
7894 other speakers on this amendment so we'll go to -- Mrs.  
7895 Rodgers, you want a recorded vote?

7896           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, I request a recorded vote, Mr.  
7897 Chairman.

7898           \*The Chairman. Okay. So what -- our Vice Chair, do you  
7899 want to withdraw your reservation, Robin?

7900           Ms. Kelly had made a reservation, a point of order,  
7901 reserve the point of order? I mean, I guess can withdraw it  
7902 myself. Unless anyone objects I'll withdraw the point of  
7903 order of Ms. Kelly.

7904           Without objection so ordered and we'll go to the vote.  
7905 So we are now on the Guthrie Amendment.

7906           \*Mrs. Dingell. I can't -- Robin Kelly can't unmute but  
7907 she withdraws her --

7908           \*The Chairman. She withdraws, okay. So her, her point  
7909 of order.

7910           \*Ms. Kelly. I withdraw the point of order.

7911           \*The Chairman. All right, thank you.

7912           So a recorded vote is ordered on the Guthrie Amendment.  
7913 Those in favor will say aye, those opposed will say no, and  
7914 the Clerk will call the roll.

7915           \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.

7916           \*Mr. Rush. Rush from Illinois votes no.



7917 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.  
7918 Ms. Eshoo.  
7919 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo with California votes no.  
7920 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.  
7921 Ms. DeGette.  
7922 Mr. Doyle.  
7923 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.  
7924 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.  
7925 Ms. Schakowsky.  
7926 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.  
7927 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
7928 Mr. Butterfield.  
7929 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.  
7930 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield no.  
7931 Ms. Matsui.  
7932 Ms. Matsui?  
7933 Mr. Sarbanes.  
7934 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
7935 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
7936 Mr. McNerney.  
7937 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes no.  
7938 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
7939 Mr. Welch.  
7940 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
7941 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.

7942 Mr. Tonko.  
7943 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes no.  
7944 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
7945 Ms. Clarke.  
7946 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke of New York votes no.  
7947 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
7948 Mr. Schrader.  
7949 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
7950 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
7951 Mr. Cardenas.  
7952 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas representing California votes  
7953 no.  
7954 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
7955 Mr. Ruiz.  
7956 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
7957 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
7958 Mr. Peters.  
7959 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
7960 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
7961 Mrs. Dingell.  
7962 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
7963 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
7964 Mr. Veasey.  
7965 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
7966 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.

7967 Ms. Kuster.  
7968 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
7969 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
7970 Ms. Kelly.  
7971 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
7972 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
7973 Ms. Barragan.  
7974 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
7975 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
7976 Mr. McEachin.  
7977 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
7978 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
7979 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
7980 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Rochester votes no.  
7981 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
7982 Mr. Soto.  
7983 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
7984 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
7985 Mr. O'Halleran.  
7986 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
7987 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
7988 Miss Rice.  
7989 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
7990 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
7991 Ms. Craig.

7992 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
7993 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
7994 Ms. Schrier.  
7995 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
7996 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
7997 Mrs. Trahan.  
7998 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
7999 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
8000 Mrs. Fletcher.  
8001 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
8002 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
8003 Mrs. Rodgers.  
8004 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
8005 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
8006 Mr. Upton.  
8007 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
8008 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
8009 Mr. Burgess.  
8010 \*Mr. Burgess. Votes aye.  
8011 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
8012 Mr. Scalise.  
8013 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.  
8014 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
8015 Mr. Latta.  
8016 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.

8017 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
8018 Mr. Guthrie.  
8019 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
8020 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
8021 Mr. McKinley.  
8022 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
8023 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
8024 Mr. Kinzinger.  
8025 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger aye.  
8026 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
8027 Mr. Griffith.  
8028 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.  
8029 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
8030 Mr. Bilirakis.  
8031 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
8032 \*The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.  
8033 Mr. Johnson.  
8034 \*Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
8035 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
8036 Mr. Long.  
8037 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon.  
8038 \*Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
8039 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
8040 Mr. Mullin.  
8041 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.

8042 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
8043 Mr. Hudson.  
8044 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
8045 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
8046 Mr. Walberg.  
8047 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
8048 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
8049 Mr. Carter.  
8050 Mr. Duncan.  
8051 \*Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
8052 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
8053 Mr. Palmer.  
8054 \*Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.  
8055 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
8056 Mr. Dunn.  
8057 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.  
8058 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
8059 Mr. Curtis.  
8060 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
8061 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
8062 Mrs. Lesko.  
8063 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
8064 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
8065 Mr. Pence.  
8066 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

8067 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
8068 Mr. Crenshaw.  
8069 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.  
8070 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
8071 Mr. Joyce.  
8072 \*Mr. Joyce. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
8073 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
8074 Mr. Armstrong.  
8075 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes yes.  
8076 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
8077 Chairman Pallone.  
8078 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no over the barking of the  
8079 dogs.  
8080 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
8081 \*The Chairman. Okay, Madam Clerk, we have Ms. Matsui's  
8082 hand is up.  
8083 \*Ms. Matsui. How am I recorded?  
8084 \*The Clerk. You are not recorded.  
8085 \*Ms. Matsui. Okay, Matsui votes no.  
8086 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
8087 \*The Chairman. Ms. -- I didn't see Kathy Castor, Ms.  
8088 Castor? You got to put your -- you got to unmute, Kathy.  
8089 \*Ms. Castor. How am I recorded?  
8090 \*The Clerk. You are not recorded.  
8091 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor from the State of Florida, home

8092 of the Superbowl Champions, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, right here  
8093 in Tampa, votes no.

8094 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

8095 \*The Chairman. And with Tampa Bay in the background,  
8096 it's beautiful, Cathy.

8097 \*The Chairman. All right, Billy Long, I think I didn't  
8098 hear.

8099 \*The Clerk. He is not recorded.

8100 \*The Chairman. Billy, you have to unmute. We have to  
8101 hear you. Billy? Can we hear you now? He's trying to do it  
8102 I think. It's like in an airplane or something.

8103 Mr. Long?

8104 \*Mr. Butterfield. He's going to vote yes, right.

8105 \*The Chairman. I know, but I have to hear him say it.  
8106 I think he's in a plane. He may not be able to do it.

8107 Mr. Carter, have you voted?

8108 \*Mr. Carter. No, sir, I have not.

8109 \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter votes aye.

8110 \*The Chairman. Okay.

8111 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

8112 \*The Chairman. Has anyone other than Billy not voted?  
8113 I don't know if we can do anything to help him there.

8114 Billy? Now he disappeared completely.

8115 All right, I think we're going to have to pass. We  
8116 can't record him without hearing him.



8117 All right, every -- Madam Clerk, will you report the  
8118 tally on the Guthrie Amendment?

8119 \*The Clerk. Yes. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas  
8120 were 25 and the nays were 31.

8121 \*The Chairman. Okay. So the vote on the Guthrie  
8122 Amendment is 25 ayes to 31 nos. The amendment is not agreed  
8123 to.

8124 Now, Cathy, it's almost 6:00 or it is 6:00. So I think  
8125 we'll recess. This will -- there's a Republican Conference  
8126 and we -- you'll have to use this as the dinner hour and we  
8127 will reconvene at 7:00 p.m. sharp, okay.

8128 So the committee stands in recess.

8129 [Whereupon, at 5:55 p.m., the committee recessed, to  
8130 reconvene at 7:00 p.m. the same day.]

8131

8132 AFTER 6:00 p.m.

8133 [7:00 p.m.]

8134 \*The Chairman. The Energy and Commerce Committee will  
8135 reconvene. And so we did our last amendment, but we're  
8136 still on our first title. Are there any members who seek  
8137 recognition and offer an amendment to the amendment in the  
8138 nature of a substitute, which is still in order?

8139 \*Mrs. Lesko. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have an amendment at  
8140 the desk. This is Debbie Lesko.

8141 \*The Chairman. All right, Mrs. Lesko. What is your  
8142 amendment labeled?

8143 \*Mrs. Lesko. It is Amendment No. 61.

8144 \*The Chairman. Does the clerk have that amendment?  
8145 Madam Clerk? I don't see the clerk. Maybe the clerk is not  
8146 there yet.

8147 [The Clerk was not present.]

8148 \*The Clerk. I apologize. There was some difficulties.

8149 \*The Chairman. Okay. So we have -- Congresswoman Lesko  
8150 has an amendment. Do you have that one?

8151 \*The Clerk. Yes. Amendment 61?

8152 \*The Chairman. I believe so.

8153 \*The Clerk. Yes, okay.

8154 \*The Chairman. All right, Madam Clerk, if you'll report  
8155 the amendment?

8156 \*The Clerk. Amendment to amendment in the nature of a

8157 substitute to committee print relating to public health  
8158 offered by Mrs. Lesko of Arizona.

8159 \*The Chairman. All right, Madam Clerk, without  
8160 objection, the reading of the amendment will be dispensed  
8161 with. Does Ms. Kelly have --

8162 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chair, I'd like to reserve a point of  
8163 order.

8164 \*The Chairman. The vicechair reserves a point of order,  
8165 and the gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for five  
8166 minutes in support of her amendment.

8167 [The amendment of Ms. Kelly follows:]

8168

8169 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

8170           \*Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment will  
8171 ensure that we provide relief to Americans directly impacted  
8172 by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially school-age children who  
8173 have become collateral damage due to school closures across  
8174 the country.

8175           Section 3036 of Subtitle A in this amendment in the  
8176 nature of a substitute provides \$50 million for Title X  
8177 family planning grants. This money could be used to  
8178 subsidize groups like Planned Parenthood who provide  
8179 abortions.

8180           As you probably know, the Trump Administration  
8181 prohibited Title X family planning grants from going to  
8182 abortion providers. But on January 28th, President Biden  
8183 started the process to undo that rule so that money going to  
8184 family planning could indeed go to abortion providers.

8185           My amendment is simple. Instead of using taxpayer  
8186 dollars to fund abortion providers like Planned Parenthood,  
8187 we should provide funding to programs that address youth  
8188 suicide prevention prioritizing life and the lives of young  
8189 Americans. My amendment would strike the \$50 million from  
8190 Title X and redirect it towards youth suicide prevention in  
8191 Section 52E one grant program. Since it is moving money from  
8192 one area to another area, it will not disrupt or cause a  
8193 problem with your top line number.

8194           In my own State of Arizona, suicide is the leading cause

8195 of death for children ages 10 through 14. Social distancing  
8196 and lockdowns lead to isolation and less opportunity for  
8197 children to interact with one another. As we talk about the  
8198 physical health impacts of COVID-19, we cannot forget that  
8199 children, not only in Arizona, but around our nation are  
8200 dealing with the fallout in adjusting to COVID-19 at such a  
8201 crucial time in our lives.

8202 I want to hold up -- I'm holding up an article in the  
8203 Arizona Central, and it's titled Youth Suicide During COVID-  
8204 19 is a Growing Concern in Arizona. Ducey, who's our  
8205 governor, and state officials say -- it says in it suicide  
8206 already is the leading cause of death for Arizonans age 10  
8207 through 14, and nearly 1,500 Arizonans took their own lives  
8208 in 2019, one suicide approximately every six hours. It also  
8209 goes on to say that officials are particularly concerned  
8210 about the isolation and anxiety prompted by the pandemic,  
8211 what it has had, and it is exasperated mental issues among  
8212 those Arizonans most vulnerable to suicide.

8213 In fact, a CDC morbidity and mortality weekly report  
8214 published August 14 found that in a survey of U.S. adults  
8215 conducted in June, younger adults, racial and ethnic  
8216 minorities, essential workers and unpaid adult caregivers  
8217 reported having experienced disproportionately worse mental  
8218 health outcomes, increased substance abuse, and elevated  
8219 suicidal ideation.

8220           Even before the pandemic, nearly 41 percent of Arizona  
8221 high school students who participated in the state's 2019  
8222 youth risk behavior survey, already reported feeling sad or  
8223 hopeless for two or more weeks in a row during the 12 months  
8224 before the survey. The survey also revealed 16 percent of  
8225 high school participants had made a suicide plan. This is  
8226 very concerning. And that's why I am offering this amendment  
8227 because I really do think that the money that you are putting  
8228 forward in this COVID relief package to family planning that  
8229 can be used for abortion providers is a poison pill. I mean,  
8230 most of you, I'm sure all of you know that Republicans, most  
8231 Republicans, are prolife, and we just couldn't go along with  
8232 that.

8233           So with that, I ask for your support on my amendment,  
8234 and I yield back.

8235           \*The Chairman. Thank you. I now yield to Chairwoman  
8236 Eshoo for five minutes.

8237           \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I move to  
8238 strike the last word. First of all, to the maker of the  
8239 amendment, we're ahead of you. The issue of suicide  
8240 prevention in children is a worthy cause, and our legislation  
8241 already includes funding for this exact purpose.

8242           And my next comment is the movement of the \$50 million  
8243 for Title X. I want to share just a few points with all of  
8244 you. Six in ten women who used a Title X-supported health

8245 center for contraceptive care, this is going back to 2016,  
8246 said it was their only source of healthcare in the past year.  
8247 I don't think in the middle of a pandemic that we should be  
8248 going after women and their healthcare. And I'm being really  
8249 forthright about that because that's what it is. This \$50  
8250 million is for preventive and healthcare purposes for women.  
8251 Family planning, family planning.

8252           You know on a personal note, I think I know all of the  
8253 members of the committee, some better than others. New  
8254 members, when I meet them, one of the first things I ask them  
8255 about is tell me about your family. I don't know one member  
8256 of our committee that has eight, ten, twelve, fourteen  
8257 children. Something's going on without people sharing it  
8258 with each other. This isn't about abortion. This is about  
8259 family planning.

8260           In my congressional district, have you ever heard of  
8261 David Packard of Hewlett-Packard? David Packard was the  
8262 chairman of Planned Parenthood. So this is not about some  
8263 wild-eyed, off the charts, immoral use of money. This is  
8264 about healthcare for women. About healthcare for women. Do  
8265 your wives not go to their doctors for healthcare? We're the  
8266 ones that bear children. Not men. We do. And I think one  
8267 of the most prudent things that is out there and improved  
8268 upon by scientists is family planning. Family planning. Is  
8269 the Republican party really against family planning? Do you

8270 go home and say that to all your constituents? I don't think  
8271 so. Well, maybe you do. Maybe you do.

8272 But it is the 21st century. Abortion is a huge debate.  
8273 I don't think one side can ever convince the other side to  
8274 change. But Title X is for family planning for prevention  
8275 and for healthcare for women. Honestly, I wish we would  
8276 leave women's bodies alone. That's really the way I feel  
8277 about it because this is -- it's so personal. And then  
8278 during an epidemic this healthcare prevention is going to be  
8279 taken away from women? We all know we have inequities in  
8280 healthcare. Do you know who these women are? They are from  
8281 the lower end of the economic scale and minorities.

8282 So thank you for hearing me out. I do not support the  
8283 amendment.

8284 \*Mr. O'Halleran. Ms. Secretary --

8285 \*Ms. Eshoo. I do not support the amendment, and I do  
8286 not know if I have any time left. If there is, I'd be happy  
8287 to --

8288 \*The Chairman. No, I think there is not. There's only  
8289 about 20 seconds.

8290 \*Ms. Eshoo. Okay, all right. Well, I yield back, and I  
8291 urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment. I think it's  
8292 hurtful.

8293 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Let me go to our ranking  
8294 member for the full committee, Cathy Rodgers.



8295           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I  
8296 appreciate the comments of my colleague. We are planning to  
8297 bring up an amendment in a little bit about the Hyde  
8298 Amendment, and if it's true that this funding is not about  
8299 abortion, that it really is about family planning, then I  
8300 hope that you'll consider joining us in making sure that the  
8301 Hyde Amendment is included that will make clear that taxpayer  
8302 funding is not going to go to fund abortion providers.

8303           I am in strong support of this amendment, and I believe  
8304 that our focus needs to be to protect the lives of our  
8305 children. And unfortunately, what we're seeing today is a  
8306 hyper-partisan approach to legislation, and it includes \$50  
8307 million to Title X funding. It is taking mandatory dollars  
8308 to go towards Title X, and we know that Title X has been used  
8309 to fund abortion providers.

8310           What we're missing is an opportunity to really help our  
8311 children that are suffering today from isolation, from  
8312 depression, increased suicide attempts that we are all  
8313 hearing about. This should be our priority together helping  
8314 children and parents who are begging us to restore their way  
8315 of life. They need hope. And together, we could help  
8316 deliver on that hope.

8317           I mentioned earlier the therapist in eastern Washington,  
8318 the mental health therapist who told me that her caseload is  
8319 up 75 percent. We can do better. Support this amendment.

8320           \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next, I'm going to go to,  
8321 based on seniority, to Jan Schakowsky is recognized for five  
8322 minutes.

8323           \*Ms. Schakowsky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
8324 strike the last word. This is just incredible to me. First  
8325 of all, I agree that we need to deal with the crisis of  
8326 children and adolescents committing suicide. And  
8327 fortunately, we do in this legislation.

8328           But the attack on women's health is absolutely  
8329 unacceptable. During a global pandemic in which millions of  
8330 people are seeking family planning and other critical  
8331 reproductive healthcare, we should be increasing support for  
8332 Title X. The Title X program disproportionately serves  
8333 communities of color and low-income communities, and a  
8334 failure to act will actually severely hurt these communities  
8335 disproportionately. And we should not be doing that. And  
8336 most Americans, I would think 99 percent of women, for sure,  
8337 support access to family planning, and quite frankly, this  
8338 happens to be a pro-choice nation as well where most  
8339 Americans, not all certainly, think that abortion should be  
8340 safe and legal. But this isn't about abortion. It's about  
8341 contraception. And the fact that there would be an attack on  
8342 contraception is not even -- I can't even understand it.

8343           It was already said that more than 40 percent of women  
8344 report that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they changed

8345 their plans about when to have children or how many children  
8346 that they want. One in three women, 33 percent, report that  
8347 because of the pandemic they had delayed or cancelled a visit  
8348 to a healthcare provider for sexual reproductive healthcare  
8349 or had trouble getting access to contraception.

8350         There are sharp disparities here. Women of color and  
8351 low-income women are much more likely to state they want to  
8352 have fewer children or delay having children and are more  
8353 likely to report problems accessing this care and this  
8354 contraceptive availability than their white and higher income  
8355 people. These providers and patients need funding now.  
8356 Without any kind of supplemental funding, then trusted family  
8357 planning providers may have to close their doors altogether,  
8358 leaving women without access to these critical services.

8359         I mean, Title X is the nation's family planning program  
8360 supporting excellent care for 50 years. And it is just an  
8361 outrage that this amendment would seek to take away that  
8362 right of women to make decisions about their own  
8363 reproduction, whether they have children or don't have  
8364 children. And it should not be posed against our health for  
8365 children and adolescents who are committing suicide. These  
8366 are two separate issues that require our attention. And  
8367 that's why we are doing both in this legislation.

8368         And I just think that this should not be considered as a  
8369 fair exchange but that both are priorities and we can do

8370 that. The richest country in the world can provide family  
8371 planning and take care of our children. Actually, those two  
8372 things are related. Taking care of children, having control  
8373 of how many children that are born in this world, can also  
8374 affect how children grow up.

8375 So I absolutely encourage my colleagues to vote no on  
8376 this family planning program, Title X, which is a blessing to  
8377 Americans. And I yield back.

8378 \*The Chairman. Thank you. And we have a lot of  
8379 speakers, but I'm going to go based on seniority. So next is  
8380 David McKinley.

8381 \*Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
8382 strike the last word.

8383 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

8384 \*Mr. McKinley. It is sure an interesting debate, and  
8385 I'd like to very much hear back from Congresswoman Lesko  
8386 more, but her response to some of the comments that have been  
8387 made because I see some shaking heads on that. I think we  
8388 need to have another side to this discussion. So we could  
8389 over my time to Debbie Lesko.

8390 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

8391 \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and that you  
8392 Representative McKinley. I mean, first of all, I want to say  
8393 that my amendment does not hurt women. It is not attacking  
8394 women's health. It is not going after women's contraception.

8395 It is not doing any of that. In fact, it's my understanding  
8396 that in the COVID relief bill, that the \$50 million that  
8397 you're putting forward to family planning is in addition to  
8398 what is currently funded. And so we're not taking away any  
8399 current dollars from family planning.

8400 But you have to understand that when President Biden and  
8401 when my Democratic colleagues say that they want to try to do  
8402 things in unity and in a bipartisan fashion, I certainly  
8403 would think that you would know that most Republicans are  
8404 pro-life. And this is something part of our faith. It is  
8405 ingrained in us. So when you say that we're attacking women,  
8406 I totally disagree because half of the babies that are  
8407 aborted are going to be women. And so this is so  
8408 fundamental, it's just something that we believe and we don't  
8409 believe in taking away babies' lives. And so if you really  
8410 want to be bipartisan, you know, you would hopefully  
8411 understand this because I don't want \$50 million going to an  
8412 abortion provider.

8413 And so as Cathy McMorris Rodgers said, I hope that if  
8414 your true belief is not to give money to abortion providers,  
8415 then you will support other amendments that protect the Hyde  
8416 Amendment so that taxpayer dollars do not go to abortions.  
8417 But I'm not convinced right now because on January 28,  
8418 President Biden started the process to change the rule for  
8419 Title X funding could go to abortion providers. And for

8420 somebody like me that is a pro-life woman, I just can't  
8421 accept that.

8422 And so I hope you understand, and I want to make very  
8423 clear, I'm a woman, of course. I am not going to do anything  
8424 to hurt women. This is not about hurting women family  
8425 planning. For goodness sakes, I donate tons of money to a  
8426 pregnancy center here in Arizona. I'm involved in it. I  
8427 would never hurt family planning. And it is not about  
8428 stopping contraceptives.

8429 But it is about stopping taxpayer dollars from going to  
8430 pay to an organization that also provides abortions. Now,  
8431 this argument has been going on forever, and we're not going  
8432 to solve it tonight. I mean, I served in the state  
8433 legislature for nine years. We had this debate there as  
8434 well, and I said, why doesn't Planned Parenthood divide up  
8435 their businesses? Why don't they don't divide it up legally  
8436 so one part does abortion, one part does family planning and  
8437 healthcare and so they can't comingle the funds. But of  
8438 course, they don't do that. And so that's why we're so  
8439 concerned.

8440 And with that, I yield back.

8441 \*The Chairman. Thank you. I'm going to yield myself  
8442 five minutes. The problem that, you know, again as Mrs.  
8443 Lesko said, I don't think we're going to convince anybody on  
8444 either side of this issue tonight, but I just want to say

8445 from my -- looking at my district, we have many of these  
8446 clinics, Planned Parenthood or otherwise, and this is where  
8447 women and even some men go for healthcare services.

8448         And so when you deprive Title X of funding, it means  
8449 that less services are available at Planned Parenthood and  
8450 other family planning clinics for health services, regardless  
8451 of whether it is, whether it's reproductive, contraception,  
8452 family planning or any or, you know, dealing with sexually  
8453 transmitted disease, routine preventive services like breast  
8454 and cervical cancer screenings. All these things are  
8455 provided at these clinics.

8456         So when you cut back, which is what the Trump  
8457 Administration did on the funding for these clinics, it just  
8458 means that a lot of poor people don't get access to  
8459 healthcare services, primarily women. And what we've seen  
8460 under President Trump was, you know, whether it's the  
8461 domestic gag rule, the, you know, 40 percent of the program,  
8462 that money that was available before was eliminated for  
8463 reproductive services. I mean, all these things were  
8464 decimated. And I can tell you that in New Jersey and in my  
8465 district, that's had an impact so that women who would have  
8466 had access to healthcare services, regardless of what it is,  
8467 all of a sudden don't have it anymore.

8468         And that is a terrible thing to do, you know, during the  
8469 COVID pandemic when it's even more necessary. I mean, just

8470 in 2019, as a result of the Trump Administration's  
8471 regulations, family planning providers in 33 states were  
8472 forced to leave the program resulting in approximately 1.5  
8473 million people without access to care at Title X clinics, six  
8474 states currently have no sites that provide Title X-funded  
8475 services.

8476         So I mean, those are the facts. And you know, to be  
8477 perfectly honest, I don't think \$50 million is even a lot of  
8478 money. It's not going to bring all these places back, but at  
8479 least it's a beginning. And I just think that it is  
8480 particular imperative during a pandemic that people access  
8481 the care they need wherever they can. Title X-funded health  
8482 clinics in many cases are sometimes the only care an  
8483 individual can receive. They have screenings that detect  
8484 cancer, help women determine their best family planning,  
8485 ensure people know their status as it relates to HIV and  
8486 other sexually transmitted infections. Access to these kind  
8487 of preventative healthcare programs improve health outcomes  
8488 and especially for low-income people.

8489         In 2019, one in four patients at Title X clinics  
8490 identified as African American or Black, one in three  
8491 identified as Hispanic or Latina, and more than six in ten  
8492 patients had incomes at or below the federal poverty level.  
8493 In the middle of a health emergency, we need to be helping  
8494 those people most at risk and most in need and not erecting



8495 barriers for ideological reasons, which is what is happening  
8496 here.

8497         So I just want to remind my colleagues that Title X has  
8498 long been a bipartisan program. It started under President  
8499 Nixon. I don't think people necessarily respond to this  
8500 along partisan lines, but I know that many Republicans are  
8501 very much opposed to Title X funding. I just think it's sad,  
8502 and we have to take the opportunity in this bill to provide  
8503 the funding to kind of correct some of this damage so that  
8504 women have access, low-income women have access to  
8505 healthcare, which they have not had in the last four years  
8506 under President Trump and his administration.

8507         And with that, I would yield back.

8508         And next is, let's see. I don't see -- oh, yeah, Dr.  
8509 Joyce. John Joyce is recognized for five minutes.

8510         \*Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the  
8511 last word.

8512         \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

8513         \*Mr. Joyce. Today we are discussing our nation's [audio  
8514 drop] in the COVID-19. As we continue to combat this  
8515 pandemic, all of us can agree that we must rebuild our  
8516 economy, we must reopen our schools, we must restore our  
8517 communities.

8518         As we discuss these important issues that are central to  
8519 our nation's recovery, it's difficult to comprehend why the

8520 COVID-19 relief bill that we are considering today includes  
8521 millions of dollars for Planned Parenthood and other abortion  
8522 providers. If passed, this funding won't get kids back into  
8523 the classroom, it won't get vaccines into arms, and won't get  
8524 Americans back to work.

8525         As millions of families are struggling with health,  
8526 economic, and educational ramifications of this pandemic,  
8527 this is not the time to play politics. This extreme antilife  
8528 provisions masquerading as COVID-19 relief, are a blatant  
8529 disregard for all pro-life Americans. We should never force  
8530 an American to pay for abortions against our conscience and  
8531 especially not under the guise of pandemic relief.

8532         As this committee seeks to steward taxpayer dollars, it  
8533 would be malpractice to allow fundings intended for COVID-19  
8534 relief to pay for access to abortion. Instead, we must pass  
8535 this amendment to reallocate this funding to support mental  
8536 health services and suicide prevention that are deeply needed  
8537 in this COVID pandemic. Rising suicide rates for adults and  
8538 children are alarming consequences of this pandemic. Endless  
8539 shutdowns, job losses, school closures are spurring  
8540 unprecedented mental health crises.

8541         As we hear one heartbreaking story after another, we  
8542 can't afford to wait. It is critical that all Americans,  
8543 both adult and children, know that help is available. As we  
8544 consider our nation's recovery from this pandemic, the

8545 American people would be well served by allocating this  
8546 funding to increase mental health resources and suicide  
8547 prevention tools. This amendment would fund suicide  
8548 prevention efforts strengthening our nation's mental health  
8549 resources and offering real support to those who need it  
8550 most, who need it now.

8551 Rather than focus on pro-abortion provisions, we have an  
8552 opportunity today, tonight, to save lives. To paraphrase  
8553 President George Washington, it is deeds not words that  
8554 define leaders. If our priority is unity, then the path is  
8555 clear. I urge the committee to dispense with partisanship  
8556 and refocus on the important task before us. This virus,  
8557 this invisible enemy, does not discriminate on party lines.  
8558 This bipartisan threat requires bipartisan solutions.

8559 Again, I urge support for the amendment, and I can offer  
8560 my additional time that's left.

8561 \*The Chairman. The gentleman yields back. The next  
8562 person is --

8563 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Dr. Joyce.

8564 \*Mr. Joyce. Yes, I yield additional time to our ranking  
8565 member, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers.

8566 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Dr. Joyce.

8567 \*The Chairman. Mrs. Rodgers is recognized.

8568 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Path forward, the one that would bring  
8569 us together, is one in which we would move away from the

8570 Title X and commit to really meeting the needs of our kids  
8571 and focus on suicide prevention. Suicide was on the rise  
8572 even before COVID and suicide attempts and has only been  
8573 underscored since COVID has hit.

8574 And it's especially heartbreaking to hear the stories of  
8575 our kids that are ten to fourteen years old. It has become  
8576 one of the top reasons that they're losing their lives. This  
8577 is a time when we need hope in America. We need hope, and we  
8578 need healing. And the way that we move forward on this is  
8579 one in which we could take a very important step in making  
8580 sure that individuals that need support, that are struggling,  
8581 that are stressed, that are anxious, that are isolated get  
8582 the mental health support that they need and that we are  
8583 warriors for human dignity and human value, human value for  
8584 all.

8585 So let's move away from Title X and let's move towards  
8586 the real priority. I urge bipartisan support of this  
8587 amendment.

8588 \*The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. And Mr. Joyce  
8589 yields back. Okay. Next, I have --

8590 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I yield back to Dr. Joyce.

8591 \*The Chairman. So next we have Raul Ruiz is recognized  
8592 for five minutes.

8593 \*Mr. Ruiz. I move to strike the last word.

8594 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

8595           \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you. There's a lot of talk about  
8596 mental health right now and it is false misinformation that  
8597 this budget reconciliation does nothing for mental health. I  
8598 want to correct the misinformation and really state that this  
8599 budget reconciliation has \$4 billion for substance use  
8600 disorders and mental health. This budget reconciliation will  
8601 help expand services to mental health.

8602           But you know what else expands services to mental  
8603 health? You know, Medicaid is a very important insurance  
8604 where many rely on Medicaid to get their mental health  
8605 services. You know what else really helps expand mental  
8606 health? The Affordable Care Act's provision for including  
8607 mental health as a required coverage for health insurance  
8608 under the essential health benefits.

8609           So knowing that, if you want to expand services to  
8610 mental health, then I humbly request that you do not vote to  
8611 cut Medicaid. I humbly request that you do not vote to  
8612 repeal the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion, that you  
8613 vote to protect the essential health benefits that requires  
8614 mental health coverage for the adolescents that all of you  
8615 are speaking about, that all of us care about, so that we can  
8616 actually expand services, mental health services, in addition  
8617 to the \$4 billion that we're going to be voting on today and  
8618 most of you will vote against to give \$4 billion to those who  
8619 have substance use disorders and who have mental health

8620 disorders. That is how we're going to expand mental health  
8621 for our constituents, for all of Americans.

8622 So when you speak about mental health, we will remind  
8623 this committee of the votes that have been detrimental in  
8624 providing mental health services for people who need them  
8625 during the pandemic, before the pandemic, and even after the  
8626 pandemic.

8627 With that, I want to offer anybody our side any time to  
8628 speak to this matter.

8629 \*Mr. Cardenas. Dr. Ruiz, will you yield to Cardenas?

8630 \*Mr. Ruiz. I yield to Representative Cardenas.

8631 \*Mr. Cardenas. Thank you. Thank you so much for your  
8632 eloquent truths that you just pointed out, Dr. Ruiz. But  
8633 also I think it's important for all of us to understand that  
8634 to reduce the resources to safety net providers around the  
8635 country, be in Planned Parenthood or other clinics or what  
8636 have you, any one of us if we did that, we would be denying  
8637 essential services and critical services to women, children,  
8638 and men in every district in the country. So I think it's  
8639 really important to understand that to try to assume that by  
8640 curtailing the ability for Planned Parenthood, who, by the  
8641 way, the vast majority of the resources that they provide for  
8642 communities in healthcare, does include on many cases when  
8643 they're fortunate, mental health assistance. And equally  
8644 important is being the only safety nets in many communities.

8645 They're the first ones to recommend and also refer people in  
8646 those communities to mental health services that otherwise,  
8647 those suicides that were mentioned earlier may come to  
8648 fruition because a professional has not identified that human  
8649 being's condition and therefore, unfortunately, unrecognize  
8650 they could in fact commit suicide.

8651 So anyway, I don't want to take up too much time. I  
8652 just wanted to state that for the record. Thank you, Doctor.

8653 \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you very much, Representative  
8654 Cardenas.

8655 I just want to leave everybody with the statistic that  
8656 29 percent, nearly 30 percent, of those who have received  
8657 Medicaid through the Medicaid Expansion have used their  
8658 Medicaid for substance use disorders or mental health  
8659 services.

8660 So I urge you to vote for this budget reconciliation  
8661 bill that has \$4 billion for mental health. A vote against  
8662 it is a vote against \$4 billion for mental health, and to  
8663 vote no for this underlying amendment.

8664 I yield back.

8665 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

8666 Now, right now, I don't see any Republican names up.  
8667 Who's got the hand up there? Is that John? Oh, it's Doug.  
8668 Okay.

8669 Okay, Mr. Palmer has his hand up, is recognized for five

8670 minutes.

8671 \*Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8672 I just want to point out that for low-income families,  
8673 they have access to mental health services through their  
8674 community health centers. And I hate to say this, but a lot  
8675 of the women who have gone through abortions have been people  
8676 who needed the mental health services after suffering the  
8677 anguish that they do oftentimes after having an abortion.

8678 So I am grateful for the federal funding that goes to  
8679 the community health services to provide that counseling  
8680 service.

8681 I yield back.

8682 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

8683 Next, we're going to go to Lisa Blunt Rochester is  
8684 recognized for five minutes.

8685 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move  
8686 to strike the last word.

8687 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

8688 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. In the midst of a pandemic, we  
8689 must be ensuring that people have access to care when and  
8690 where they need it. And while I deeply appreciate my  
8691 colleague's commitment to addressing adolescent suicide  
8692 prevention, I would stress for my colleague that the  
8693 committee print includes \$50 million for existing SAMHSA  
8694 grant programs that support youth mental health services and



8695 suicide prevention as well as another \$10 million for the  
8696 National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network.

8697 We share your commitment to addressing youth mental  
8698 health services, and I'm proud that the underlying  
8699 legislation does that as well as provides critical family  
8700 planning funding for the Title X program, often which  
8701 services are utilized by the same young people.

8702 But I guess I want to just add one other thing, even as  
8703 we talk about vaccines and vaccine hesitancy. It was a young  
8704 Black woman who said to me just last week that she was  
8705 hesitant about the vaccine. And I said, "Well, why don't you  
8706 talk to your primary care doctor?" And she said, "I don't  
8707 have one." I said, "Do you have a gynecologist?" And she  
8708 said yes.

8709 And so even getting people in the door for vaccines,  
8710 this is important. So supporting Medicaid, supporting the  
8711 services that we talked about before are very important. And  
8712 we can ensure access to quality preventative care services,  
8713 and the underlying legislation does that while also providing  
8714 funding for critically important suicide prevention services.

8715 It's for this reason that I reject this amendment and  
8716 instead support the underlying legislation. And I would like  
8717 to yield the balance of my time to Mrs. Fletcher from Texas.

8718 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman --

8719 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you so much. Thank you so much,

8720 Mr. Chairman, and thank you so much to my colleague for  
8721 yielding time.

8722           And I think that my colleague has made such an important  
8723 point about these Title X family planning funds. And there  
8724 seems to be real misunderstanding about Title X in this  
8725 markup. Title X is a program that has historically served  
8726 more than four million low-income people a year by providing  
8727 health education resources and healthcare services like  
8728 family planning, contraception, cancer screening, and  
8729 sexually transmitted disease testing.

8730           And this program has a long history of bipartisan  
8731 support. Indeed, I love to tell people that Title X was born  
8732 in Texas 7. And it was introduced in Congress by my  
8733 predecessor in this seat then Representative George H. W.  
8734 Bush when he was in Congress.

8735           This program has about 50 years of bipartisan support  
8736 because Title X funding does exactly what we're discussing  
8737 here today; getting people who need it the most the  
8738 healthcare that they need. And as Chairwoman Eshoo noted and  
8739 my colleague Lisa Blunt Rochester noted Title X is a critical  
8740 safety net. Six in ten women have relied on Title X-  
8741 supported health centers for contraceptive care and have said  
8742 it is their only source of healthcare. So let that sink in  
8743 as you think about vaccines, as you think about access to  
8744 healthcare. For many women, the only doctor they see in a

8745 year is someone who works at Planned Parenthood or at another  
8746 clinic that gets Title X funds.

8747 Now, important, what we've seen is that despite this  
8748 bipartisan tradition, the Trump Administration decimated the  
8749 Title X program through a harmful and cruel domestic gag rule  
8750 which prevented qualified family planning providers from  
8751 participating in the program. And more than a thousand  
8752 health centers exited the program as a direct result of the  
8753 rule. And six states, as was previously noted, have gone  
8754 more than a year without any Title X-funded health centers.  
8755 This affects real women right now, and this is a problem we  
8756 have to address.

8757 In 2019, 800,000 fewer patients received Title X-  
8758 supported care than they did in 2018. That's a loss of more  
8759 than 20 percent in just one year. The underlying legislation  
8760 funding for Title X is there in order to correct these  
8761 terrible statistics that have resulted from the prior  
8762 administration's dangerous changes to this program and  
8763 restore the program to its true Congressional intent, to  
8764 serve the low-income people who need access to essential  
8765 healthcare services.

8766 As important as the vital funding that's provided for  
8767 preventing and addressing the suicide prevention, that is  
8768 addressed in this bill as many of colleagues have already  
8769 noted. So I just close in saying that as important as that

8770 issue is, let's not overlook the challenges that those who  
8771 lack access to essential healthcare and reproductive  
8772 healthcare face.

8773 And it's for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to  
8774 oppose this amendment, and I yield back.

8775 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

8776 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

8777 So next, I don't see any Republican unless one of you  
8778 wants to raise your hand. We're going to go to Kim Schrier.

8779 \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
8780 strike the last word. I speak as a pediatrician who has  
8781 devoted her life to children and child and adolescent mental  
8782 health and overall wellbeing. And I am so happy that  
8783 provisions for mental healthcare and suicide prevention are  
8784 already included in the underlying bill.

8785 I also know that getting our children back to in-person  
8786 schooling will go a long way in improving child and  
8787 adolescent mental health.

8788 Now, let's talk about Title X as so many of my  
8789 colleagues have so eloquently done. Title X is not just the  
8790 nation's family planning program. It also supports screening  
8791 for substance use disorder, mental illness, domestic  
8792 violence. It has supported access to care for poor women for  
8793 50 years.

8794 Title X funding supports a diverse group of providers

8795 like federally qualified health centers, hospitals, school-  
8796 based health centers, free-standing family planning  
8797 providers, and more. And these providers, by the way, also  
8798 provide mental health services. So what's really important  
8799 is that Title X funding gives access to care, which millions  
8800 of people are seeking during this pandemic.

8801         And we have seen that the populations most at risk from  
8802 COVID are exactly the populations that Title X serves.  
8803 During a pandemic in which millions of people are seeking  
8804 care and losing health coverage, we should be increasing  
8805 support for Title X.

8806         This bill puts \$50 million toward Title X to restore the  
8807 Congressional intent of this program to provide access to  
8808 preventative and reproductive healthcare. This program  
8809 disproportionately serves communities of color, and failure  
8810 to act will only serve to compound the devastating impact  
8811 that COVID-19 has had on these particular communities.

8812         Now, I do want to touch on reproductive healthcare just  
8813 for a moment. More than 40 percent of women reported that  
8814 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have changed their  
8815 plans about when or whether to have children or how many  
8816 children to have. Pregnant women are at higher risk of dying  
8817 from COVID-19. So family planning actually will save lives,  
8818 and this is why increasing Title X funding and increasing  
8819 access to care is the right thing to do.

8820           This is not a zero sum game. We can provide family  
8821 planning, screen for mental illness, and also get health  
8822 services and mental healthcare.

8823           I recommend a no vote on this amendment that stands to  
8824 hurt women without means who are already at risk. Thank you,  
8825 and I yield.

8826           \*Mr. Cardenas. This is Cardenas. Would the gentlewoman  
8827 yield the balance of her time?

8828           \*Ms. Schrier. I would be happy to yield to my colleague  
8829 Mr. Cardenas.

8830           \*Mr. Cardenas. Thank you very much. I'm trying not to  
8831 speak very much on this hearing, but I must say this. I  
8832 heard one of my colleagues just mention earlier about the  
8833 need for mental health when a woman or a female makes  
8834 reproductive decisions of her own. I want to state for the  
8835 record that sometimes pregnancy is not a choice.

8836           I'm blessed to have a wife who volunteers. She's  
8837 introduced me to some of the young ladies that were raped by  
8838 family members at eight to twelve, thirteen, or fourteen.  
8839 You better believe not only is that a physical trauma, but it  
8840 is a mental trauma. But to force a woman in America to have  
8841 to go through that and to not allow them to make decisions  
8842 for themselves about what to do especially on an unwanted,  
8843 unwarranted, and unwelcome criminal act like that is  
8844 something that we should never allow. And anything that

8845 happens to bring detriment to that female's ability to do so  
8846 is something that we should not tolerate nor should we  
8847 advance nor should we ignore our responsibility to make sure  
8848 that people's rights are respected and protected.

8849 Thank you. I yield back the balance of my time to  
8850 Member Schrier.

8851 \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Cardenas, for that very  
8852 moving discussion, and I yield back.

8853 \*Ms. Kuster. Kim, would you yield? Kim, would you  
8854 yield? It's Congresswoman Kuster.

8855 \*Ms. Schrier. Absolutely. I yield.

8856 \*Ms. Kuster. Just very briefly. Thank you, Tony, for  
8857 speaking up. I was an adoption attorney for 25 years. I  
8858 have worked with over 300 birth mothers with unplanned  
8859 pregnancies. I have walked the walk. And let me tell you  
8860 about the anguish of carrying an unplanned pregnancy from  
8861 rape, from incest, from abuse, from domestic violence. So I  
8862 appreciate, Tony, you stepping up. Thank you, Kim. Thank  
8863 you to all our colleagues, Lisa, each and every one of you.  
8864 These young women deserve a voice.

8865 Thank you, and I yield back.

8866 \*The Chairman. Thank you. So now, we are going to Bob  
8867 Latta has his hand raised. Mr. Latta is recognized for five  
8868 minutes.

8869 \*Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I'd like to

8870 yield to the gentlelady, Mrs. Lesko, for as much time as she  
8871 may consume.

8872 \*The Chairman. Gentlewoman is recognized.

8873 \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you,  
8874 my colleagues. I want to repeat again for all of you and for  
8875 the general public my amendment does not take away any  
8876 current funding from Title X family planning. So you know, I  
8877 understand all of your, you know, support for family  
8878 planning, for contraceptives, but my amendment doesn't take  
8879 away any current funding. In fact, H.R. 133, that we just  
8880 passed, added another, what, \$286 million to Title X family  
8881 planning.

8882 And you know, I find it kind of interesting, this \$50  
8883 million that we're adding to Title X family planning, and I  
8884 don't know if it's a coincidence that there was a report that  
8885 Planned Parenthood lost about \$50 million after Trump decided  
8886 to change the rule on Title X. In fact, there was a New York  
8887 Times article, and I'm just going to summarize it, that  
8888 Planned Parenthood chose to withdraw from Title X after Trump  
8889 rule went into effect for bidding referrals to doctors that  
8890 perform abortions. And that was an August 19, 2019, article.

8891 And so Planned Parenthood decided to forgo the money  
8892 because they couldn't refer patients to abortion providers.  
8893 You know, Planned Parenthood received \$60 million annually  
8894 through Title X before withdrawing. So you know, nobody



8895 here, no Republican, certainly not me, is against women  
8896 health or women going to family planning. What I am against  
8897 is taxpayer dollars going towards abortion providers. And I  
8898 just think it's a little coincidental that, you know, after  
8899 Trump puts in this rule, Planned Parenthood decides we're not  
8900 going to take the funding from Title X because, you know, we  
8901 can't refer our patients to abortion providers anymore. And  
8902 now, we're giving \$50 million extra, not -- we're not taking  
8903 away current money. My amendment doesn't take away current  
8904 money. This is just saying instead of giving it to Title X  
8905 family planning, and you can see that this is controversial,  
8906 you know, because of the abortion aspect of it.

8907         It's not the women health part of it that we're opposed  
8908 to, Republicans, we're opposed to money going to abortions.  
8909 So let's instead give it to the youth that are committing  
8910 suicide. I mean, this is a huge problem in Arizona. It's a  
8911 huge problem in America. And it's really been compounded  
8912 based on not being able to go to school. Kids are separated.  
8913 They can't do sports. I mean, you know how this is affecting  
8914 adults let alone teenagers that are going through troubling  
8915 times even without COVID.

8916         And so all this amendment does is say, hey, instead of  
8917 giving the extra, extra \$50 million to Title X family  
8918 planning, which there's a controversial part to it because  
8919 part of it can go to abortion providers, let's instead put

8920 that money towards our youth. So let's save lives by not  
8921 giving it to abortion providers and instead save lives by  
8922 preventing suicides.

8923 And with that, I yield back.

8924 \*The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. It was Mr.  
8925 Latta's time, I guess.

8926 \*Mr. Latta. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

8927 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next we go to Yvette Clarke  
8928 is recognized for five minutes.

8929 \*Ms. Clarke. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, this  
8930 pandemic has laid bare very long, enduring, and lingering  
8931 health disparities that have been compounded over  
8932 generations. Disparities that have prevented access to our  
8933 most vulnerable communities who are taking the brunt of the  
8934 COVID-19 crisis.

8935 I strongly oppose this amendment on the basis that it  
8936 will further exacerbate the health disparities that have  
8937 become undeniable to anyone on this committee and across this  
8938 country.

8939 Black women are three to four times more likely than  
8940 White women to die during pregnancy or shortly after giving  
8941 birth. This amendment seeks to take resources away from  
8942 already marginalized communities that are even now at a  
8943 disadvantage. This committee should act to improve the state  
8944 of maternal health in the United States not further decimate

8945 the resources in our communities.

8946         The Title X program is a key resource to address the  
8947 Black maternal health crisis. Though there are a myriad of  
8948 health and justice issues underpinning the Black maternal  
8949 health crisis, many of which are inextricably linked to  
8950 structural racism in the healthcare system. The Title X  
8951 program can also serve as a tool to decrease rates of  
8952 maternal morbidity and mortality in the United States. Given  
8953 that over 20 percent of Title X patients identified as Black,  
8954 this program offers a unique opportunity to address maternal  
8955 health inequity.

8956         For instance, the program's emphases are promoting  
8957 preconception health, offering wellness [audio drop] and  
8958 screening for high blood pressure and diabetes, both of which  
8959 have a higher prevalence in Black communities. It's critical  
8960 in promoting overall health with the ultimate goal of  
8961 decreasing rates of poor maternal health outcomes among Black  
8962 women. Additionally, promoting people's ability to control  
8963 the timing and spacing of pregnancies through the provisions  
8964 of family planning is an important tool to ensure patient  
8965 autonomy over one's health and one's life.

8966         The bottom line is that when people can plan pregnancies  
8967 and space out those pregnancies, they are healthier. And let  
8968 me just say that this is not an either/or scenario. We are  
8969 addressing the issues of mental health for our youth in this

8970 bill.

8971 And so I really have to say I'm disturbed by this debate  
8972 today because it's as though we don't have eyes to see. And  
8973 these clinics are within the reach of the most vulnerable in  
8974 our society. And I am proud to represent the district where  
8975 the very first Planned Parenthood clinic was established.

8976 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my  
8977 time.

8978 \*Mr. Ruiz. Can I have some moments? Can you yield to  
8979 me?

8980 \*Ms. Clarke. Absolutely. I will definitely yield to  
8981 Dr. Ruiz.

8982 \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, thank you, Representative Clarke.

8983 You know, there's been some misinformation once again  
8984 about the rates of depression after women decide to get an  
8985 abortion and their mental health sequela. So let's go to the  
8986 science. There's a recent study, I believe, last year where  
8987 they took -- it was a retrospective study where they took  
8988 hundreds of women and followed them. Actually, they looked  
8989 back on checking on what their mental health experience was  
8990 after getting an abortion.

8991 And what they found was that the biggest risk for a  
8992 woman to have depression, regret, or anxiety after an  
8993 abortion was to live in a household with relatives who put  
8994 shame or in a group who put shame in getting an abortion.

8995 Absence that, there was nearly an absence of depression,  
8996 regret, or anxiety with women.

8997 So we must ask ourselves if there is a -- we must ask  
8998 ourselves about who's inducing the rates of depressing and  
8999 anxiety, who are the risk factors for inducing that  
9000 depression, anxiety, and regret, in which households are  
9001 those risk factors being detrimental to a woman's mental  
9002 health after making that decision.

9003 And with that, I yield back.

9004 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

9005 Now, the only name who still has the hand, virtual hand,  
9006 is Annie Kuster, did you want to speak again? I know you  
9007 spoke on someone else's time.

9008 \*Ms. Kuster. No, I'm all set, Frank. Thank you so  
9009 much.

9010 \*The Chairman. All right. All right. So that's it. I  
9011 don't see anybody else who wants to speak on the Lesko  
9012 Amendment. So we'll go to a vote unless the ranking --

9013 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chair.

9014 \*The Chairman. Yes.

9015 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I call for a roll call vote.

9016 \*The Chairman. Yes.

9017 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chair, I withdraw my point of order.

9018 \*The Chairman. Okay. The vicechair withdraws her point  
9019 of order. So we're now going to have a recorded vote on the

9020 Lesko Amendment.  
9021 Those in favor of the Lesko Amendment will say aye.  
9022 Those opposed will say no. And the clerk shall call the  
9023 roll.  
9024 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush.  
9025 \*Mr. Rush. Illinoisan votes no.  
9026 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.  
9027 Ms. Eshoo.  
9028 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo of California votes no.  
9029 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.  
9030 Ms. DeGette.  
9031 Mr. Doyle.  
9032 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.  
9033 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.  
9034 Ms. Schakowsky.  
9035 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.  
9036 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.  
9037 Mr. Butterfield.  
9038 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.  
9039 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.  
9040 Ms. Matsui.  
9041 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
9042 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
9043 Ms. Castor.  
9044 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.

9045 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
9046 Mr. Sarbanes.  
9047 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
9048 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
9049 Mr. McNerney.  
9050 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes no.  
9051 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
9052 Mr. Welch.  
9053 \*Mr. Welch. Votes no.  
9054 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
9055 Mr. Tonko.  
9056 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes no.  
9057 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
9058 Ms. Clarke.  
9059 \*Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
9060 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
9061 Mr. Schrader.  
9062 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
9063 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
9064 Mr. Cardenas.  
9065 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas representing California votes  
9066 no.  
9067 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
9068 Mr. Ruiz.  
9069 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.

9070 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
9071 Mr. Peters.  
9072 Mrs. Dingell.  
9073 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
9074 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
9075 Mr. Veasey.  
9076 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
9077 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
9078 Ms. Kuster.  
9079 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
9080 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
9081 Ms. Kelly.  
9082 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
9083 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
9084 Ms. Barragan.  
9085 Mr. McEachin.  
9086 Ms. Blunt Rochester.  
9087 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
9088 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
9089 Mr. Soto.  
9090 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
9091 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
9092 Mr. O'Halleran.  
9093 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
9094 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.



9095 Miss Rice.  
9096 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
9097 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
9098 Ms. Craig.  
9099 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
9100 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
9101 Ms. Schrier.  
9102 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
9103 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
9104 Mrs. Trahan.  
9105 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
9106 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
9107 Mrs. Fletcher.  
9108 Mrs. Rodgers.  
9109 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
9110 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
9111 Mr. Upton.  
9112 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
9113 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
9114 Mr. Burgess.  
9115 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
9116 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
9117 Mr. Scalise.  
9118 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.  
9119 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.

9120 Mr. Latta.  
9121 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
9122 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
9123 Mr. Guthrie.  
9124 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
9125 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
9126 Mr. McKinley.  
9127 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
9128 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
9129 Mr. Kinzinger.  
9130 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
9131 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
9132 Mr. Griffith.  
9133 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.  
9134 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
9135 Mr. Bilirakis.  
9136 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
9137 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
9138 Mr. Johnson.  
9139 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.  
9140 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
9141 Mr. Long.  
9142 \*Mr. Long. Votes aye.  
9143 \*The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.  
9144 Mr. Bucshon.

9145 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
9146 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
9147 Mr. Mullin.  
9148 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.  
9149 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
9150 Mr. Hudson.  
9151 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
9152 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
9153 Mr. Walberg.  
9154 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
9155 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
9156 Mr. Carter.  
9157 \*Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.  
9158 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
9159 Mr. Duncan.  
9160 \*Mr. Duncan. Duncan, aye.  
9161 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
9162 Mr. Palmer.  
9163 \*Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.  
9164 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
9165 Mr. Dunn.  
9166 Mr. Curtis.  
9167 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
9168 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
9169 Mrs. Lesko.

9170 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
9171 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
9172 Mr. Pence. Mr. Pence?  
9173 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.  
9174 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
9175 Mr. Crenshaw.  
9176 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
9177 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
9178 Mr. Joyce.  
9179 \*Mr. Joyce. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
9180 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
9181 Mr. Armstrong.  
9182 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes yes.  
9183 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
9184 \*Mr. Peters. Mr. Chairman, can Peters be recorded as a  
9185 no?  
9186 \*The Chairman. Who is that? Who just spoke? Scott  
9187 Peters? Scott votes no. I mean votes yes.  
9188 \*Mr. Peters. Thank you.  
9189 \*The Chairman. Oh, I'm sorry.  
9190 \*Mr. Peters. That's right.  
9191 \*The Chairman. Peters votes no.  
9192 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
9193 Chairman Pallone.  
9194 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.

9195 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
9196 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
9197 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
9198 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
9199 \*Mr. McEachin. Mr. Chairman, McEachin votes no.  
9200 [crosstalk]  
9201 \*The Chairman. McEachin votes no.  
9202 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
9203 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
9204 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
9205 [crosstalk]  
9206 \*The Chairman. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
9207 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
9208 \*The Chairman. Anybody else missing? I think that's  
9209 it. All right. The clerk will report the tally on the Lesko  
9210 Amendment.  
9211 \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the ayes were 26,  
9212 and the nays were 31.  
9213 \*The Chairman. Okay. Thank you. So the vote on the  
9214 Lesko Amendment is 26 ayes, 31 noes. The amendment is not  
9215 agreed to. The further amendments to the amendment in the  
9216 nature of a substitute.  
9217 \*Mr. Mullin. Mr. Chairman, I've got an amendment at the  
9218 desk.  
9219 \*The Chairman. Is that Markwayne? Okay, Markwayne

9220 Mullin has an amendment. What is it labeled?

9221 \*Mr. Mullin. I actually need a number on it.

9222 \*The Chairman. All right. It's the only one. Does the  
9223 Clerk know which one we're talking about; Mr. Mullin's  
9224 amendment?

9225 \*The Clerk. No. 65.

9226 \*The Chairman. You only have the one.

9227 \*Mr. Mullin. Yeah, No. 65, yes, sir.

9228 \*The Chairman. All right. Without objection, the  
9229 reading of the -- well, do you want to read the beginning of  
9230 it?

9231 \*Mr. Mullin. No, we're good, sir.

9232 \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
9233 a substitute.

9234 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chair, I'd like to reserve a point  
9235 of [audio drop].

9236 \*The Chairman. The vicechair reserves --

9237 \*Ms. Kelly. Go on, I'll wait.

9238 \*The Chairman. The vicechair reserves a point of order,  
9239 and the Clerk will report the Mullin Amendment.

9240 \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
9241 a substitute to committee print relating to public health  
9242 offered by Mr. Mullin of Oklahoma. Page 27, Line 8 --

9243 \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk, without objection, the  
9244 reading of the Mullin Amendment will be dispensed with, and

9245 the gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for five minutes.

9246 [The amendment of Mr. Mullin follows:]

9247

9248 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

9249           \*Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment  
9250 sets aside five percent of the community mental health block  
9251 grants for states that have been unexpectedly and has  
9252 unexpected job loss due to Biden's climate policies.  
9253 Specifically, Biden's executive orders on the Keystone XL  
9254 pipeline and pushing new oil and natural gas leases on public  
9255 lands and offshore waters, has one side effect to the  
9256 pandemic. It locks down and has increased mental health and  
9257 burdens in states and individuals that live inside those  
9258 states.

9259           The energy sector was already hard hit due to the  
9260 pandemic, and now thousands more Americans are out of work.  
9261 The communities' devastations that follow will undermine  
9262 health services just when people need them the most and  
9263 amplify all of the problems we are trying to address with  
9264 this section of this bill.

9265           The actions by this administration are dangerous. And  
9266 the extra burden of job loss makes the effect of the pandemic  
9267 even worse. If the goal of this bill is to actually help  
9268 people, we should make sure these energy workers and their  
9269 families have access to the same mental health services as  
9270 others.

9271           A vote for this amendment does just that. I encourage  
9272 the adoption of this amendment, and I yield.

9273           \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman from Florida, Ms.



9274 Castor, is recognized.

9275 \*Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
9276 strike the last word and speak in opposition to this  
9277 amendment.

9278 Ensuring that the unemployed and uninsured individuals  
9279 have comprehensive mental healthcare is a critical issue.  
9280 Thankfully, in America we work as representatives on the  
9281 federal side in partnership with states to do just that  
9282 largely through Medicaid. In fact, Medicaid is the number  
9283 one pair of mental and behavioral healthcare in this country.  
9284 It provides access to a broad spectrum of services to those  
9285 who may not otherwise be able to afford them. It has been  
9286 critical during the public health crisis.

9287 So I sincerely invite the gentleman to work with us to  
9288 ensure that unemployed Americans have access to comprehensive  
9289 mental health services and strength Medicaid. But this  
9290 amendment actually isn't about improving access to mental  
9291 healthcare. This is an amendment really focused on the  
9292 Keystone pipeline. And I hear you loud and clear on energy  
9293 workers. We owe energy workers across this country over the  
9294 past century a debt of gratitude. A lot of our quality of  
9295 life, the fact we're the most advanced country in the world,  
9296 is largely because of folks in coal mines and all across the  
9297 fuel fields. But we know now things have changed. We are  
9298 experiencing a climate crisis because of the emissions of

9299 greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

9300           It is a crisis. We've seen rising costs. We see  
9301 catastrophic events now. They are accelerating. And we have  
9302 debated the dangerous dirty tar sands related to Keystone,  
9303 the Keystone pipeline, for over a decade. And what has come  
9304 out of that debate is that tar sands, for example, are the  
9305 dirtiest fuel out there. Emissions associated with the  
9306 production of those tar sands has resulted in -- could have  
9307 resulted in about 168 million metric tons of carbon dioxide  
9308 emissions every year. And that would be a disaster for the  
9309 climate, for public health, for drinking water. The list  
9310 goes on.

9311           So at a time when we should be doing everything we can  
9312 to reduce carbon pollution and mitigate the rising costs and  
9313 catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis, we can't continue  
9314 to double down on failed dirty fuel projects.

9315           Oftentimes, as in Keystone, it's not a winner when it  
9316 comes to jobs. A lot of the jobs that were proposed tied to  
9317 the Keystone pipeline were temporary. They were potential  
9318 jobs. The truth is right now, market forces are changing  
9319 jobs in the entire energy sector. And it's going to be  
9320 important for us all to work together to ensure that folks  
9321 have access to good quality jobs so that they can -- they may  
9322 not have to go onto Medicaid, but Medicaid will be there for  
9323 them, for anyone who has lost their jobs.

9324           So President Biden's aim to set a more ambitious course  
9325 for this country is going to pay great dividends, and we all  
9326 need to work together to get there.   So I urge the committee  
9327 to dispense with this amendment quickly so we can get back to  
9328 the heart of the matter, that is ramping up vaccine  
9329 distribution and ensuring our neighbors have access to  
9330 affordable healthcare.

9331           And I yield back.

9332           \*Ms. Castor. I am happy to yield to you, Mr. McKinley.

9333           \*Mr. McKinley. Ms. Castor, I am just curious. If they  
9334 block the pipeline as they have done, does there -- do you  
9335 really believe they are not going to ship that oil someplace  
9336 else and they will refine it someplace else in -- so those  
9337 emissions that you talked about, the tonnage will still be  
9338 released to the atmosphere?

9339           \*Ms. Castor. Boy, I sure hope not. I really hope not.  
9340 The tar sands fuels are the dirtiest on the planet, and we  
9341 already know --

9342           \*Mr. McKinley. So you are saying that it could shut  
9343 down? Because from everything we understand, they are going  
9344 to ship it. They are going to ship it someplace else. So we  
9345 may not do it in a cleaner way, but they will ship it  
9346 someplace else and it may be, it may be refined in China.  
9347 And we know what the -- we know how poor their techniques  
9348 are.

9349           \*Ms. Castor. No. I mean we have a lot of work to do  
9350 together and we have talked directly to each other about the  
9351 -- you know, America, we are not in this alone when it comes  
9352 to the climate crisis. We have to put the pressure on China  
9353 and India. And this is going to be a robust debate that we  
9354 will have, but really, we have all got to work together  
9355 because the costs are escalating, the catastrophic events are  
9356 adding up, the planet continues to warm. And unless we come  
9357 up with -- really focus on clean energy solutions, we are  
9358 going to be in a whole world of hurt.

9359           \*Mr. McKinley. Thank you.

9360           \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

9361           And now we are going to go to Larry. I recognize for  
9362 five minutes.

9363           \*Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9364           I won't take five minutes. I just wanted to reiterate  
9365 what Congressman McKinley just said. I mean, the Canadians  
9366 are not going to just give up and let all that revenue for  
9367 their businesses and companies go away and -- for their  
9368 country.

9369           In fact, pipelines are the safest, cleanest way to  
9370 transport fossil -- this type of fossil fuel. And the  
9371 reality is without the pipeline, it is going to go on trains  
9372 and trucks, which is the worst way to transport it. And so  
9373 it is either going to go into America that way -- and maybe

9374 it has something to do with who owns the railroad that is  
9375 going to transport it, and you should look into that if you  
9376 want to know what I mean.

9377 But the reality is, is if it does not come into America  
9378 to be refined, it is going to go, as was mentioned, probably  
9379 to the West Coast of Canada and it is going to be shipped to  
9380 China where they are going to refine it and dump much dirtier  
9381 emissions into the air than the United States ever thought of  
9382 doing. Of course, since 2005 we are the leader in the world  
9383 in decreasing our carbon emissions and the Chinese, theirs  
9384 are not going down, they are only going to go up. They won't  
9385 comply.

9386 So I think it is -- you know, yes, this is an  
9387 interesting debate. I am an all the above energy believer, I  
9388 am -- I favor all kinds of energy sources, but I -- including  
9389 renewables, of course. But I think when people really look  
9390 at this situation, the job losses that are entailed in  
9391 America, the fact that we are going to allow this type of  
9392 energy source to be transmitted -- transported by rail and by  
9393 trucks, because it will be, the free market will not stop.  
9394 They are not going to leave all this in the ground. They  
9395 just won't do it because there is just too much money  
9396 involved. And so I think it is shortsighted.

9397 So I think, you know, we all need to think about that  
9398 when we look at our long-term plans. And I support this

9399 amendment. I yield back.

9400 \*Mr. Mullin. Mr. Bucshon, would you yield to me,  
9401 please?

9402 \*Mr. Bucshon. I will yield to Markwayne.

9403 \*Mr. Mullin. Thank you.

9404 I just wanted to address a couple things. One thing,  
9405 when you say that, you know, the support -- if we really want  
9406 to support these workers, that you should support expanding  
9407 Medicaid. But understand most of these construction workers  
9408 had really good paying jobs just a few weeks ago. They are  
9409 not going to qualify for Medicaid. That does not make any  
9410 sense. What they need is their jobs.

9411 You talk about devastating climate to tear away families and  
9412 tear away things. Let me tell you what is devastating.

9413 What is devastating is when someone loses a loved one  
9414 because of the devastating loss of a job and they end up  
9415 committing suicide. Because we can track suicide records  
9416 from as far back to the crash of the 1920s where we saw  
9417 unemployment increase. And every time we see unemployment  
9418 increase, we always see suicides increase.

9419 When you see the Biden administration killing this many  
9420 jobs, we know, all of us on this panel knows, that we are  
9421 going to see increased in suicide when we kill this many  
9422 jobs. That is devastating. You ask a loved one who has lost  
9423 someone to a suicide, you ask some of my friends, you ask

9424 some of my families who has been devastated by suicide  
9425 before, you tell us what we would rather have. We would  
9426 rather have jobs. We would rather have our loved ones.

9427 We can do this. We can clean our energy up. We can  
9428 clean our climate up. We can do that without killing  
9429 people's jobs. We are better than this. And as the Energy  
9430 and Commerce Committee, we need to be like Bucshon said, all  
9431 the above. Not one side fits all. Fossil fuel helped build  
9432 this country.

9433 \*Ms. Castor. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma yield?

9434 \*Mr. Mullin. It is not mine to yield.

9435 \*Mr. Bucshon. It is not his.

9436 \*Mr. Mullin. It is that we have built this country, as  
9437 you said, on our fossil fuel industry. On these construction  
9438 workers. When we start talking about temporary jobs, ma'am,  
9439 by all due respect, I have construction companies and the job  
9440 I deal is, and all my construction workers are full-time  
9441 employees but they go from job to job to job. That is what  
9442 they do. Construction is a strong career.

9443 So it is a misleading statement when you say it is  
9444 temporary. It is not temporary; it is the type of work they  
9445 do. So with all that being said, understand what you are  
9446 saying. You are leading the American people a bunch of lies.

9447 With that, Mr. Bucshon, I yield back.

9448 \*Ms. Castor. And Mr. Bucshon, would you yield?

9449           \*Mr. Mullin. Ms. Castor, yeah. Yes. Yeah, absolutely.

9450           \*Ms. Castor. Yeah. Look, things are changing. Market  
9451 forces and the cheaper, healthier clean energy sources are  
9452 changing the entire energy sector. In fact, last year the  
9453 fossil fuel industry got \$15 billion in emergency aid -- the  
9454 pandemic emergency aid, but they still fired 75,000 workers.

9455           So we are going to have to work together during the  
9456 transition to the clean energy sources and make sure that  
9457 good paying family sustaining jobs and clean energy, that is  
9458 the sector that is growing. We are going to have to work  
9459 together to ensure that that happens. So I will look forward  
9460 to working with you on that.

9461           \*Mr. Bucshon. Yeah. I will reclaim my time and just  
9462 say, Mr. Chairman, is that it is just shortsighted to think  
9463 blocking the Keystone Pipeline will change anything as it  
9464 relates to the emissions of the world because we are -- last  
9465 time I checked, we are in all the same atmosphere as the  
9466 Chinese are. I yield back.

9467           \*The Chairman. I do not see any Democratic hand up  
9468 unless I am missing something. So I am going to go to Mr.  
9469 Scalise. He is recognized for five minutes.

9470           \*Mr. Scalise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9471           And I rise in strong support of Markwayne Mullin's  
9472 Amendment. Look, when you are talking about the devastating  
9473 impact that President Biden's policies, the executive orders



9474 just in his first month have had on the entire energy  
9475 industry in America. We are not talking about getting rid of  
9476 fossil fuels in the globe. We are talking about just getting  
9477 rid of them in the United States.

9478         Look, it was not just the Keystone Pipeline on day one,  
9479 and you have heard labor unions talking about how devastating  
9480 it is. Those are not temporary jobs. And for anybody that  
9481 does not understand how those jobs are, I think Markwayne  
9482 just touched on it. Those are good careers for hardworking  
9483 families. Families that are furious right now because their  
9484 paycheck, and it is good paycheck, has just been decimated.  
9485 Not by market forces, not by failure to be able to compete  
9486 globally, but by an American policy by fiat, just written on  
9487 a pen.

9488         They are hurting right now. They need that mental  
9489 health counseling, but they should not have to have it  
9490 because this should go away. We should reverse this policy.  
9491 There are Democrats and Republicans that have called on  
9492 President Biden to reverse this devastating policy. It is  
9493 not just this one, because then just a few days later,  
9494 President Biden went and put an open-ended ban on new leases  
9495 on Federal lands all across this country.

9496         There are a lot of States that are in the energy  
9497 business today that were never in the energy industry or had  
9498 not been in for decades that are now getting really good jobs

9499 and producing low-cost energy that not just heats our homes  
9500 in the winter, not just provides the ability for us to  
9501 manufacture things in America again, but it is helping our  
9502 friends around world, our allies.

9503 In fact, it was in this committee, back when Joe Barton  
9504 was here, it was his bill that lifted the ban on oil exports.  
9505 We were exporting our energy to other allies around the  
9506 world, which, by the way, took away leverage that Russia  
9507 used. These executive orders are a gift to China and Russia.  
9508 And by the way, and it was touched on earlier, it is not like  
9509 we are not just using fossil fuels, it is just that other  
9510 countries are going to make those fossil fuels. Countries  
9511 that do not have the good environmental standards we have.

9512 You know, when you look at some of the other things,  
9513 Paris Accord, what it is going to do to kill manufacturing in  
9514 America. You know, you make steel -- we were still using  
9515 steel. We just won't be able to make it in Pittsburgh, you  
9516 will have to make it in China and India where they emit five  
9517 times more carbon to make the same stuff. You know, if these  
9518 policies really were something that affected the whole globe,  
9519 every country in the nation in the world would do it, but  
9520 they are not.

9521 In fact, our enemies around the world are laughing to  
9522 the bank. We just gave OPEC a monopoly that we had taken  
9523 away through American ingenuity and technology, and these are

9524 good jobs. And this offensive suggestion that you can just  
9525 go make solar panels.

9526         You know, I was down in Lafourche Parish just 3 days ago  
9527 in my district, and I was meeting with some of those workers  
9528 in the oil field. You know, Lafourche is where Port Fourchon  
9529 is. They service the deep-water operations of all the Gulf  
9530 of Mexico drilling that goes on, some of the best technology  
9531 in the world. And that technology, by the way, is used all  
9532 around the world, but it started here in America. These are  
9533 really good jobs. And so when you shut down permits, when  
9534 you shut down leasing, their careers go away.

9535         I was meeting with some of those workers, and most of  
9536 them are second and third generation. This is not just their  
9537 careers; it is the career their family has been in their  
9538 whole life. It puts food on the table, it is good benefits,  
9539 too, by the way. A lot of those solar panel jobs make 30  
9540 percent less. You tell them they are going to have to uproot  
9541 their family, their third or fourth generation family, to go  
9542 to some other State to take a 30 percent pay cut -- and a lot  
9543 of those jobs, by the way, do not even have the good health  
9544 benefits that they enjoy today. And why? Is it to save the  
9545 planet? No, you are actually going to have more emissions in  
9546 the atmosphere because they exempt China.

9547         They give these jobs -- I guess that is how they are  
9548 funding this \$1.9 trillion complete deficit spending bill by

9549 giving this gift to China. Giving this gift to Russia. Why  
9550 would you want to give Russia our good energy jobs? Again,  
9551 the oil is going to be made somewhere. Look, the climates  
9552 are -- himself, John Kerry, admitted that he flies around the  
9553 world on a private jet which emits 40 times more carbon, per  
9554 passenger, to go to places like Iceland to accept global  
9555 warming awards, and it is not like he has got solar panels on  
9556 his wings. I wish we had that technology today. We do not.  
9557 Any of us that fly on a plane -- and by the way, if you  
9558 really do think fossil fuels are evil and dirty and  
9559 destroying the planet, you know, ride your bicycle to D.C.  
9560 next time you go to work.

9561 Do not destroy these American jobs and then just have  
9562 this cavalier attitude that, oh, they are just temporary, or  
9563 those people can just go work somewhere else. This is their  
9564 livelihood, and by the way, they do it really well, and they  
9565 have really good standards. And our standards in America are  
9566 better than anywhere else in the world. We should not be  
9567 getting rid of the jobs, but if the policy is going to be get  
9568 rid of them, at least give them some help in relief, because  
9569 it is causing real mental anguish.

9570 And so I strongly support Markwayne's amendment. I wish  
9571 we would reverse the damaging policies. But in the meantime,  
9572 let's at least help these families who are struggling.

9573 I yield back.

9574           \*The Chairman. Next, we have Lizzie Fletcher is  
9575 recognized for five minutes.

9576           \*Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. I  
9577 move to strike the last word.

9578           \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

9579           \*Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9580           We talked about a lot of issues here today, and I think  
9581 that what I really want to focus on -- I did not hear Mr.  
9582 Mullin say this in describing the bill, but I just read the  
9583 text of his amendment, and I believe it does not just earmark  
9584 the funds for the purpose he identified, but it adds a  
9585 billion dollars of funding. And that is really the issue, at  
9586 least for me, that it increases from 1.7 billion to 2.7  
9587 billion dollars, this assistance. And so it changes the  
9588 funding levels, will bust the reconciliation, and will delay  
9589 the assistance to the people in the oil patch who are out of  
9590 work, and who need the assistance.

9591           So make no mistake, I support helping those who are out  
9592 of work, those who are experiencing great distress because  
9593 they have lost their jobs, or because there is uncertainty  
9594 about whether their jobs will continue. People who have no  
9595 prospect of work, especially including those who work in the  
9596 oil fields. I know the challenges they face because they are  
9597 calling my office. We are helping them get unemployment  
9598 through our State Workforce Commission. We see the impacts

9599 across our community of so many people who are out of work.  
9600 And I do think that having mental health resources for those  
9601 who are out of work and who are facing this incredible  
9602 uncertainty right now that we are all experiencing, is  
9603 vitally important.

9604         So you know, I support the idea, but I cannot support  
9605 this amendment that is going to make it harder, rather than  
9606 easier, for us to get them the assistance that they need.  
9607 You know, one way, probably the most important way that we  
9608 can help in this moment, in this markup, is getting them the  
9609 unemployment funds in the American Rescue Plan, getting them  
9610 the economic impact payments in the plan, getting the  
9611 vaccines and the testing to get our economy moving, to get  
9612 people back to work. As many of my colleagues have said, to  
9613 get kids back in school.

9614         We have to address the pandemic, and that is why we are  
9615 talking about this American Rescue Plan, that is why we are  
9616 doing it in this way. I have heard several of my colleagues  
9617 talk about a frustration that we are not doing this in a more  
9618 bipartisan way, but we have been working on this for nearly a  
9619 year, and I think -- I have not heard of any of my colleagues  
9620 mention the HEREOS Act or the second HEREOS Act or the  
9621 efforts that we went through all of last year to develop  
9622 smart and thoughtful policy. And I fought all of last year  
9623 to make sure that folks in the oil patch were included in the

9624 relief funds, in the PPP program, because I see it and I  
9625 agree that we have got to help.

9626 But the thing that we can do right now in this moment is  
9627 address the pandemic. And you know, the good news is for  
9628 some of us the recounts are actually up since January, even  
9629 with these executive orders. Now I have previously said I do  
9630 not support these executive orders. I won't take our time  
9631 here on that, but I think that, you know, these issues are so  
9632 important, but crushing the pandemic is the issue before us  
9633 right now. And the American Rescue Plan is the best way to  
9634 get the most help to the people who need it in this moment  
9635 and create an environment where the domestic energy industry  
9636 can thrive, and that is something that I absolutely support.

9637 But because this amendment will kill the bill and change  
9638 the funding levels, I oppose it. Thank you, and I yield  
9639 back.

9640 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next, we have Fred Upton is  
9641 recognized for five minutes.

9642 \*Mr. Upton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I rise in  
9643 strong support of this amendment. I remember when I was  
9644 Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and we moved  
9645 Keystone legislation through the committee. This has been an  
9646 issue with us for a long time and almost overnight, the first  
9647 day of the Biden administration, he killed it with an  
9648 executive order. You know, there is thousands and thousands

9649 of jobs that are impacted here.

9650 My district in Michigan, we have jobs here, we make  
9651 valves for the pipelines. I was in Steve Scalise's State,  
9652 and together, we toured a pipeline manufacturing company.  
9653 They were making pipes for Keystone years ago. I know that a  
9654 number of our colleagues were up in the Dakotas and looking  
9655 at the pipeline this last week, maybe it was even earlier  
9656 this week, and they are just devastated with this news that  
9657 the President made on literally the first day in office.

9658 You know, there is no denying that the Keystone  
9659 Pipeline, the executive order the President did will, in  
9660 fact, cost thousands and thousands of jobs. What this  
9661 amendment does, is it provides assistance to these folks,  
9662 which, you know, these are not \$8 minimum wage jobs like you  
9663 find here in Michigan, or \$15 minimum jobs. These are pretty  
9664 good jobs raising families as they commute back and forth.  
9665 The unemployment levels in that area of the country, they  
9666 have drawn workers in to build this thing, and as much as  
9667 maybe we would all like to see fossil fuels end, it is not  
9668 going to happen overnight. It is not going to happen in the  
9669 next 5 or 10 years.

9670 And as we look for an all of the above energy policy,  
9671 one that we could actually be independent of from the rest of  
9672 the world -- and you know, I can remember gas lines. I am  
9673 old enough to remember standing in a gas line with a car and



9674 waiting an hour or two on an odd day because my license plate  
9675 ended in a one and I could not fill up on an even day. So  
9676 today, the 11th of February, I could fill up; but tomorrow,  
9677 if I was going to go someplace for the weekend, I could not,  
9678 because my license plate ended in a one, and I could only  
9679 fill up on an odd day.

9680 We do not want to go back to those days. We want energy  
9681 to be affordable for all Americans. Yes, I support  
9682 renewables. We can do it all. You know, as you look at  
9683 safety, as you look at this industry, we are far better off  
9684 by transporting this by pipeline than by any other source.  
9685 And if it goes by some other source, truck or rail, not only  
9686 are the safety standards imperiled, but so is the cost as it  
9687 relates to the consumer.

9688 So let's protect these jobs. This is a good amendment.  
9689 Markwayne has done an excellent job in getting this ready for  
9690 us. And I would yield to any Republican Member --

9691 \*Mr. Curtis. Would the gentleman yield?

9692 \*Mr. Upton. I yield to Mr. Curtis.

9693 \*Mr. Curtis. Thank you. I will be brief. I have a  
9694 district that I think would be hard for most of you to  
9695 appreciate. Eighty percent of my landmass -- think, about  
9696 eighty percent of it. Of that eighty percent, over ninety  
9697 percent of it belongs to the Federal Government. Ninety  
9698 percent of that is public lands. Imagine trying to eke out a

9699 living on ten percent. Ten percent of the property pays  
9700 property tax, ninety percent does not. It won't surprise any  
9701 of you to know that these communities were already  
9702 devastated. Many of them were based on extraction of coal.  
9703 I have one of these counties is actually called Carbon  
9704 County.

9705 I strongly speak in favor of this. We have got to send  
9706 a message to these people that we hear them, we understand it  
9707 is a very, very difficult transition that they are in. And I  
9708 do not know if any of you can even imagine what it is like to  
9709 live in a county where 10 percent of it is private and 90  
9710 percent of it is Federal.

9711 Thank you. Please support this amendment. I yield  
9712 back.

9713 \*Mr. Upton. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of  
9714 my time.

9715 \*The Chairman. Okay. So Darren Soto would be next. He  
9716 is recognized for five minutes.

9717 \*Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9718 We have a great analysis by the Austin American-  
9719 Statesman, a great newspaper from Texas, that before  
9720 President Biden signed his executive order, only a 1.2  
9721 section mile of the pipeline had been completed in Montana  
9722 near the U.S./Canadian border. And TC Energy, tasked with  
9723 the contract, said that we lost about a thousand jobs. That

9724 is a shame, and no one -- we all lament that.

9725           The State Department forecasted that no more than fifty  
9726 jobs, some of which would be located in Canada, would be  
9727 required to maintain the pipeline after it was finished.  
9728 That is sadly not a huge number. Thirty-five of them would  
9729 be permanent while fifteen would be contractors. So after  
9730 this thing was constructed, it would create a absolute  
9731 disaster for our environment, and it would support fifty  
9732 jobs.

9733           On the other hand, Moody's Analytics estimates that  
9734 President Biden's proposal, the American Rescue Plan that we  
9735 are voting on today or tomorrow, will create 7.5 million  
9736 jobs: 7.5 million jobs this year alone, and another 2.5  
9737 million in 2022.

9738           So when we are talking about jobs, this bill is much  
9739 bigger than anything we are talking about in this amendment.  
9740 And a lot of it has to do with the Buy American Policy, where  
9741 we are serious about making sure through Federal procurement,  
9742 that we are buying from American manufacturers and getting a  
9743 new fleet of EVs. Much like we see Ford and GM -- we talked  
9744 about that the other day -- investing 50 billion in workforce  
9745 training, another part of this bill that is key, so that we  
9746 can train up folks to return to the workforce with better  
9747 skills. And of course, he proposes establishing the Public  
9748 Health Jobs Program, funding 100,000 jobs to do what should

9749 have been done all along, which is tracing vaccine outreach  
9750 and broader community health outreach so we can crush the  
9751 virus.

9752           There was a time back in the 1930s, when we were in the  
9753 Great Depression, that we harnessed the power of coming  
9754 together to create jobs in the day, and bring our economy  
9755 back. And so when we are talking about jobs, we have to keep  
9756 in perspective that this very bill at 7.5 million jobs,  
9757 dwarves the 50 jobs that would be permanent in the pipeline  
9758 that obviously we are trying to move beyond.

9759           \*The Chairman. Will the gentleman yield back?

9760           \*Mr. McNerney. Will the gentleman yield to McNerney?

9761           \*Mr. Soto. Yes, I yield.

9762           \*Mr. McNerney. I thank the gentleman.

9763           I think this is an important discussion. You know, we  
9764 have agreements here. We have friendships across the aisle.  
9765 We have disagreements. And this is one where we are going to  
9766 have to disagree. We are in a climate emergency. You know,  
9767 this last few years in California, we have established a new  
9768 normal of wildfires, where we have smoke that goes from  
9769 August through about October/November. We have incredible  
9770 flood potentials in Houston and Miami.

9771           I mean, this is a real emergency. We cannot ignore it.  
9772 And we are going to have to provide for people that are  
9773 displaced with the transition to a current free economy; it

9774 is going to have to happen. I think everybody is on board  
9775 with that. But we cannot ignore the climate crisis, and we  
9776 cannot, and should not hold the pandemic rescue hostage to  
9777 fossil fuels. What we can and should do is rely on American  
9778 ingenuity to get us to the next phase.

9779 The American Rescue Plan will create employment. It  
9780 will create significant employment. So this is something we  
9781 can work on together in the future. But let's not hold --  
9782 let's not try to hold the relief and rescue package hostage  
9783 to fossil fuels, that is the wrong path. I yield back.

9784 \*The Chairman. The gentleman --

9785 \*Mr. Soto. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

9786 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Soto.

9787 On the Republican side, did Mr. Curtis want his own  
9788 time, or he spoke already, and he is okay? I guess he does  
9789 not want to speak again.

9790 So next would be -- Mrs. Lesko is recognized for five  
9791 minutes.

9792 \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
9793 the last word. You know, I am in total support of this  
9794 amendment which increases funding for mental health to  
9795 workers that lost their great jobs that they had all because  
9796 of Biden's executive orders that killed the XL Pipeline, and  
9797 then stopped the leasing of oil and gas leases on Federal  
9798 land. I mean, these, as has been said, are really good

9799 paying jobs.

9800           And so one of my Democratic colleagues said in a  
9801 previous comment, "But we just have to move on and get this  
9802 unemployment for these people.'" These people do not want  
9803 unemployment, they want their jobs back. And you know, it is  
9804 -- I frankly do not understand. I do not understand the  
9805 policy.

9806           We finally are energy-independent in America. We are  
9807 exporting energy. Why in the world would we want to give  
9808 that up? Why would we do that? Why would we rely on Russia  
9809 or Venezuela? I mean, I think it was said, back in the 1970s  
9810 with the OPEC oil embargo, I mean, people were lined up with  
9811 their cars for miles and miles. They could not get gasoline.

9812           Why would we want to go back to that? Because not only  
9813 does it hurt Americans and the costs of things, but it also  
9814 hurts our national security because we have to rely on those  
9815 foreign countries -- sometimes they are our enemies -- for  
9816 energy sources.

9817           And there is this big push for electric cars, right,  
9818 everybody loves electric cars, they are going to produce more  
9819 electric cars. Well where do you think the energy for the  
9820 electric cars is going to come from? It has to be produced.  
9821 And right now, there is not enough solar and wind to replace  
9822 the baseload for electricity generation. I mean, maybe in  
9823 the future, but not now.

9824           And I have gone to utility-scaled solar plants. We have  
9825 those in Arizona. We have everything. We have nuclear, we  
9826 have coal, we have natural gas, we have utility-scaled solar.  
9827 You know, in the ASU, Arizona State University, they are even  
9828 doing biofuels with algae.

9829           But you are not going to replace all that stuff  
9830 overnight. And I can tell you that the amount of workers  
9831 that work at these utility-scaled solar plants is very few,  
9832 it is like one or two people work there. It is not going to  
9833 replace the jobs that you are taking away. And so you know,  
9834 I hope you understand that what you are asking for is not the  
9835 answer. We, me, include -- want to include all of the above  
9836 energy. I believe in clean energy, but I also believe in  
9837 other energy, too. You know, you just cannot replace it  
9838 overnight.

9839           And so with that, I support the amendment, and I yield  
9840 back.

9841           \*The Chairman. Thank you.

9842           We have Dan Crenshaw is next. He is recognized for five  
9843 minutes.

9844           \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
9845 strike the last word.

9846           \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

9847           \*Mr. Crenshaw. Look, I want to talk about the lack of  
9848 compassion that I am seeing here. This sort of casual

9849 assertion that these people should just go get new jobs; it  
9850 will be fine, just go make some solar panels. And here is  
9851 the thing. Let's just talk some numbers.

9852 On average, oil and gas jobs pay \$20,000 more per year  
9853 than any solar and wind job. These jobs for this Keystone  
9854 Pipeline, it is not just 50 jobs. I do not know where my  
9855 friend, Mr. Soto, is getting his numbers. There is about  
9856 10,000 jobs that were going to be contracted for that. And  
9857 we are talking about \$9-1/2 thousand per week. I did not  
9858 misspeak. Per week, not per month. Everybody is thinking  
9859 the same thing I am thinking: we are all in the wrong  
9860 business because we all know what our paychecks are. Those  
9861 are good paying jobs. They don't need Medicaid; they need  
9862 those jobs.

9863 And it is not just this. Look, the Keystone Pipeline  
9864 has become the sort of whipping post for the green climate  
9865 agenda. But the truth is, this Administration and a lot of  
9866 our colleagues are on the attack when it comes to pipelines  
9867 all over the country. They are on the attack when it comes  
9868 to the fossil fuel sector because of these Federal leasing  
9869 ban, 120,000 jobs here in Texas are now threatened, here in  
9870 my district. And John Kerry says, "Oh, well, good news is  
9871 the fastest growing jobs in America are solar and wind  
9872 jobs.''

9873 I believe the Washington Post had to fact check him



9874 there and point out that yeah, fastest growing? Well that is  
9875 a percentage, sure, but in absolute terms there is almost no  
9876 job growth. Washington Post had to point out that according  
9877 to our own Bureau of Labor statistics, that really adds up to  
9878 just about 10,000 jobs over the next 10 years. Does not even  
9879 come close to replacing the numbers of jobs, and certainly  
9880 does not come close to replacing how much they pay.

9881 Now let's also keep in mind that most of these jobs are  
9882 in China, because that is where windmills are manufactured,  
9883 that is where solar panels are manufactured. Why? Because  
9884 they have no labor or environmental regulations, and they are  
9885 easy to make over there. And you know, we have to tell these  
9886 workers who now really cannot go get a new job that they  
9887 should sacrifice because there is a crisis.

9888 Crisis is the word that I keep hearing. This crisis,  
9889 crisis, crisis. There is wildfires because of climate  
9890 change. Never mind that none of the science agrees with  
9891 that. Never mind that all the studies that were studying  
9892 California wildfires over the past years showed  
9893 overwhelmingly that is for the simple reason of forest  
9894 management, not because of climate change. That is a fact.  
9895 And the same goes for our hurricanes here in Houston. I can  
9896 show you videos of seven feet of water in Houston in the  
9897 1930s, and that was before we laid cement everywhere, which  
9898 is actually really our problem.

9899           So this crisis -- and the U.N. estimates, by the way,  
9900           that climate change will reduce global GDP by about 4 percent  
9901           over the next 100 years. That is 4 percent lower than what  
9902           it otherwise would be. That is not a crisis. That is not  
9903           even close to a crisis because GDP will grow by about 450  
9904           percent over the next 100 years.

9905           So it is not like it is a problem. It is a problem that  
9906           I have long said that we should tackle with commonsense  
9907           solutions. Maybe solutions, maybe we could even look to the  
9908           past and figure out what those solutions are, and what has  
9909           worked, and what has not. We could compare countries like  
9910           Germany and France. France, which has gone completely  
9911           nuclear, reduced emissions, and kept their electricity prices  
9912           low. Or Germany, which embarked on its own green new deal,  
9913           went purely for solar and wind and ended up raising emissions  
9914           and spending a bunch of money and wasting it.

9915           We could look at here, in the United States, where we  
9916           have reduced emissions more than any other country in the  
9917           world, far and away. Back to 1992 levels. How did we do it?  
9918           Well, the same industry that we keep attacking. The oil and  
9919           gas industry is what did it; it is the fracking revolution.

9920           So what we really should be doing if we were serious  
9921           about this, would be building more pipelines and exporting  
9922           that gas to places like China, to places like India. Because  
9923           China produces 30 percent of global emissions. The U.S. less

9924 than 15 percent. And guess what? They are still increasing  
9925 while we are decreasing, and they get a pass by the climate  
9926 -- Paris Climate Accord while we do not.

9927         And yet we are obsessed with renewables. We are  
9928 absolutely obsessed with it. And no, the economics of  
9929 renewables is not changing. I remember someone saying that.  
9930 It is not true. It is still way too expensive, still getting  
9931 massive subsidies, still all made in China, still require  
9932 hundreds of thousands of tons of rare earth mineral mining,  
9933 still require hundreds of thousands of acres of land to be  
9934 destroyed and cleared, just to produce energy that is frankly  
9935 insufficient for industry and intermittent. You would have  
9936 to cover the entirety of Washington, D.C. in solar panels to  
9937 get the power from one nuclear plant.

9938         And I will be honest, I would take everybody here a lot  
9939 more seriously about how much they care about the climate  
9940 crisis if we would talk about nuclear, and about how much we  
9941 would actually need to invest in nuclear, instead of liberal  
9942 States like California taking down nuclear plants and  
9943 destroying natural gas plants, the two things that are most  
9944 responsible for the reduction of emissions globally and here  
9945 in this country. That is what we would be doing.

9946         I do care about this problem. I want to assure my  
9947 colleagues of that, and if we did, we would be focusing on  
9948 those newer technologies.

9949 Thank you. I yield back.

9950 \*The Chairman. All right. We have Ms. Barragan is  
9951 next, recognized for five minutes.

9952 \*Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is hard to  
9953 take some of my colleagues seriously when they are not  
9954 relying on the science and on facts. Actually, not long ago,  
9955 Mr. Chairman, you led a delegation to France to look at  
9956 nuclear, and France is facing some serious challenges as  
9957 their nuclear fleet is pretty aged. And what we heard on  
9958 that delegation was that it is very expensive, and to do what  
9959 they did, is not something that they might do again.

9960 This has turned into a climate conversation instead of a  
9961 mental health conversation. And so I would invite those who  
9962 want to not rely on science to come to my congressional  
9963 district and to congressional districts across the country  
9964 where you have drilling in backyards so you could see what it  
9965 is doing to communities. How it is killing communities with  
9966 air pollution and lung cancer.

9967 And so to get back to COVID, the people who are being  
9968 hit hardest are those with respiratory problems from the  
9969 drilling, from the fossil fuel activity that they have to  
9970 experience in their backyards.

9971 So you know, we can have this conversation, and probably  
9972 better to be done when we talk on climate, on the  
9973 environment, and on energy. But since we are on mental

9974 health, and that is what the amendment is supposed to be  
9975 about, you know, the Biden American Rescue Plan has  
9976 investments in mental health. It is providing over \$4  
9977 billion in mental health services, 3.5 billion for the SAMHSA  
9978 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment block  
9979 grants.

9980         And some people may want to ignore that climate change  
9981 is happening and that it is really not. Well it is. And you  
9982 want to talk about California? We have somebody else who  
9983 believes that just give California more rakes, so that is  
9984 going to fix the problem of wildfires. I mean, when I heard  
9985 that I could not help but laugh, along with a lot of other  
9986 scientists, people who rely on facts. But apparently there  
9987 are others, other than the President, who believes that. It  
9988 is very sad because it is a serious threat.

9989         And if we want to talk about climate, the impact that  
9990 climate has on mental health, it is huge. It is happening.  
9991 And there are ways that climate change can affect mental  
9992 health according to the Mental Health and Wellbeing. Just  
9993 look at Chapter 2016 of the Climate and Health Assessment.  
9994 It is a sweeping scientific assessment of the health effects  
9995 of climate change compiled by the U.S. Global Change Research  
9996 Program. Dr. Joshua Morganstein, who helped write that  
9997 section, said that after a disaster, the most common  
9998 psychological responses are distress reactions such as

9999 insomnia, irritability, risking behaviors like substance  
10000 abuse and losing interest in normal activities. And it goes  
10001 on and on.

10002         So there are mental health impacts happening from  
10003 climate change and what is happening there. And I'm with,  
10004 you know, Chairwoman of the Select Committee, my colleague,  
10005 Kathy Castor. You know, this is something that we need to  
10006 confront, and we need to have a conversation because we are  
10007 moving away from fossil fuels. And so how -- why don't we  
10008 have a productive conversation on how we can have a just  
10009 transition to make sure that people who are displaced are  
10010 taken care of because this is going to happen.

10011         It is happening. And so we can do this in a  
10012 conversation on climate. With this amendment here, it is not  
10013 really about mental health, it is not about mental services.  
10014 It is really about what this conversation has turned into,  
10015 which is about the fossil fuel industry. And by the way, the  
10016 fossil fuel industry, they got \$1.5 billion in pandemic aid  
10017 last year.

10018         When you think about COVID-19, and you are trying to  
10019 take care of people, our COVID money should be going into the  
10020 pockets of Americans who are struggling, who cannot pay their  
10021 mortgage, who cannot pay their rent, who cannot put food on  
10022 the table. And we are bailing out the fossil fuel industry  
10023 that was already failing, even before COVID-19? That is not

10024 where I want COVID relief to go.

10025           And so this American Rescue Plan is necessary, it is  
10026 going to invest in mental health services, and I support the  
10027 Biden administration and what they are doing to address  
10028 climate. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

10029           \*The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman.

10030           Mr. Pence is recognized for five minutes. You have to  
10031 unmute.

10032           \*Mr. Pence. It seems to be a common problem I have.  
10033 Like my peers, I completely agree that we need to move into  
10034 an all of the above solution when it comes to climate change.  
10035 But we are talking about jobs here today, and I want to share  
10036 some numbers about this particular project and how it  
10037 pertains to jobs.

10038           Currently, 2,000 Americans are already drawing paychecks  
10039 on the Keystone Pipeline and 1,000 are union workers. But  
10040 here is a number I would -- I want everybody to think about:  
10041 \$3 billion in contracts have been awarded to U.S. suppliers  
10042 and contractors in the 2021 fiscal year. Think about how  
10043 many jobs that is. How many pipefittings, pipes, workers  
10044 that are getting paid all over the country. It is not just  
10045 around the Keystone Pipeline. And during an economic and  
10046 COVID pandemic, to shut down that much industry, take that  
10047 many jobs, that much profit out of industry is shameful.

10048           We need to think in a broader sense in that we need to

10049 protect as many jobs as we are trying to get our economy back  
10050 up and running and shutting down the Keystone Pipeline  
10051 destroys many jobs.

10052 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

10053 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

10054 We still have a number of hands up. But all those  
10055 people have had their own time. So unless there is somebody  
10056 else who has not spoken, we are going to go to a vote on the  
10057 Mullin Amendment.

10058 \*Mr. Palmer. I have asked to be recognized, Mr.  
10059 Chairman.

10060 \*The Chairman. Who is that?

10061 \*Mr. Palmer. Palmer.

10062 \*The Chairman. Oh, Gary has not -- okay. Gary, yes,  
10063 you -- I saw your hand, physically. So yes, you are  
10064 recognized for five minutes.

10065 \*Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
10066 the last word. I rise in support of the Mullin Amendment.  
10067 We had a hearing on the solar --

10068 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

10069 \*Mr. Palmer. I beg your pardon?

10070 \*The Chairman. I said you are recognized. I apologize.  
10071 I did not see you on the virtual hand, but I know you put  
10072 your hand up. You are recognized.

10073 \*Mr. Palmer. Thank you. We had a hearing on the Select



10074 Committee on Climate Crisis where a few Democrat witnesses  
10075 were all scientists, including a British scientist who was  
10076 one of the lead authors and lead editors of the International  
10077 Panel on Climate Change. And I asked a very simple question.  
10078 If the entire United States eliminated all the CO2 emissions,  
10079 went to absolute zero, would it stop climate change. And  
10080 their answer was no.

10081 Then I asked if the entire world completely eliminated  
10082 all of its CO2 emissions, went to absolute zero, would it  
10083 stop climate change. And the answer was, from the British  
10084 scientist, it would only help mitigate the impact.

10085 And the reason they answered that way is to -- first of  
10086 all, they are credible and honest scientists, and second,  
10087 because the climate is changing. And it is changing in ways  
10088 that we cannot do anything about. Solar activity is  
10089 impacting climate change. The shifting of the, of the  
10090 magnetic poles is affecting climate change, and we need to  
10091 use our engineering technology and our engineering  
10092 capabilities to address that.

10093 Now, I want to tie this back to why this is so  
10094 important. Shutting down the Keystone Pipeline is not going  
10095 to impact climate change. But it is going to impact  
10096 thousands of families. Thousands of lives that are going to  
10097 be impacted by this. It is also going to impact us on a  
10098 geopolitical spectrum. This is a gift to Russia and Iran.

10099 It is a gift to Gazprom and Burisma, who will profit  
10100 handsomely from what we are doing on the energy side.

10101 In particular, not just to wood, but also natural gas.  
10102 It is going to have an enormous negative impact on Eastern  
10103 Europe because those nations do not want to be beholding to  
10104 Russia for their national gas for heating their home.

10105 It is going to have an impact here on low-income  
10106 families who spend a disproportionate amount of their  
10107 disposal income trying to provide heat for their home. It  
10108 could increase the number of deaths. And by the way, a  
10109 medical journal, Lancet, reported that 17 times more people  
10110 died from cold-related illnesses than from heat. So  
10111 eliminating fossil fuels, and particularly cleaner fuels like  
10112 natural gas, is going to do great harm to people.

10113 I want to point out to you that The Guardian, a British  
10114 publication, got access to a report from the World Bank that  
10115 disclosed that when there was this huge push to convert the  
10116 biofuels worldwide, that it literally, in the words of  
10117 Olivier De Schutter, who declared a silent tsunami because it  
10118 had pushed food prices up so much she said it pushed 100  
10119 million people into poverty and 30 million people into  
10120 hunger.

10121 So when you talk about shutting down a pipeline, you are  
10122 not just talking about cutting off access to a certain amount  
10123 of oil or natural gas, because as my colleagues point out,

10124 that is going to go somewhere. And then this idea that  
10125 climate change is human-caused climate change is responsible  
10126 for extreme weather events, even the International Panel on  
10127 Climate Change does not agree with that.

10128 So you know, this is a mental health issue. I think it  
10129 is more a mental health issue than some people might think.  
10130 But I just want to point out that there are consequences for  
10131 our actions. And the amendment that my colleague and friend,  
10132 Mr. Mullin, has brought, addresses some very serious  
10133 consequences of the actions that are being taken by this  
10134 Administration that we can do something about in this bill if  
10135 we are willing to do it.

10136 But I do think that we need to stick to the science. I  
10137 think every one of my Republican colleagues would agree that  
10138 we support converting the plain or fields to renewables and  
10139 other forms of energy. And I am a huge supporter of nuclear.  
10140 If we really want to reduce our emissions, that is the way to  
10141 go. But even if we eliminate all of the CO2 emissions, it  
10142 will not stop climate change.

10143 I yield back.

10144 \*The Chairman. I thank the gentleman.

10145 I think that is it unless someone else wants to raise  
10146 their hand. We will go to a --

10147 Buddy, was that your hand going up? No.

10148 \*Mr. Carter. It was, Mr. Chairman. If I may?

10149           \*The Chairman. Yes, of course. You are recognized.

10150           \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank those who  
10151 have commented, particularly on nuclear energy. As you will  
10152 remember, the only four nuclear reactors that are being built  
10153 currently in the country right now are in the State of  
10154 Georgia, just north of my district. And I am very proud of  
10155 Georgia that as the number one forestry State in the Nation,  
10156 which of course, as we all know, forestry is extremely  
10157 important to absorbing carbon and is -- particularly when we  
10158 talk about sustainable forest.

10159           But Georgia has done a great job. We are in the top 10  
10160 States now in solar energy, we are leading in nuclear energy,  
10161 we are the number one forestry State in the Nation with  
10162 sustainable forests, so I am very proud of what we are doing  
10163 in the State of Georgia. In my district alone, we just  
10164 recently converted a liquid natural gas plant from a import  
10165 facility to an export facility. So now we are exporting  
10166 liquid natural gas right out of the first district of  
10167 Georgia.

10168           So all of these are great points and all of them lend  
10169 credence to the idea of an all of the above strategy. I  
10170 don't think there is any question that an all of the above  
10171 energy strategy that includes the newer, cleaner fossil fuels  
10172 is where this Nation needs to be going.

10173           And Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield time now to Mr.

10174 Crenshaw if he needs some time.

10175 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Representative Carter.

10176 Look, I just want to respond to a couple of things.

10177 Angrily repeating science over and over again does not imply

10178 that the science is correct. You know, two days ago,

10179 Bloomberg reported that France is indeed trying to sell more

10180 nuclear and expand its nuclear arsenal.

10181 So I fail to see how this is a failing idea. If you

10182 talk to any expert on this subject, everybody, everybody,

10183 there is a consensus, and we like the word consensus, that

10184 the only carbon-free baseload energy is nuclear. You are

10185 never going to get where you need to get with just

10186 renewables. That is just a scientific fact. And I do not

10187 know why that is so controversial.

10188 I will also point out, for all the handwringing about

10189 oil and gas facilities in our backyard, of course they are in

10190 my backyard as well. That is where your constituents work.

10191 That is where my family works. And then, by the way, that is

10192 again, on average, \$20,000 more per year than a solar and

10193 wind job. I am not against solar and wind, just to be clear.

10194 But they do get 250 times more in subsidies than nuclear

10195 does. That is a fact, and you can look that up as well.

10196 So we have got to ask ourselves if the science is

10197 telling us that this is a problem. And we also want energy

10198 because I think we do. And we do not want to end up like

10199 California with rolling blackouts and rising in energy prices  
10200 six times faster than anywhere else in America. If we don't  
10201 want to end up like that, well then, what should we do about  
10202 this?

10203 If we agree that this a problem and we have a interest  
10204 in reducing carbon emissions, we should be focusing on new  
10205 technologies like carbon capture, like nuclear energy. Next  
10206 generation nuclear energy, by the way, there are ways to make  
10207 this cheaper to get it permitted faster. And if we are going  
10208 to spend ungodly amounts of money that we are talking about,  
10209 why not invest it in energy that can provide that baseload  
10210 power that can make the materials that you need to create  
10211 solar panels and wind turbines and power the industry that we  
10212 all rely upon.

10213 Let's stop operating in fantasy and start talking about  
10214 things that actually work. And also I think mental health is  
10215 important, but obviously, we have gone down a different  
10216 track.

10217 Thank you for yielding. I yield back.

10218 \*Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I am glad to yield to anyone  
10219 else that needs time.

10220 Ms. Eshoo?

10221 \*Ms. Eshoo. Will the gentleman yield?

10222 \*Mr. Carter. Yes, ma'am.

10223 \*Ms. Eshoo. I just have one question to ask about

10224 nuclear power. Which members are willing to have the spent  
10225 fuels buried in their State? Any takers?

10226 \*Mr. Carter. We already had that --

10227 \*Ms. Eshoo. You are?

10228 \*Mr. Carter. Ma'am, we already had that --

10229 \*Ms. Eshoo. Let me just say that that is going to come  
10230 as a great relief to Nevadans, because they have fought for  
10231 years not to have the spent fuels buried in their State for  
10232 very obvious reasons. That is a huge detractor relative to  
10233 nuclear power. So I recognize the upside of nuclear power,  
10234 but scientists have not figured out what to do with the spent  
10235 fuel rods that last for centuries.

10236 So that is why I asked the question. So I am going to  
10237 tell the Nevadans, Mr. Crenshaw, that you are willing to  
10238 accept them in Texas.

10239 \*Mr. Carter. Reclaiming my time. Mr. Chairman, I would  
10240 like to yield to Mr. Duncan from South Carolina.

10241 \*The Chairman. Is Mr. Duncan there?

10242 \*Mr. Duncan. Thank you. I just wanted to --

10243 \*The Chairman. Is he having a problem?

10244 \*Mr. Carter. I think so.

10245 I am sorry, we cannot hear you, Jeff.

10246 Mr. Chairman, I will go ahead and yield.

10247 \*Mr. Palmer. Buddy, can you yield the final 30 seconds?

10248 \*Mr. Carter. Yes, I will be glad to yield to Mr. Palmer

10249 from Alabama.

10250 \*Mr. Palmer. I thank the gentleman.

10251 \*Mr. Duncan. -- Ms. Eshoo's comment, you know, we  
10252 already had that buried in our States. [Audio malfunction.]  
10253 Yeah. Can you hear me now?

10254 \*The Chairman. It is going in and out.

10255 \*Mr. Palmer. I would just like to recommend that the  
10256 Gentlelady from California look at a report from the United  
10257 States Department of Energy on spent nuclear fuel. It is  
10258 being recycled to produce additional energy. It retains  
10259 about 90 percent of its fuel -- energy-producing capacity, so  
10260 that is how one of the ways we are going to deal with spent  
10261 nuclear fuel is, as the technology improves we will recycle  
10262 it.

10263 I yield back.

10264 \*The Chairman. All right. So I still have -- well I do  
10265 not know if I have anybody left. I think everyone has spoken  
10266 whose hand is still up. So unless anybody raises a hand, I  
10267 am going to go to the vote.

10268 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chair, I would like to withdraw my  
10269 point of order.

10270 \*The Chairman. Okay. The Gentlewoman, the Vice Chair,  
10271 withdraws her point of order. We are on the Mullin  
10272 Amendment.

10273 Does Mr. Mullin wish a recorded vote or does Mrs.



10274 Rodgers want us to do a recorded vote or --

10275 \*Mr. Mullin. Recorded vote, please.

10276 \*The Chairman. Okay.

10277 Recorded vote is ordered. Those in favor of the Mullin

10278 Amendment will say aye.

10279 Those opposed to the Mullin Amendment will say no.

10280 And the Clerk shall call the roll.

10281 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

10282 \*Mr. Rush. I vote no.

10283 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

10284 Ms. Eshoo?

10285 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo from California votes no.

10286 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.

10287 Ms. DaGette?

10288 Mr. Doyle?

10289 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.

10290 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.

10291 Ms. Schakowsky?

10292 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.

10293 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.

10294 Mr. Butterfield?

10295 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.

10296 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.

10297 Ms. Matsui?

10298 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.

10299 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
10300 Ms. Castor?  
10301 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.  
10302 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
10303 Mr. Sarbanes?  
10304 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
10305 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
10306 Mr. McNerney?  
10307 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes no.  
10308 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
10309 Mr. Welch?  
10310 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
10311 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
10312 Mr. Tonko?  
10313 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes no.  
10314 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
10315 Ms. Clarke?  
10316 \*Ms. Clarke. Clarke votes no.  
10317 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
10318 Mr. Schrader?  
10319 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
10320 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
10321 Mr. Cardenas?  
10322 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes no.  
10323 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.

10324 Mr. Ruiz?  
10325 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
10326 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
10327 Mr. Peters?  
10328 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
10329 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
10330 Mrs. Dingell?  
10331 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
10332 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
10333 Mr. Veasey?  
10334 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
10335 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
10336 Ms. Kuster?  
10337 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
10338 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
10339 Ms. Kelly?  
10340 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
10341 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
10342 Ms. Barragan?  
10343 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
10344 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
10345 Mr. McEachin?  
10346 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.  
10347 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
10348 Ms. Blunt Rochester?

10349 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
10350 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
10351 Mr. Soto?  
10352 Mr. O'Halleran?  
10353 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
10354 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
10355 Miss Rice?  
10356 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
10357 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
10358 Ms. Craig?  
10359 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
10360 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
10361 Ms. Schrier?  
10362 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
10363 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
10364 Mrs. Trahan?  
10365 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
10366 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
10367 Mrs. Fletcher?  
10368 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
10369 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.  
10370 Mrs. Rodgers?  
10371 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
10372 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
10373 Mr. Upton?

10374 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
10375 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
10376 Mr. Burgess?  
10377 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
10378 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
10379 Mr. Scalise?  
10380 \*Mr. Scalise. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
10381 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
10382 Mr. Latta?  
10383 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
10384 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
10385 Mr. Guthrie?  
10386 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.  
10387 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
10388 Mr. McKinley?  
10389 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
10390 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
10391 Mr. Kinzinger?  
10392 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
10393 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
10394 Mr. Griffith?  
10395 \*Mr. Griffith. I --  
10396 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?  
10397 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
10398 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

10399 Mr. Johnson?  
10400 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.  
10401 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
10402 Mr. Long?  
10403 \*Mr. Long. Long votes aye.  
10404 \*The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.  
10405 Mr. Bucshon?  
10406 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
10407 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
10408 Mr. Mullin?  
10409 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.  
10410 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
10411 Mr. Hudson?  
10412 \*Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.  
10413 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
10414 Mr. Walberg?  
10415 \*Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.  
10416 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
10417 Mr. Carter?  
10418 \*Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.  
10419 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
10420 Mr. Duncan?  
10421 \*Mr. Duncan. Duncan votes aye.  
10422 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
10423 Mr. Palmer?

10424 \*Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.  
10425 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
10426 Mr. Dunn?  
10427 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.  
10428 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
10429 Mr. Curtis?  
10430 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
10431 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
10432 Mrs. Lesko?  
10433 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
10434 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
10435 Mr. Pence?  
10436 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.  
10437 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
10438 Mr. Crenshaw?  
10439 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.  
10440 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
10441 Mr. Joyce?  
10442 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.  
10443 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
10444 Mr. Armstrong?  
10445 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes yes.  
10446 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.  
10447 Chairman Pallone?  
10448 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.

10449 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.  
10450 \*The Chairman. Mr. Soto, I think did not vote.  
10451 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
10452 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
10453 \*The Chairman. Anyone else?  
10454 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes yes.  
10455 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
10456 \*The Chairman. I think that is it, Madam Clerk.  
10457 All right, the vote is on the Mullin Amendment. The  
10458 Clerk will report the tally.  
10459 \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the ayes were 26  
10460 and the nays were 31.  
10461 \*The Chairman. So the vote on the Mullin Amendment is  
10462 26 ayes to 31 noes, and the amendment is not agreed to.  
10463 What is the next amendment?  
10464 \*Mr. Carter. Does the Chairman have a minute at the  
10465 desk?  
10466 \*The Chairman. Okay. Does the Vice Chair --  
10467 \*Mr. Duncan. Duncan 88.  
10468 \*The Chairman. Oh, I am sorry.  
10469 Does the Vice Chair want to --  
10470 Oh, I have to call the amendment first. Okay, I am  
10471 sorry. The number is what again?  
10472 \*Ms. Kelly. Yes, I would -- oh.  
10473 \*The Chairman. What is the number for your --



10474 \*Ms. Kelly. Getting late.

10475 \*Mr. Duncan. Eighty-eight.

10476 \*The Chairman. No. 88.

10477 The Clerk has No. 88?

10478 \*The Clerk. Sure.

10479 \*The Chairman. All right. The Clerk will report the  
10480 amendment.

10481 \*The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of  
10482 a substitute to committee print relating to public health  
10483 offered by Mr. Duncan of South Carolina. Page 36 after Line  
10484 22 add the following: Chapter 8: Other Matters. Section  
10485 3071 --

10486 \*The Chairman. Without objection, the reading of the  
10487 amendment, Madam Clerk, will be dispensed with.

10488 Does the Vice Chair want to --

10489 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve a  
10490 point of order.

10491 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

10492 And the gentleman is recognized for five minutes on his  
10493 amendment.

10494 [The amendment of Mr. Duncan follows:]

10495

10496 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

10497           \*Mr. Duncan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10498           This should be obvious. An American Government should  
10499 not use American tax dollars on vaccines for non-American  
10500 citizens. American doctors, hospital workers, fire-fighters,  
10501 law enforcement professionals, teachers, senior citizens who  
10502 are at the highest risk of dying of the disease, citizens  
10503 with pre-existing conditions that make them more susceptible  
10504 to COVID-19, they are the ones who should be prioritized to  
10505 get the vaccine.

10506           So my amendment says just that. No vaccines for illegal  
10507 immigrants jumping ahead of the line to get the vaccines.  
10508 They have done it once, by jumping ahead of the line to enter  
10509 this country, and they will do it again. This is a smart,  
10510 commonsense American first policy, and I urge the adoption of  
10511 this amendment. It is that simple.

10512           I want to take just a moment of my time to say that due  
10513 to the audio and video problems that we had earlier, I wanted  
10514 to remind Ms. Eshoo that nuclear waste sits in 120 sites at  
10515 39 locations -- in 39 States, rather, across this country.  
10516 If we want to have a conversation about nuclear power, we  
10517 should have it in this committee. We should have a  
10518 conversation about reprocessing nuclear fuel because that is  
10519 what France does, and they have been doing it for 30 years or  
10520 longer. So I look forward to the debate on energy, on  
10521 climate change, and other things.

10522           But today we are talking about saving Americans' lives,  
10523 allowing them to get the vaccines. First responders,  
10524 teachers, and those critical Americans who are more  
10525 susceptible. They should not have to wait behind those who  
10526 have entered our country illegally, who have not paid taxes,  
10527 the same tax dollars that paid for the development under  
10528 Operation Warp Speed of the vaccine that we are giving to so  
10529 many Americans.

10530           So the amendment is simple. Americans first before  
10531 illegal aliens.

10532           And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

10533           \*The Chairman. The gentleman yields back.

10534           Ms. Eshoo is recognized for five minutes.

10535           \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
10536 the last word.

10537           Let me start with this. If vaccinations were to require  
10538 proof of immigration status, not only would this put an  
10539 incredible administrative burden on a system that I think we  
10540 all can agree is stretched to the brink, and even beyond, but  
10541 it would also ensure that millions of people in this country  
10542 do not have access to a vaccine. And we need everyone in the  
10543 United States to get vaccinated if we are ever to reach herd  
10544 immunity.

10545           Now, the maker of the amendment spoke about all the  
10546 different sectors. The jobs that people hold and why they

10547 should be vaccinated. I do not know if the gentleman  
10548 realizes this or not, but many immigrants work as healthcare  
10549 workers and in food production. Nearly 1/4 of a million  
10550 undocumented immigrants are working in a healthcare role:  
10551 115,000 nurses, 19,000 lab technicians, 139,000 home health  
10552 aides and personal care aides. They clean out our loved  
10553 ones' bedpans. These people are putting their lives on the  
10554 line during the pandemic. And they do pay taxes. Maybe the  
10555 gentleman does not realize that or not, but they do pay  
10556 taxes.

10557       Food production industries, particularly meat packing,  
10558 have experienced many outbreaks. We have seen it all over  
10559 the news, read about it in the papers, and they have been  
10560 disproportionately impacted communities of color. New  
10561 research shows that meatpacking is among the deadliest --  
10562 imagine that -- among the deadliest industries to work during  
10563 the pandemic, second only to healthcare. And I just listed  
10564 the number of undocumented human beings that are in --  
10565 working in healthcare.

10566       So it is no wonder organizations that represent  
10567 agricultural and food production industries have requested  
10568 that their workers be vaccinated. Viruses do not know  
10569 geographical boundaries. They do not know what ethnic  
10570 backgrounds someone comes from. And they do not know a  
10571 person's citizenship status.

10572 I consider myself a devout Catholic. And what I was  
10573 taught from the earliest -- my earliest memory, is that we  
10574 are all God's children. And so I find this amendment  
10575 particularly offensive. Particularly offensive. I think  
10576 this is not only bad public health policy, I think it is bad  
10577 for our Nation. And I would urge Mr. Duncan to withdraw the  
10578 amendment.

10579 \*The Chairman. Will the gentlewoman yield to me, Ms.  
10580 Eshoo?

10581 \*Ms. Eshoo. Certainly.

10582 \*The Chairman. I just think that practically -- look,  
10583 forget about the values laid in aspect of this. Not that we  
10584 should, but let's just look at it practically. Practically  
10585 speaking, I think this would be a disaster for our effort to  
10586 crush the virus. Because as Ms. Eshoo first suggested or  
10587 hinted at, if it were necessary, as a result of this  
10588 amendment for people to show whether they were a citizen or  
10589 whether they were documented, we would have an even harder  
10590 time getting people to show up and receive the vaccine. I  
10591 mean, where are they going to go for the vaccine? They are  
10592 going to go to the mega center. They are going to a  
10593 hospital. They are going to go to a community health center.  
10594 People I know have a very -- have a reluctance to go  
10595 there even whether they are a citizen or not because they are  
10596 worried, you know, they have all these fears of the vaccine,

10597 or fear that, you know, they are going to get COVID by going  
10598 to the hospital or going where -- to a community health  
10599 center. I mean, the fears are unbelievable, and they have  
10600 resulted in a lot of people in underserved areas simply not  
10601 getting the vaccine.

10602 So you want to add this burden on top of that? That not  
10603 only that they may feel that they -- the vaccine is going to  
10604 hurt them, not only are they going to be fearful that if they  
10605 go to the hospital they are going to get COVID, but now they  
10606 are going to be worried that they are going to be deported.  
10607 We are just going to have a situation where less and less  
10608 people get vaccinated. And from a practical point of view,  
10609 that is a disaster because health -- the pandemic has no  
10610 boundaries.

10611 And so, you know, I mean, look. I think everyone should  
10612 get the vaccine regardless of their status just from a -- you  
10613 know, Ms. Eshoo said Catholic. I am a Catholic, too. But  
10614 just from a religious point of view that we should not  
10615 exclude people because they are undocumented. But  
10616 practically speaking, this would be a disaster. Part of what  
10617 this bill does --

10618 \*Mr. Duncan. Will the gentleman yield?

10619 \*The Chairman. No. It is not my time. Part of what  
10620 this bill does is just try to bring up awareness and  
10621 encourage people to have the vaccine. And I think that

10622 practically speaking, this would make it much more difficult,  
10623 much more difficult for us to crush the virus.

10624 And I yield back. Well I took up all your time, Madam  
10625 Eshoo. I yield back.

10626 \*Ms. Eshoo. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

10627 \*The Chairman. Now next on the Republican side I -- did  
10628 Mr. Duncan -- oh, I guess he already had his time.

10629 Mrs. Lesko is next. I recognize her for five minutes.

10630 \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strike the  
10631 last word.

10632 You know, this amendment to me is a no-brainer. I am  
10633 totally supporting it. I was just telling you earlier how in  
10634 Arizona we have senior citizens, they are 80, 90 years old,  
10635 and they cannot get a vaccine. They are trying to call in,  
10636 the lines are busy, they do not sometimes have a computer.  
10637 And if they do have a computer, as I said last time, just  
10638 last week, 21,000 vaccination slots opened up and within 39  
10639 minutes they were gone. My office is trying to help  
10640 constituents that are calling in desperate because they are  
10641 afraid they are going to die from COVID.

10642 I mean, it just blows my mind, quite frankly, that I am  
10643 going to tell these people that my Democratic colleagues are  
10644 putting illegal immigrants over them. You know, I am sorry I  
10645 am going to tell them that is what you are doing. And so  
10646 they are not going to be happy about it. And nor should

10647 anybody. I mean, I do not understand. We have --

10648 \*Mr. Duncan. Will the gentlewoman yield?

10649 \*Mrs. Lesko. -- American citizens that are in desperate  
10650 need of vaccinations and all this -- if I read it right, all  
10651 of this amendment says is put Americans first. Put Americans  
10652 first. And once they are all vaccinated, then you can go to  
10653 the illegal immigrants. But put Americans first.

10654 \*Ms. Eshoo. Will the gentlewoman yield?

10655 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is not yielding to  
10656 anybody at this point. Go ahead.

10657 \*Ms. Eshoo. I did not know if she heard me.

10658 And so --

10659 \*The Chairman. I do not know if she's done. Let her  
10660 finish.

10661 \*Mrs. Lesko. Yes, thank you.

10662 So what I am saying is this is just amazing to me. I do  
10663 not understand it, quite frankly. Arizona is a border State.  
10664 We are compassionate people, too. We have a lot of different  
10665 varieties of people that live here. It is very diverse. I  
10666 worked with people that are Hispanic. I mean they are very  
10667 good workers. You know, we are compassionate people, but for  
10668 goodness sakes, we have to take care of American citizens or  
10669 people that are here legally first.

10670 I am just not going to be able to explain to my senior  
10671 citizens that we are giving away the vaccines to people that



10672 are not here illegally [sic]. I just think that is totally  
10673 wrong and I yield back.

10674 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman has yielded back. We go  
10675 to a Democrat now, and I think the next person is Ms.  
10676 Schakowsky.

10677 I recognize Ms. Schakowsky for five minutes.

10678 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
10679 strike the last word.

10680 \*The Chairman. It was recognized.

10681 \*Ms. Schakowsky. I think this is a really, really  
10682 dangerous amendment. You know, we have priorities. We set  
10683 priorities. And we set categories of who is in line to get  
10684 it, and it has to do with age, with pre-existing conditions,  
10685 with the -- whether you are a frontline essential worker, and  
10686 then we go down to younger ages. You know, we set a criteria  
10687 for who can get in line and who can get in line first.

10688 And as my colleague, Congresswoman Eshoo, said, the  
10689 vaccine has no clue about where you come from, whether you  
10690 have papers, whether you are considered legal, or a citizen  
10691 or not. And so we have people that are working in frontline  
10692 -- as frontline healthcare workers who are working in various  
10693 industries. And when that group is qualified to get a  
10694 vaccine, to say now you have to prove whether or not you are  
10695 a citizen, which means that people who are doing work that  
10696 can affect us, who are out there in the community may be

10697 spreading the vaccine [sic] because of their status -- their  
10698 immigration status.

10699           It makes no sense. This is dangerous. We have set up  
10700 protocols to make sure that we get vaccines to people who are  
10701 most exposed, who are most likely to expose others to make  
10702 sure that they get the vaccine. And that is the sensible and  
10703 healthy way to manage this.

10704           So I would say this is absolutely dangerous. I mean, I  
10705 know that there are people in places where I go. I do not  
10706 know their status. I am not sure anybody in the grocery  
10707 store or shop knows their status. But they are there, and  
10708 they are working, and they may be in my face and in your  
10709 face. And so I think that we have to just -- aside from the  
10710 fact that we are beginning a process to make millions of  
10711 people who have been in the United States doing work, living  
10712 -- trying to live the American Dream, who are loyal to this  
10713 country, but may not have documentation, we are in the  
10714 process of trying to make a path to legalization.

10715           So aside from all the health issues, let's not double  
10716 down again on immigrants. As the daughter of two immigrants,  
10717 I say this, you know, we are a Nation of immigrants. You can  
10718 say anything you want about that, aside from Native  
10719 Americans, it is just a fact. And so we should not be doing  
10720 this for ethical and moral, and even democratic reasons, but  
10721 we definitely ought not to do it in this way because of

10722 health -- the health consequences.

10723           And I am happy to yield a minute and 20 -- 19 seconds to  
10724 anybody who wants it. Otherwise, I will yield back.

10725           \*The Chairman. Ms. Eshoo?

10726           \*Ms. Eshoo. Would the gentlewoman yield?

10727           \*Ms. Schakowsky. Sure.

10728           \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you.

10729           To Mrs. Lesko, I never said that anyone should be a line  
10730 cutter. I do not like line cutters. Ever stood in a movie  
10731 line and all of a sudden someone cuts in front of you? I  
10732 think it is unfair. I never suggested that.

10733           So when you talk to your constituents, you can say that  
10734 one of your colleagues thinks that all health workers, all  
10735 meat industry workers, all nurses, that everyone in this  
10736 country, based on the recommendations of the CDC and House  
10737 States, such as your State, Arizona, do it by age. And  
10738 whatever the categories are in the States that do that, that  
10739 everyone should be vaccinated.

10740           I never suggested that just because someone is  
10741 undocumented -- I do not know who is undocumented, do you,  
10742 when you look at them? Do you know that they are  
10743 undocumented? You maybe have people working for you. Do you  
10744 know whether they are documented or not? What we do know is  
10745 that we have to reach herd immunity. That is for the good of  
10746 all of us. We have to crush this virus.

10747           And so I just want that on the record and this is not --  
10748   the States are deciding who is first based on the necessities  
10749   in terms of their lives: age, pre-existing conditions.

10750   Other members have very eloquently listed all of that out.

10751           So thank you very much for yielding to me. I appreciate  
10752   it.

10753           \*The Chairman. Thank you. The only Republican I have  
10754   maybe left over from before is the Whip, Steve Scalise.

10755   Did you want time on this?

10756           \*Mr. Scalise. Yes, I had unraised and raised my hand.  
10757   I am sorry. But yes, Mr. Chairman. But yes.

10758           \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

10759           \*Mr. Scalise. I appreciate that and move to strike the  
10760   last word.

10761           And look, let's keep in mind what we are talking about  
10762   here is a limited vaccine. I wish there was unlimited  
10763   vaccine, like the flu, where you could just show up at your  
10764   doctor's office or Walgreen's or CVS and just get a shot in  
10765   the arm today, if you want to show up. That is not where we  
10766   are.

10767           In fact, we had an amendment this morning, I know it  
10768   seems like a long time ago, but it was just earlier today.  
10769   We brought an amendment to say we ought to increase the  
10770   ability to distribute the vaccine. Let's go to 200 million  
10771   in the first 100 days. That still would not be every

10772 American who wants it, but at least it would be a more  
10773 ambitious goal. And every Democrat on this committee voted  
10774 against that.

10775         So we are all acknowledging that we do not have enough  
10776 vaccines today to put them in the arms of everybody who wants  
10777 it. We are going to get there. It might take months. I  
10778 hope it took weeks. But we had that ability. Again, that  
10779 amendment was voted down. Maybe we can bring that up again  
10780 tomorrow if the Majority side wants to work with us to do  
10781 that. But that is not where we are.

10782         And so if there is a limit on how many people can get  
10783 the vaccine, what Mr. Duncan is saying, let's prioritize  
10784 Americans over anybody else. I mean, look, this has  
10785 encouraged more people to come here illegally. Anybody that  
10786 has not been paying attention, there is a super-spreader  
10787 caravan coming up our southern border. When Joe Biden took  
10788 the oath of office, in addition to eviscerating a lot of  
10789 energy jobs, he did a lot of other things. And one of the  
10790 things he did was say, the border is going to be open. And  
10791 people took heed.

10792         And so you have got massive groups of people. They are  
10793 not wearing masks, by the way, when you look at a lot of the  
10794 video. There are reporters down along the southern border.  
10795 I know a lot of people criticized and did not agree with the  
10796 Trump policy. But President Trump actually got Mexico to

10797 work with us to control the crisis. We all talk about  
10798 crises. There was a crisis at our southern border. It is  
10799 coming again.

10800 Mexico was working with us. It was not just people  
10801 coming across from Mexico; it was people coming through  
10802 Mexico. And Mexico recognized that and said, we are even  
10803 going to control the Mexican southern border. Well, that is  
10804 out of control again because President Biden said, the store  
10805 is open, come on in. And, oh, by the way, do not just come  
10806 across the border. Under this bill, you are going to be able  
10807 to get free taxpayer checks, actual checks to you if you come  
10808 across the border. But you are also going to get the vaccine  
10809 for free and you can get that immediately.

10810 By the way, that is while teachers still do not have the  
10811 vaccine, schools are being closed. There is not enough to go  
10812 around. I wish that was not the case. But if there is not  
10813 enough to go around, why not at least say, do not add an  
10814 incentive to have even more people come here illegally and  
10815 take the vaccine away from Americans who cannot get it today.

10816 Look, at the same time that President Biden is saying,  
10817 come across our border illegally, the border is open, he is  
10818 suggesting the idea right now, his administration is  
10819 suggesting the idea that they shut states like Florida down.  
10820 That crazy idea was just floated today by somebody in the  
10821 White House. I hope that they are listening. There is

10822 outrage going on all across the country while we are having  
10823 this hearing, to the idea that the states that are doing  
10824 things better than the states that are completely shut down,  
10825 where they are destroying every small business that exists,  
10826 states like Florida that were doing it a lot better, they are  
10827 talking about shutting down the state of Florida. What sense  
10828 does it make that you would open the southern border and  
10829 allow people to come on up and get a free check and get a  
10830 free vaccine, and shut down the state of Florida? Is there  
10831 any common sense right now in some of the things that are  
10832 going on here?

10833         And so I would just say, let's get back to common sense.  
10834 If there was unlimited vaccine, we would not even be having  
10835 this conversation. But there is not. We tried earlier  
10836 today, the House Republicans, on this Energy and Commerce  
10837 Committee, tried to increase the goal from 100 million, which  
10838 was the Trump plan under Operation Warp Speed, to 200 million  
10839 vaccinations in the first 100 days. That was rejected on a  
10840 party-line vote. I am sorry that happened. But that means  
10841 that we have a shortage of supply.

10842         And so while that is the case, let's put Americans  
10843 first. And with that, I would yield the balance of my time  
10844 to Mr. Duncan from South Carolina.

10845         \*Mr. Duncan. Thank you, and I thank the Whip for his  
10846 comments. He made most of the points that I try to make and

10847 did make.

10848 I just want to push back against Ms. Schakowsky. She  
10849 seemed to imply that this amendment would deny vaccines to  
10850 anyone in the country. That is not the case. All we are  
10851 saying is we are going to prioritize a limited number of  
10852 vaccines, as the Whip had said, limited number of vaccines  
10853 for Americans first. Those vulnerable Americans are  
10854 susceptible to the disease that are on the front line, and  
10855 teachers. Why should we put folks that crossed our border  
10856 illegally, came into this country to take our benefits that  
10857 taxpayers pay for, why should we give them a vaccine ahead of  
10858 very needy Americans. American first is the policy we should  
10859 focus on today.

10860 You know, the Trump policy of securing our border was  
10861 actually working. Fences work. And proof is outside the  
10862 United States Capitol. And with that, I yield back.

10863 \*The Chairman. The next Democrat is Mr. McNerney is  
10864 recognized for 5 minutes.

10865 \*Mr. McNerney. Well, thanks for recognizing me, Mr.  
10866 Chairman. I move to strike the last word and speak in  
10867 opposition to this inhumane amendment.

10868 \*The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

10869 \*Mr. McNerney. Well, as the Department of Homeland  
10870 Security recently said, it is a moral and public health  
10871 imperative to ensure that all individuals residing in the



10872 United States have access to the vaccines, regardless of  
10873 immigration status. COVID-19 does not check immigration  
10874 status of those it infects. Immigrants are human beings that  
10875 produce our food, provide services that no one else will  
10876 provide. Immigrants are an essential part of American life.  
10877 If we let them get infected, we hurt ourselves.

10878         Adopting this amendment which seeks to dehumanize our  
10879 immigrant neighbors by refusing them the vaccine that can  
10880 save lives and put an end to this pandemic would be cruel and  
10881 an embarrassment for our country. Consider a basic lesson of  
10882 public health. In order for us to put this pandemic behind  
10883 us, we must have wide adoption of these vaccines. Dr. Fauci  
10884 puts it somewhere between 70 and 85 percent adoption. If a  
10885 significant percent of our population does not get  
10886 vaccinated, the virus will continue to spread, new variants  
10887 will mutate and keep us in a state of emergency even longer.  
10888 Equity is the only moral imperative, but an imperative for  
10889 public health.

10890         The CDC currently recommends that front line and  
10891 essential workers, those that we all rely on in our daily  
10892 lives, a work force which includes many undocumented  
10893 individuals, be eligible to receive the vaccine right now due  
10894 to their high exposure risk. Immigrants have borne a great  
10895 burden of the pandemic and now my colleague is saying we  
10896 should turn our backs on them.

10897           This amendment would not only cause harm to ourselves  
10898 and our neighbors by keeping us all mired in this pandemic  
10899 indefinitely. Mr. Chairman, I urge a strong no, and I yield  
10900 back.

10901           \*Ms. Clarke. Mr. Chairman -- Jerry, would you yield?

10902           \*Mr. McNerney. I would be glad to yield, Ms. Clarke.

10903           \*Ms. Clarke. Thank you so much. I cannot even believe  
10904 we are having this conversation. This is the worst public  
10905 health public health crisis we have faced in a generation.  
10906 And the idea that we can parse out in a public health crisis  
10907 who is documented and who is not in order to save lives and  
10908 crush this virus is -- it is a fantasy. At the end of the  
10909 day, it is bad public health policy.

10910           As our Subcommittee Chairwoman Anna Eshoo said, these  
10911 are the individuals who are tending to us during this crisis.  
10912 They are our lifeline. And in a city in New York, where we  
10913 live in blended families, this pandemic will continue to  
10914 rage. And we know that there are so many people traveling  
10915 across states that every state will remain in crisis if we do  
10916 not equitably distribute this vaccine to every living soul  
10917 within our country.

10918           So having said that, Mr. Chairman, I just want to say  
10919 that I vehemently oppose this amendment. And I yield back to  
10920 the gentleman from California. Bad public policy. I cannot  
10921 even believe that in the 21st century, in the midst

10922 -- in the midst of a pandemic, this would even be a thought.

10923 I yield back to you, Jerry. Thank you so much, Mr.

10924 McNerney.

10925 \*Mr. McNerney. Well, thanks, Ms. Clarke, for your  
10926 words.

10927 \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. McNerney, can I have a little bit of  
10928 your time?

10929 \*Mr. McNerney. Who is asking?

10930 \*Ms. Kelly. It is Robin Kelly.

10931 \*Mr. McNerney. Sure, I will yield to Robin.

10932 \*Ms. Kelly. Thank you so much. I am very opposed to  
10933 this amendment. And the thing I really think about is all  
10934 the Americans that did not take this disease seriously, this  
10935 virus, and did not wear a mask. So should we say, because  
10936 you did not take it serious, after much reminding, that, no,  
10937 you are going to wait in line to get in to get a hospital  
10938 bed, no, you are going to wait to get a vaccine. Vaccinating  
10939 everyone is looking out for everyone. I am safer, your  
10940 family is safer when those very people get a vaccine.

10941 We need to talk about the people who refuse to wear a  
10942 mask. And someone mentioned the big group of people coming  
10943 that do not have masks. Well, when I am on the floor of the  
10944 House, when COVID first started or we knew we should wear  
10945 masks, I could just look to my right and see a big group of  
10946 people not wearing a mask.

10947           We need to help each other. This is a global virus. We  
10948 need to help each other.

10949           I yield back.

10950           \*Mr. McNerney. And I will yield back. My time has  
10951 expired.

10952           \*Mr. Bilirakis. Mr. Chairman?

10953           \*The Chairman. Yes, the gentleman from Florida, Mr.  
10954 Bilirakis, is recognized.

10955           \*Mr. McNerney. What is up, Jerry? You do not like me  
10956 anymore?

10957           \*Mr. Bilirakis. Folks, I just -- I think we have a duty  
10958 to stand up and prioritize our constituents. In the state of  
10959 Florida, we are not even close to vaccinating our seniors.  
10960 And what about the most vulnerable, who have preexisting  
10961 conditions? I believe they need to go first.

10962           We are getting about 250,000 to 300,000 vaccines a week  
10963 in the state of Florida. And we are one of the top  
10964 recipients. So I could imagine what it is like in other  
10965 parts of the country.

10966           And we are not saying that we will not vaccinate people  
10967 that are undocumented. But American citizens and those who  
10968 are legal, who are here legally, I wanted to clarify that,  
10969 those who have green cards, for example, they will be  
10970 eligible. And why not?

10971           So again, until we can get it flowing, where we can

10972 vaccinate our most vulnerable, including our teachers, what  
10973 have you, and our health care workers, I believe we have a  
10974 duty to our constituents to put them first in line.

10975 So anyway, with that, I will yield back some of my time.  
10976 Does anyone want my time? Be happy to give it.

10977 Thank you very much. Ms. Eshoo, sure.

10978 \*Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Gus. The President did ask  
10979 today additional dosages of vaccine, another 200 million. So  
10980 by summertime, we will have enough dosages for everyone in  
10981 the United States of America. So if you are suggesting that  
10982 the priority be given to those that are 75 and older,  
10983 whatever it is in your state first, do they all have to show  
10984 up with their birth certificate? Is that what you are  
10985 suggesting of constituents?

10986 \*Mr. Bilirakis. I am suggesting -- sure, I am  
10987 suggesting that they show some form of identification. Now,  
10988 I am not saying that these people should not be vaccinated.  
10989 I think they should be vaccinated. But our people -- I will  
10990 be honest with you, I mean, I feel that way, I have a duty to  
10991 my constituents to get them vaccinated. We are talking about  
10992 seniors who are scared to leave their homes and they are  
10993 isolated. They are having a difficult time -- our children  
10994 while their parents are working. You know, we are talking  
10995 about a mental health crisis, isolation.

10996 And in any case, that is my position, that I think we

10997 should put our constituents first because we have a limited  
10998 supply at this particular time.

10999 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Mr. Bilirakis, this is Jan Schakowsky.  
11000 Could I just ask you, and I am not trying to be provocative,  
11001 but do you not consider people who live in the confines of  
11002 your district who are not documented your constituents?

11003 \*Mr. Bilirakis. I consider -- I speak with them, I hear  
11004 them, I go to their forums when they invite me. Yes, I do  
11005 consider them. But I will prioritize my constituents,  
11006 meaning, again, citizens and legal residents. And then, once  
11007 we get to where we need to be, and vaccinating our seniors,  
11008 our most vulnerable, our teachers, our health care workers,  
11009 what have you, then I think we do have a duty to vaccinate  
11010 the nondocumented.

11011 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Well, what if they are health care  
11012 workers? What if an undocumented person is a health care  
11013 worker?

11014 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Well, I am not sure who is and who is  
11015 not documented, to tell you the truth. But I feel that there  
11016 should be identification, yes.

11017 So anyway, that is my opinion. I very strongly support  
11018 this amendment. And I yield back the 35 or 33 seconds I  
11019 have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11020 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Next we go to Dr. Ruiz is  
11021 recognized for 5 minutes.

11022           \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have been  
11023 hearing from the other side is a lot of QAnon conspiracy  
11024 theory, fear mongering, misinformation. Mr. Chairman, I move  
11025 in opposition to this amendment. This amendment is pro-  
11026 pandemic, pro-COVID infection, cruel, fear mongering, counter  
11027 to science and common sense, and puts all Americans at risk.

11028           I am an emergency physician and public health expert  
11029 with training and real on-the-ground experience in public  
11030 health emergencies. I recognize the importance of making  
11031 decisions based on science to the benefit of the public's  
11032 health.

11033           My Republican colleagues apparently fail to understand  
11034 the science. They fail to understand that the virus needs a  
11035 host, any host, to replicate and infect other hosts for  
11036 survival. And it does so regardless of the host's  
11037 immigration status. Therefore, we need a science-based  
11038 vaccination plan that takes a public health approach and  
11039 prioritizes high-risk individuals, regardless of immigration  
11040 status, to stop the virus from replicating and to prevent  
11041 further spread.

11042           This attempt to politicize and deny and delay the virus  
11043 to eligible, high-risk individuals and essential workers  
11044 based on immigration status is cruel, counter to science-  
11045 based public health measures, would prolong the pandemic, and  
11046 puts everyone at further risk of getting infected.

11047           Many immigrants hold high-risk, essential jobs that keep  
11048 our food supply chain intact, like meat and produce packers,  
11049 farm workers and grocery store employees. Because of this,  
11050 they are bearing the brunt of the pandemic and are  
11051 disproportionately getting infected and dying from COVID-19 in  
11052 order to feed America.

11053           I repeat, they are sustaining our work force for the  
11054 vital need to keep our food supply intact and put food on  
11055 your table, on your family's table, to give you nutrients, to  
11056 help your immune system fight the coronavirus. They are  
11057 working high-risk jobs to feed you. They are dying to feed  
11058 you. And now you want to deny them a vaccine.

11059           So we need to use a science-based public health approach  
11060 to get us through this pandemic and vaccinate everyone  
11061 according to risk, not according to this cynical, cruel,  
11062 hateful political approach. We must maximize vaccine  
11063 protections for America by inoculating people who are high  
11064 risk of getting infected and infecting others in all  
11065 communities. Yes, all communities. In your communities.  
11066 Regardless of immigration status.

11067           So let me be clear. Adopting this amendment will  
11068 prolong the pandemic and put everyone, yes, everyone, yes,  
11069 your constituents more at risk of getting infected.

11070           Mr. Chairman, as a physician, as a scientist, as a  
11071 public health expert, and a man of faith, I strongly urge a



11072 no vote on this amendment. And I yield back my time.

11073 \*The Chairman. Will the gentleman yield to me? Dr.

11074 Ruiz, would you yield to me?

11075 \*Mr. Ruiz. Yes, I yield back your time. I'll yield to  
11076 you.

11077 \*The Chairman. First of all, your statement was taken a  
11078 lot -- received a lot more attention because your daughter  
11079 was hanging on your shoulder. I wanted to say she's  
11080 beautiful and I love her.

11081 But look, you know, the thing that bothers me about --  
11082 and I love Gus Bilirakis, you know, I respect him a great  
11083 deal. But when Ms. Eshoo brought out that he would have an  
11084 identification for someone to show their immigration status,  
11085 that is what is -- that is the disaster here. In other  
11086 words, let's say at the community health center, and I was so  
11087 happy that the President, after we met him at the White  
11088 House, announced on Monday or Tuesday that he was going to  
11089 send a million doses directly to the community health  
11090 centers, because we know that that's the place where the  
11091 underserved will go.

11092 And all I am saying is, if someone is 70 and under New  
11093 Jersey qualifies right now to get a vaccine, but they happen  
11094 to be undocumented, and they know that they are going to be  
11095 checked by an ID when they go to the community health center,  
11096 they are not going to go. And once everyone who is

11097 undocumented realizes that they are going to be checked for  
11098 their immigration status, that is it, they are never going to  
11099 go there, and we are going to have a crisis because this 10-,  
11100 12 million Americans are not going to go get a vaccine at any  
11101 point. Once they hear that they could be IDed and turned  
11102 over to ICE, that is it.

11103 And so that is what is so bad about this proposal. It  
11104 will make it much more difficult, if impossible, to crush the  
11105 vaccine.

11106 I yield back to the gentleman. And I guess the  
11107 gentleman's time has expired.

11108 So let me see on the Republican --

11109 \*Mr. Ruiz. I yield to Tony Cardenas.

11110 \*The Chairman. Oh, Tony is -- no, but I used all your  
11111 time, so Tony has got to go after a Republican. Sorry.

11112 \*Mr. Cardenas. Okay, you got it.

11113 \*The Chairman. Next is, I guess, Tim Walberg is  
11114 recognized for 5 minutes.

11115 \*Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have talked  
11116 a lot this day, and I was not going to say anything. And,  
11117 Dr. Ruiz, your daughter was precious.

11118 But I was offended. When you bring QAnon in, with no  
11119 rational reason to do that, that is offensive. That should  
11120 not be part of this committee meeting. And when you mention  
11121 you are a person of faith, and yet your concern is for

11122 illegal aliens, that is what we are talking about. We are  
11123 not talking about immigrants. We have plenty of immigrants  
11124 that I respect highly and do great work all across my  
11125 district, and I consider them constituents. We are talking  
11126 about a different story here.

11127         If you are a person of faith as well, and we had a  
11128 longstanding debate tonight on abortion. And we are not as  
11129 concerned about the innocent human being that we do  
11130 announcement things for and all of that, and you are  
11131 concerned that we put priorities on illegals, that is a  
11132 concern. I think that degenerated this discussion tonight in  
11133 a great way. And I would appreciate an apology for placing  
11134 us with QAnon, and taking the life of an innocent human  
11135 being, different just because they are an illegal immigrant  
11136 coming across, as opposed to an innocent unborn human life as  
11137 well. You are a doctor, you know that.

11138         \*Mr. Ruiz. Does the gentleman yield?

11139         \*Mr. Walberg. I yield.

11140         \*Mr. Ruiz. Yeah, you know, you are not going to get any  
11141 apologies for me to speak the truth tonight.

11142         \*Mr. Walberg. Then I take back the time. I take my  
11143 time back. I take my time back.

11144         \*The Chairman. Okay, gentlemen, please.

11145         Can I interrupt here? It is Mr. Walberg's time. We  
11146 will have time for Mr. Ruiz to respond later. It is your

11147 time. If you want to take it back. Go ahead, Mr. Walberg.

11148 \*Mr. Walberg. I will take it back. I will take it  
11149 back.

11150 I thought the opportunity to let him respond was  
11151 appropriate. But it was not going that direction.

11152 I have plenty of time. I would offer it to any of my  
11153 Republican colleagues, if they would like to take some of the  
11154 time.

11155 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Will the gentleman yield?

11156 \*Mr. Walberg. I will yield to Representative Crenshaw.

11157 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, and I will reiterate the  
11158 comments from my friend Mr. Walberg.

11159 You know, when somebody does not have a very good  
11160 argument, Mr. Ruiz, they usually resort to insults. The  
11161 first indication that you do not have a very good argument to  
11162 make and you wanted to lecture us on science, of course  
11163 engaging in the same kind of nonsense, repeating the word  
11164 science over and over again. Yes, we are aware of how  
11165 viruses spread. Especially when people illegally cross a  
11166 border in caravans, that is a pretty good way for them to  
11167 spread it. Especially when the catch-and-release process is  
11168 reinstated in America. That is a pretty good way for  
11169 viruses to spread.

11170 Let me give you a lesson on economics, since you wanted  
11171 to lecture us with your science. It is a little thing called

11172 scarcity. You do not have enough of everything, so you do  
11173 have to prioritize it. That is the case with the vaccine, we  
11174 all wish we had more. It would make sense to just give it  
11175 out to everybody if there was just hundreds of millions of  
11176 doses just waiting. But since it is America that is  
11177 producing, since it is taxpayer dollars that paid for these  
11178 vaccines, we might as well prioritize American citizens  
11179 first. That is all this is saying. You do not need to make  
11180 this into something it is not. You do not need to accuse  
11181 people of being QAnon supporters because they are making an  
11182 argument that millions and tens of millions of other  
11183 Americans would make who have never even heard of QAnon. And  
11184 the fact that you even brought it up is an indication that  
11185 you do not know what you are talking about.

11186 I yield back.

11187 \*Mr. Walberg. I thank the gentleman for backing it up.  
11188 I get sick of that science as well, especially from doctors  
11189 that do not seem to practice things that they are committed  
11190 to of doing no harm.

11191 And so I want you to think about that, Dr. Ruiz, as we  
11192 serve in the future and talk about issues that relate to what  
11193 actually is common sense and goes around in our society. My  
11194 constituents do not think the same way as yours. You need to  
11195 understand that. And when you push back in this type of  
11196 attitude, it does not win anything. And in fact, it

11197 destroys.

11198 I yield back.

11199 \*The Chairman. I would like to yield myself 5 minutes  
11200 at this point. And I will turn over my time to Mr. Ruiz.

11201 Let me just say one thing, though. I am going to have  
11202 to have a situation now where if you want to raise something  
11203 or, you know, have a response from the other person, it will  
11204 go through me. So if Mr. Walberg wants Mr. Ruiz to respond,  
11205 please indicate that and I will recognize Mr. Ruiz for the  
11206 time. It is your time but if you want him to be recognized,  
11207 you can ask that he be recognized but then I will indicate  
11208 that he has been recognized.

11209 So this is now my time. And Dr. Ruiz, if you would like  
11210 to take it, go ahead, or take some of it. You are  
11211 recognized.

11212 \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Look, we are in  
11213 the middle of a pandemic. People are dying, people are  
11214 suffering, people are getting infected.

11215 We are asking -- by we, meaning the scientific and  
11216 public health community are saying that we need to inoculate  
11217 those that are at highest risk of getting infected and dying  
11218 from the coronavirus, from COVID-19, in order for us to  
11219 quickly and safely end this pandemic. That is just basic  
11220 public health principle. That is science based.

11221 What is not science based and what is not Christian like

11222 is to then say, well, let's do that but allow the pain and  
11223 suffering, allow the virus to exist in specific people in  
11224 order for the virus to continue to replicate and infect  
11225 others who are high risk of getting infected and infecting  
11226 others, simply because of their immigration status.

11227         Nobody is asking anybody to put immigration status as a  
11228 criteria for inoculation. We are saying that we need to  
11229 inoculate high-risk individuals first, regardless of  
11230 immigration status. Because if you do not, if you do not,  
11231 and you wait until, you know, 300 million people have been  
11232 vaccinated, you are going to still keep a segment of our  
11233 population spreading the infection. So they are going to  
11234 spread it everywhere, because this virus can spread really  
11235 fast. And that means it is going to become reintroduced in  
11236 your community around your constituents.

11237         So the humane thing and the public health approach here  
11238 is to base this on the risk factors on people who are at  
11239 highest risk of getting infected, of dying, and therefore  
11240 infecting others. Those, as we know, are doctors, nurses,  
11241 health care providers who are taking care of COVID patients.  
11242 Those are seniors, the elderly, those with underlying  
11243 conditions, those in high-risk essential jobs.

11244         And in all of those communities, you have immigrants.  
11245 So that is the common sense approach. Otherwise, you are  
11246 denying the foreigner amongst us the aid that our faith

11247 compels us to give. Otherwise, you are prolonging this  
11248 pandemic for everyone, including your constituents.  
11249 Otherwise, you are putting at risk the 85-year-old in your  
11250 district, the essential workers in your district.

11251 \*Mr. Walberg. Will the gentleman yield? Will the  
11252 gentleman yield?

11253 \*Mr. Ruiz. I will not yield.

11254 \*The Chairman. The gentleman does not want to yield.  
11255 Let him continue.

11256 \*Mr. Ruiz. And that is why, that is why this is so  
11257 reckless, so counter to science, so counter to public health,  
11258 so counter to common sense that it is appalling how cruel,  
11259 politically motivating this amendment really is. To fire up  
11260 a base that, yes, believes in conspiracy theories, believes  
11261 that somehow this nation is going to be run over and taken  
11262 over, believe that there is some sense of open border  
11263 nonsense, misinformation.

11264 So let's do the right thing for your constituents, for  
11265 all Americans. Let's maximize the value of this vaccination  
11266 plan for America by ensuring that everyone who is high risk  
11267 of getting infected and infecting others or dying from this  
11268 vaccine, get the vaccine, regardless of immigration status.

11269 And with that, I yield back my time to the Chairman.

11270 \*The Chairman. Thank you. My time has expired. And  
11271 the next Republican is Mr. Crenshaw. Dan Crenshaw is



11272 recognized for 5 minutes.

11273 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I got  
11274 most of my time from my friend, Mr. Walberg. So I will be  
11275 brief. In fact, I think I said what I needed to say. For  
11276 the sake of brevity, thank you. I yield back.

11277 \*The Chairman. All right. And then I guess we go to  
11278 Mr. Cardenas is recognized for 5 minutes.

11279 \*Mr. Cardenas. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I  
11280 would just like to state for the record, it was commented  
11281 earlier by one of my colleagues that undocumented immigrants  
11282 do not pay taxes. Well, as a matter of fact, in this  
11283 country, undocumented immigrants pay taxes to the tune of  
11284 hundreds of billions a dollars a year in federal, state and  
11285 local taxes. Facts.

11286 Do you know why those undocumented immigrants pay taxes?  
11287 They do not pay taxes because they are sitting on the couch  
11288 collecting public services. It is because they go out and  
11289 work for American companies on American soil, doing much of  
11290 the work that many people like me, born in America, is not  
11291 willing to do.

11292 Yes, I pointed at myself. I am not willing to work as  
11293 hard as my father and mother did when they came to this  
11294 country as immigrants. And I truly do believe in my heart  
11295 that if it was not for immigrants, we would not be today the  
11296 most prolific, the most successful economy on the planet.

11297 And as a matter of fact, I think that has been the case for  
11298 hundreds of years in the United States of America.

11299 And also I would like to point out that people use the  
11300 word "offended.'" I prefer not to call people who come from  
11301 other countries from this planet, from this globe, illegal  
11302 aliens. Because I can guarantee you, ladies and gentlemen,  
11303 this country has never given a benefit whatsoever to an  
11304 alien. I believe that aliens, that word should be preserved  
11305 for people from other planets.

11306 Not that aliens from other planets, if they ever appear,  
11307 will be bad. I am just saying, human beings, born on this  
11308 earth, human beings who migrate or who find themselves  
11309 seeking asylum in the great nation of the United States of  
11310 America are not aliens. They may be asylum seekers, they may  
11311 be immigrants. There is a lot better honest words for us to  
11312 use, instead of trying to treat them like villains.

11313 And also, as Dr. Ruiz pointed out, by excluding some of  
11314 the hardest working people in our country, by excluding the  
11315 very people who take the jobs that other Americans, many  
11316 Americans, not all, many Americans do not want to do, like  
11317 taking an 85-year-old person who cannot care for themselves  
11318 and that undocumented immigrant is gladly, proudly taking the  
11319 job to wipe the nose of that 85-year-old American, or also  
11320 that immigrant who is willing to show love and hugs and so  
11321 much care to our little children, because these are two of

11322 the jobs that are done with such love and care in this  
11323 country by immigrants in every district of this nation, in  
11324 every zip code and in every corner of this nation. And the  
11325 only people who do not believe me are the people who are not  
11326 willing to keep their eyes open and be honest to themselves  
11327 that there are people perhaps in your own homes or in your  
11328 own businesses who are here undocumented, who some people  
11329 make the excuse that, oh, they're the good ones.

11330 Well, guess what, ladies and gentlemen. Our country is  
11331 made of citizens who are many good ones and people are here  
11332 who migrated here who are plenty good. And people who are  
11333 here who love this country with all their heart and give of  
11334 themselves every single day, their heart and soul, to good,  
11335 hard work. And they make our country amazing and beautiful  
11336 and great.

11337 So this amendment, I do not support. This amendment, in  
11338 my opinion, is based on false premise. And as Dr. Ruiz so  
11339 eloquently puts, this amendment is dangerous to 328 million  
11340 Americans. This amendment does not deserve to be voted in  
11341 affirmative out of this committee or in any place in our  
11342 Congress, in my opinion.

11343 So with that, I will not vote for this amendment. I do  
11344 believe in the bill in chief and I hope we get to that soon.

11345 \*Ms. Barragan. Tony, will you yield?

11346 \*Mr. Cardenas. Yes, absolutely, I will yield, Ms.

11347 Barragan.

11348           \*Ms. Barragan. Thank you. I want to remind everybody  
11349 that we just came out of an administration for four years of  
11350 bashing immigrants, of bashing people. You know, it is  
11351 totally legal to come to the southern border and present  
11352 yourself for asylum. Okay? And people are saying, oh, these  
11353 are illegals who -- no, humm-um. This is totally legal to  
11354 do.

11355           And what happened after four years? By the way, the FBI  
11356 has said, QAnon is a domestic terror organization. And what  
11357 happened? Twenty-one -- you had 22 people die in El Paso  
11358 that were targeted because they were of Hispanic origin.  
11359 Right? And what happens? Right after that occurred, there  
11360 was a four-page manifesto expressing hatred of Hispanic  
11361 immigrants and detailing a plan for attack to being to  
11362 circulate. And where was that? It was on QAnon website.

11363           So we do not want to talk about it, but it is a domestic  
11364 terror threat. And there is a connection when you start  
11365 going anti-immigrant and you start repeating lies and  
11366 characterizing people who are legally presenting themselves  
11367 at the southern border as illegal.

11368           And with that, I know the time has expired, and I yield  
11369 back.

11370           \*Mr. Cardenas. I yield back, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

11371           \*The Chairman. All right, now I don't see a Republican

11372 hand up. But is there a Republican that wants to speak? If  
11373 not, I am going to go to Bobby Rush.

11374 All right, Mr. Rush, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

11375 \*Mr. Rush. I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all  
11376 the members of this committee. This is a very important  
11377 debate that we have. And I have heard the word faith  
11378 mentioned. Mr. Chairman, I want to read on this issue of  
11379 faith. And it is taken from the Word of God and Luke 10:25  
11380 to 37.

11381 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tested him,  
11382 saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He  
11383 said to him, What is written in the Law? What is your  
11384 reading of it? So he answered and said, You shall love the  
11385 Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with  
11386 all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor  
11387 as yourself. And he said to him, You have answered rightly;  
11388 do this and you will live. But he, wanting to justify  
11389 himself, said to Jesus, and who is my neighbor?

11390 Then Jesus answered and said, A certain man went down  
11391 from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who  
11392 stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, leaving him half  
11393 dead. Now, by chance, a certain priest came down that road,  
11394 and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.  
11395 Likewise, a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and  
11396 looked and passed by on the other side. But a certain

11397 Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he  
11398 saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged  
11399 his wounds, pouring on oil and wine, and he set him on his  
11400 own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him. On  
11401 the next da, he took out two denarii, gave them to the  
11402 innkeeper and said to him, Take care of him; and whatever  
11403 more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you. So  
11404 which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who  
11405 fell among the thieves? And he said, He who showed mercy on  
11406 him. Then Jesus said to him, Go and do likewise.

11407 Mr. Chairman, I just ask those of us who are engaged in  
11408 this conversation the question, we're all people who have  
11409 faith. Who are we talking about? Who is our neighbor?

11410 I yield back.

11411 \*The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rush. And you gave us  
11412 that Good Samaritan parable in less than four minutes. That  
11413 is pretty amazing. Thank you.

11414 I am almost speechless here.

11415 Who is next? I don't see a Republican again. So we  
11416 will go to Darren Soto is recognized for 5 minutes.

11417 \*Mr. Soto. I move to strike the last word, Mr.  
11418 Chairman. And the people said amen, Reverend Rush.

11419 In Florida, only seniors are eligible right now and they  
11420 are already getting the vaccine first. Seniors are already  
11421 first. Nothing is changing that in our state. I hope your

11422 states are already prioritizing seniors, too.

11423           So voting against this amendment does not change the  
11424 fact that seniors are and still will be first to get the  
11425 vaccine. That is not the actual debate here. The question  
11426 is whether farm workers would be eligible in phase 2, along  
11427 with other essential workers.

11428           I am proud to represent citrus and cattle country. We  
11429 produce Florida Natural, Simply Orange, and have the largest  
11430 cattle herd in the nation at the Deseret Ranch.

11431           This amendment would hurt Florida agriculture. It would  
11432 hurt the American farmer. And it would hurt rural America.

11433           If farm workers get sick, rural Americans are in greater  
11434 danger of getting COVID-19, too. As importantly, it would  
11435 put our nation's food security in jeopardy. We already have  
11436 a pandemic and a recession. Do we really want to have a  
11437 famine, too?

11438           In December 1, 2020, in a letter to then President-elect  
11439 Biden, the American Farm Bureau and 28 other agricultural  
11440 organizations wrote, "Like all Americans, we are thankful for  
11441 the unprecedented research that has led to the development of  
11442 multiple new vaccines that soon may be approved and available  
11443 to protect public health. Our labor force, however,  
11444 continues to ebb and flow as employees become infected. A  
11445 single infected employee necessitates that we quarantine  
11446 additional employees with whom he or she may have been in

11447 contact. This leaves critical positions unfilled,  
11448 overworking existing employees and threatening to shut down  
11449 processing facilities. This situation could very easily  
11450 create disruptions and shortages in the food supply chain.

11451 As new COVID-19 vaccines are approved and ready for  
11452 distribution, we would like to encourage your transition team  
11453 to support granting priority vaccine access to essential  
11454 critical infrastructure workers.'" And they go on to talk  
11455 about how important farm workers are to the food security of  
11456 our nation.

11457 This amendment would hurt farmers, growers, and ranchers  
11458 in my district and in yours. It would hurt farm workers,  
11459 too, many of whom, yes, are my fellow Hispanics, and are good  
11460 workers, honest workers. And since they pick our food, the  
11461 very least we can do is to respect their basic health and  
11462 dignity.

11463 This is about balance. We need some farm workers, those  
11464 who are essential workers, to get vaccinated along with other  
11465 essential workers so in the middle of the pandemic, we can  
11466 keep our society going, protect the food security of our  
11467 nation, and support our local agriculture.

11468 And with that, I yield back.

11469 \*The Chairman. I thank the gentleman.

11470 I think everyone else whose hand is up has already  
11471 spoken. So unless someone else wants to speak, we are going



11472 to go to a vote on the Jeff Duncan Amendment.

11473 Does the Vice Chair want to withdraw her point of order?

11474 \*Ms. Kelly. Yes, I do, Mr. Chair.

11475 \*The Chairman. All right. So I would assume you would  
11476 like a recorded vote, Mrs. Rodgers, or Mr. Duncan? If not,  
11477 we do not have to have one.

11478 Okay, we will do a voice vote then.

11479 If there is no further debate, we will proceed to a vote  
11480 on the amendment. Please unmute yourself so I may hear your  
11481 response to the voice vote.

11482 All those in favor of the Duncan Amendment will signify  
11483 by saying aye.

11484 All those opposed will signify by saying no.

11485 In the opinion of the Chair, the noes have it and the  
11486 Duncan Amendment is not agreed to.

11487 Are there further amendments to the amendment in the  
11488 nature of a substitute?

11489 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the  
11490 desk.

11491 \*The Chairman. And what is that number?

11492 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Number 32.

11493 \*The Chairman. Does the clerk have Number 32?

11494 \*The Clerk. Yes, sir.

11495 \*The Chairman. Okay, the clerk will report the Rodgers  
11496 Amendment.

11497           \*The Clerk. Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of  
11498 a Substitute to Committee Print Relating to Public Health,  
11499 offered by Mrs. Rodgers of Washington.

11500           At the end of the following --

11501           \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk, without objection, the  
11502 reading of the Rodgers Amendment will be dispensed with.

11503           \*Ms. Kelly. Mr. Chair, I would like to reserve a point  
11504 of order.

11505           \*The Chairman. The Vice Chair reserves a point of  
11506 order.

11507           And the gentlewoman from Washington is recognized for 5  
11508 minutes in support of her amendment.

11509           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment  
11510 would apply the Hyde Amendment to the entire package. I  
11511 think everyone on this committee is aware that the Hyde  
11512 Amendment has long stood as the law in this land. I am  
11513 disappointed that it was not included in the first place. It  
11514 was in all of the other COVID relief packages that we have  
11515 worked in a bipartisan way, and it is disappointing that it  
11516 has been omitted in this package.

11517           The whole reason that we are here today is to bring hope  
11518 and healing to people that are in despair. And we do see  
11519 time and time again that people need that hope.

11520           We are focused on what is it going to take to crush the  
11521 pandemic, to save lives, to improve health and wellness of

11522 our communities, to get our kids back in school, to get  
11523 people back to work, and to provide hope. And every person  
11524 deserves that chance of a better life.

11525 The Hyde Amendment prohibits federal dollars from being  
11526 used to fund abortion. Historically, it has been bipartisan.  
11527 And until even very recently, President Joe Biden had long  
11528 fought and supported Hyde as a senator.

11529 Democrats on this committee have already voted for Hyde  
11530 protections in the bipartisan COVID relief packages we have  
11531 worked on together. We talked about the issue earlier. And  
11532 we were told that this package is not about abortion. If  
11533 that is the case, this amendment should pass; we have all  
11534 voted for it before.

11535 As we work to crush this pandemic on every front, let's  
11536 be warriors of human dignity and human value, what Pastor  
11537 Rush just was talking about. Let's lead America to a future  
11538 where we cherish life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness  
11539 for all.

11540 You know, I often think back to when I became a mom and  
11541 I was an older mom. And becoming a mom, you know, getting  
11542 pregnant, to begin with, getting pregnant, you know, it  
11543 creates a lot of fears and uncertainty, quite honestly. It  
11544 is a little bit scary.

11545 But I can testify today that becoming a mom has been the  
11546 best thing that has happened to me, and it is why I am

11547 leading to protect the health and wellness of children in my  
11548 community who need to be back in school. The isolation is  
11549 breaking them. They need hope for a better future. They  
11550 should be our focus today, not a hyper-partisan move to pass  
11551 health care funding without Hyde protections, which has been  
11552 applied to bipartisan health funding since 1976.

11553 The vast majority of Americans stand firm against  
11554 taxpayer funding to go to abortion. This bill should reflect  
11555 that. And I urge bipartisan support of this amendment.

11556 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Thank you. Next we have Ms.  
11557 Schakowsky is recognized for 5 minutes.

11558 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
11559 strike the last word.

11560 \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

11561 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Yes, I want to speak in opposition to  
11562 this amendment. this amendment is an attempt for Republicans  
11563 to insert their ideological anti-choice policy into this  
11564 debate today. And, you know, they have been talking about  
11565 how we should only have things that directly relate to the  
11566 pandemic. This has nothing to do with this pandemic. This  
11567 is, as they would say, did say, a hyper-partisan amendment  
11568 that is not widely supported, certainly not among the  
11569 Democrats, and I don't believe among all the American people.

11570 You know, there is a saying that some say, that Roe v.  
11571 Wade was not the beginning of women having abortions, it was

11572 the end of women dying from abortions, keeps them safe. And  
11573 right now, this amendment would radically expand the reach of  
11574 the Hyde Amendment, which already restricts the use of  
11575 federal funds for covering abortion services.

11576 So who gets left out? If you are a middle-class woman  
11577 or a wealthy woman, you have a pregnancy that for many  
11578 reasons needs to be terminated, for any reason, you can go  
11579 and afford to have an abortion. But if you are a poor woman,  
11580 if you are a woman of color in the United States of America,  
11581 you are likely to be affected. And did you know that in the  
11582 state of Illinois, that a woman of color, a Black woman,  
11583 actually, is six times more likely to die of pregnancy-  
11584 related factors?

11585 And that kind of discrimination that we see means that  
11586 she does not have the access to health care she needs and she  
11587 likely does not have access to abortion services, which are,  
11588 I say, health care services.

11589 You know, Planned Parenthood has taken a lot of heat  
11590 throughout the years. But I want to tell you something, that  
11591 limiting access to Planned Parenthood is actually dangerous  
11592 right now. Clinics like Planned Parenthood are crucial in  
11593 their -- as they currently are not only offering COVID  
11594 testing at their locations but are also instrumental in  
11595 fighting misinformation about the vaccine. We have to do  
11596 more to encourage vaccine confidence if we are going to crush

11597 this virus. And this amendment will slow down that, the  
11598 vaccinations, when we should be leading in encouraging  
11599 vaccinations.

11600 And so I am so tired of fighting this battle about  
11601 choice. This is not pro-abortion; this is about women taking  
11602 control of our bodies. And I am going to tell you something.  
11603 Women are not going back to back-alleys. Women are not going  
11604 to be refused the health care, including abortion services,  
11605 including contraception that we deserve. That is the only  
11606 health service that is banned for certain people and I think  
11607 it is wrong. I am ready to see the end of Hyde and I  
11608 certainly do not think its place is in this bill, where its  
11609 place there now is irrelevant to crushing the virus and it  
11610 should be removed.

11611 I urge a no vote on the Ranking Member's amendment, and  
11612 I hope you will follow that. Thank you. I yield back.

11613 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

11614 On the Republican side, most senior is Larry Bucshon is  
11615 recognized for 5 minutes.

11616 \*Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11617 And to my friend, Ms. Schakowsky. Actually, I think  
11618 that your views on this issue are the ones that are the  
11619 radical views. Because the majority of the American people  
11620 do not support using federal dollars to pay for abortions.  
11621 And that is just the facts. And a lot of the things that you

11622 just said are not related to this issue at all.

11623           No one is talking about banning federal dollars for  
11624 birth control or anything like that. We are just talking  
11625 about something that has been in place since the 1970s that  
11626 both parties have agreed that, because the majority, the vast  
11627 majority of the American people do not think we should use  
11628 federal dollars to subsidize it, that is why it has been in  
11629 every appropriations bill forever, for 40 years.

11630           So we can make a pro-abortion argument here, or a pro-  
11631 choice argument, about it. But that is not what this is  
11632 about. We are not debating whether or not we are going to  
11633 overturn Roe v. Wade. We are not debating about our  
11634 different views on abortion, which are unreconcilable. I am  
11635 pro-life, you are pro-choice, and we are not going to solve  
11636 that debate tonight.

11637           But the reality is, to try to take the Hyde Amendment  
11638 out of appropriations bills at the federal level is what this  
11639 is about. And the American people do not support using  
11640 federal funding for abortions, they just do not. Even pro-  
11641 choice people do not support that.

11642           And the reality is, low-income women, most are on  
11643 Medicaid. So, I mean, there may be some people that fall  
11644 through the cracks. But the reality is it is just not true  
11645 that they do not have access to this service, if they choose  
11646 to do so.

11647           So, I mean, you and I can disagree on the abortion  
11648           itself. But the reality is, to allow this bill to go through  
11649           without Hyde protections to prevent federal funding for  
11650           abortion is the radical view, quite the opposite of what has  
11651           been portrayed here. I mean, it is the view -- it is the  
11652           minority view in America. And so I strongly support this  
11653           amendment.

11654           And there is always this thing, well, it is going to  
11655           expand, you know, it has been said it is going to expand  
11656           Hyde's reach. Well, Hyde Amendment says you cannot use  
11657           federal dollars to fund abortion. It is pretty clear. I  
11658           mean, you know, using a reconciliation bill to try to get rid  
11659           of Hyde, you can do that, but there are going to be  
11660           repercussions for that because this will be a front page  
11661           discussion, and I don't think it is going to come out the way  
11662           everybody thinks it will. And I don't think the views of  
11663           pro-life people are going to be considered the radical view.

11664           So, with all due respect, you know, we can have  
11665           disagreements, honest disagreements, which we do. And I  
11666           respect your views, and the views of other pro-choice people.  
11667           But that is not what this is about. This is about federal  
11668           dollars being used to fund abortions. And it just should not  
11669           be, and everyone should vote for this amendment.

11670           I yield back.

11671           \*Mrs. Rodgers. Would the gentleman yield, please?



11672 Would the gentleman yield?

11673 \*Mr. Bucshon. I will yield to Ranking Member Rodgers,  
11674 yes.

11675 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you. Thank you.

11676 Mr. Chairman, I have a question. I have a question for  
11677 counsel, if I could.

11678 \*The Chairman. Okay. Mrs. Rodgers, the counsel is  
11679 available if you would like to ask a question.

11680 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Okay, very good. I was not sure. I do  
11681 not know -- I cannot see -- I cannot tell where the counsel  
11682 is on my screen. But anyway, I will just move ahead here.

11683 So under current law, I would like to ask if the  
11684 following are covered by Hyde.

11685 Is the coronavirus today, for testing and vaccines,  
11686 covered by the Hyde Amendment?

11687 \*The Chairman. Will the counsel respond?

11688 \*Committee Counsel. Ranking Member Rodgers, are you  
11689 speaking about the previous bills that have been enacted?

11690 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes.

11691 \*Committee Counsel. Those bills, including the CARES  
11692 Act, were subject to the appropriations bills for Fiscal Year  
11693 2021.

11694 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Okay, so they are covered by Hyde,  
11695 right?

11696 \*Committee Counsel. Restrictions and limitations

11697 included in the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations legislation  
11698 would apply to the funds in the pie, if that is what you are  
11699 referring to, from the CARES Act.

11700 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Is public health work force covered by  
11701 Hyde?

11702 \*Committee Counsel. Do you have a specific funding  
11703 stream or pot that you are referring to?

11704 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I am referring to 3021.

11705 \*Committee Counsel. The current legislation?

11706 \*Mrs. Rodgers. The National Health Service Corps.

11707 \*Committee Counsel. Again, Ranking Member Rodgers, are  
11708 you speaking about the legislation before us currently?

11709 \*Mrs. Rodgers. No, no. In current law.

11710 \*Committee Counsel. Again, the bills that have passed  
11711 previously are subject to the funding restrictions and  
11712 limitations from the Fiscal Year appropriations legislation.

11713 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Is CDC funding for global health covered  
11714 by Hyde, Hyde protections?

11715 \*Committee Counsel. To the extent that those funds were  
11716 appropriated under the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations  
11717 legislation.

11718 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Is funding for community health centers  
11719 protected by the Hyde Amendment?

11720 \*Committee Counsel. Again, the limitation language  
11721 pursuant to the appropriations legislation would apply, as

11722 well as the extensions of community health center funding.

11723 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Is funding for family planning covered  
11724 with the Hyde Amendment?

11725 \*Committee Counsel. Are you referring to Title X in  
11726 statute?

11727 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes.

11728 \*Committee Counsel. Or in the bill?

11729 \*Mrs. Rodgers. In statute. Current law.

11730 \*Committee Counsel. Under, again, Ranking Member  
11731 Rodgers, under current law, funds that were appropriated  
11732 pursuant to the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Act would be  
11733 required to have those limitations.

11734 \*The Chairman. We are a minute and a half over with  
11735 your time, Mr. Bucshon. So let's move on.

11736 \*Mr. Bucshon. With your indulgence, can I make just one  
11737 quick statement for a couple minutes?

11738 \*The Chairman. Sure, go ahead.

11739 \*Mr. Bucshon. The ability for people to get vaccinated  
11740 will not be affected by this. That was suggested. That is a  
11741 scare tactic. The ability to get a vaccine for low income  
11742 people is not going to be affected by this.

11743 I yield back.

11744 \*The Chairman. All right, that was Mr. Bucshon's time.

11745 So based on seniority, the next Democratic member is  
11746 Tony Cardenas is recognized for 5 minutes.

11747           \*Mr. Cardenas. I pass. Thank you so much, Mr.  
11748 Chairman.

11749           \*The Chairman. You passed? Is that what you said?  
11750 Tony, you do not want to speak?

11751           \*Mr. Cardenas. No.

11752           \*The Chairman. Okay, then we go to Dr. Schrier is  
11753 recognized for 5 minutes.

11754           \*Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike  
11755 the last word.

11756           \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

11757           \*Ms. Schrier. Look, we are talking about a COVID  
11758 package. This is a package about vaccines, about testing,  
11759 about expanding people's access to health care by allowing  
11760 them to sign up for ACA plans or for Medicaid. This is about  
11761 expanding services and fighting a virus.

11762           The Hyde Amendment just does not apply. It is a red  
11763 herring. It is diverting our discussion and it has no place  
11764 here. I encourage my colleagues to vote no on this  
11765 amendment.

11766           I yield back.

11767           \*The Chairman. Dr. Schrier, are you done?

11768           \*Ms. Castor. Unless Rep Schrier would yield to me?

11769           \*The Chairman. Who would like her time?

11770           \*Ms. Castor. Rep Castor.

11771           \*The Chairman. Oh, absolutely.

11772           \*Ms. Schrier. Oh, yes, absolutely. I yield to Rep  
11773 Castor.

11774           \*Ms. Castor. Yeah, Rep Schrier, you are correct.  
11775 Because I think the answer that counsel just gave us was that  
11776 in the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bills, the Hyde  
11777 Amendment will continue. This is the American rescue plan,  
11778 the COVID package.

11779           We can have the debate over Hyde. I hope that we can do  
11780 that one day in the appropriate forum. Because I think it  
11781 is, I think, allowing women, doctors, and families to make  
11782 their personal health care decisions is not a radical  
11783 concept, and it is one we should debate in the appropriate  
11784 forum. So this amendment should be withdrawn.

11785           I think you are right, it is just a red herring. It is,  
11786 you know, we have had a number of these political type of  
11787 amendments, messaging amendments today, and I think we need  
11788 to move on past this to get the vaccines ramped up, get kids  
11789 back into school, get folks, families the aid so they can  
11790 stay afloat. So I will yield back.

11791           \*The Chairman. Dr. Schrier, it is your time.

11792           \*Ms. Schrier. I already yielded back. Thank you very  
11793 much.

11794           \*The Chairman. Thank you. And next, I have our Whips.  
11795 Steve Scalise is recognized for 5 minutes.

11796           \*Mr. Scalise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I really

11797 want to thank my friend and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers  
11798 for bringing this important amendment.

11799         Look, there were not a lot of our current members who  
11800 served with Henry Hyde. He left Congress maybe about a year  
11801 before I came in. But if you look at the history of the Hyde  
11802 Amendment, it really is the way Congress used to work, where  
11803 Democrats and Republicans would come together.

11804         It was in 1976 that Henry Hyde passed the first Hyde  
11805 amendment to prohibit taxpayer funds from being used to fund  
11806 abortions. And if you remember back to 1976, Henry Hyde was  
11807 a Republican in a Democrat-majority Congress. And yet he was  
11808 able to work with Democrats.

11809         In fact, the vote on the first real Hyde Amendment was  
11810 312 to 93, 312 to 93. Republicans and Democrats in a  
11811 Democrat-majority Congress coming together to say, you know,  
11812 all the disagreements that there are on abortion on the heels  
11813 of Roe v. Wade, but there was an almost complete coalescence  
11814 that said, regardless of where you are on the issue of  
11815 abortion, taxpayer funds should not be used to fund abortion.

11816         And by the way, it was estimated that about 300,000  
11817 babies a year were being murdered using taxpayer funds, not  
11818 all abortions in America, just taxpayer funds. So imagine  
11819 from 1980, when it completely took effect, until today, over  
11820 40 years of Hyde Amendment history, if the average back then  
11821 was 300,000 babies that were not being aborted every year,

11822 just imagine all the lives that are on this planet today  
11823 because of Henry Hyde's work with Democrats and Republicans  
11824 joining together.

11825         This used to not be a partisan issue. I hope it does  
11826 not become a partisan issue. But as some of my other  
11827 colleagues pointed out, this transcends the abortion debate.

11828         When you look at polling, people who identify as pro-  
11829 choice, a majority of them recognize that taxpayer funds  
11830 should not be used for abortion. Think of what that means to  
11831 people who, like me, are Catholic and who have strong  
11832 religious beliefs that abortion is wrong, and yet their  
11833 taxpayer funds are going to be taken and spent on abortion.  
11834 This is something we all used to agree upon and I hope it  
11835 stays bipartisan.

11836         But again, we are talking about a bill dealing with  
11837 COVID relief, as others have said, where there are many  
11838 priorities a lot of us would have liked to include in this  
11839 bill that are not in this bill. It is not like there is  
11840 unlimited money; \$1.9 trillion is way too much to be putting  
11841 out there when there is over a trillion dollars of unspent  
11842 money. I would much rather see us start with the 1.2 or so  
11843 trillion dollars that have not even been spent yet in  
11844 previous bipartisan COVID relief packages.

11845         But in the meantime, if we are going to be talking about  
11846 what to do with limited resources, I wish more money was

11847 being spent to ramp up more vaccines or to help get schools  
11848 reopened even faster and putting teachers at a higher  
11849 priority level, and so many other people that are not getting  
11850 the help that they need. But to say you are going to divert  
11851 some of those resources away and just throw Hyde, the history  
11852 of Hyde, going back to 1976, out the window, it would be the  
11853 first spending bill that we have passed that didn't include  
11854 Hyde protections, in decades. That is not the history that  
11855 we want to start.

11856 Joe Biden himself had been a strong supporter of Hyde,  
11857 probably his entire career in the Congress. That is not the  
11858 message that we want to send that, in the name of COVID  
11859 relief, in a very hyper-partisan way, Democrats in Congress  
11860 destroy over 40 years of bipartisan history in gutting the  
11861 Hyde amendment. That is not who we are, I hope it is not who  
11862 we become.

11863 And I think, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, I am not sure if she  
11864 had wanted additional time, but I would be happy to yield to  
11865 her. Or unless there were other colleagues of mine that had  
11866 other things they wanted to add.

11867 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Yes.

11868 \*Mr. Scalise. Cathy, I yield to you, happily.

11869 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

11870 Thank you for your words. I want to just reinforce that this  
11871 has been the law of the land for 40 years, that we have



11872 abided by the principle that taxpayer funding should not be  
11873 used for funding abortions. And to say that it does not  
11874 apply to this bill, I would just point out that we just  
11875 debated a family planning section, Title X. It absolutely  
11876 would apply to a section like the family planning that we  
11877 debated, Title X of this legislation.

11878         So I would just urge my colleagues to let's come  
11879 together, let's make sure that we have this protection  
11880 continue to be in place as we are debating over hard-earned  
11881 taxpayer dollars. And I yield back.

11882         \*Mr. Scalise. I yield back as well, Mr. Chairman.

11883         \*The Chairman. Thank you.

11884         Ms. Castor's hand is still up. Did you want your own  
11885 time? No?

11886         All right, I don't see another Democrat then. So I am  
11887 going to go to the Republicans again, and it would appear  
11888 that the next person is Morgan Griffith is recognized for 5  
11889 minutes.

11890         \*Mr. Griffith. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Can  
11891 we get counsel back on the screen? I would like to ask  
11892 counsel a question.

11893         \*The Chairman. Yes. But let me remind you, Mr.  
11894 Griffith, and I should have said this --

11895         \*Mr. Griffith. Not an attorney, I know -- last year.

11896         \*The Chairman. Right, well, I don't know, she may be an

11897 attorney. But what I am going to ask is, please confine your  
11898 questions to this bill. I mean, the bill is the bill at  
11899 hand. So, if you don't mind, asking about this bill. But go  
11900 ahead.

11901 \*Mr. Griffith. Okay, that's my plan.

11902 \*The Chairman. Is she with us yet?

11903 \*Committee Counsel. I am. I am here.

11904 \*Mr. Griffith. So my question would be, as Ms. Castor  
11905 implied, or maybe I got the wrong impression, but I got an  
11906 implication that said if we passed this, that this bill would  
11907 be governed, just as you referenced the other bills, by the  
11908 limitations set forth in the 2021 appropriations bills. Is  
11909 that your position?

11910 \*Committee Counsel. The provisions included in Subtitle  
11911 A would not be subject to the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations  
11912 legislation that has previously been enacted.

11913 \*Mr. Griffith. So this would not apply, the limitations  
11914 in the 2021 Appropriations Act would not apply to this act we  
11915 are debating now?

11916 \*Committee Counsel. That is correct, Congressman.

11917 \*Mr. Griffith. All right. Thank you, ma'am, I  
11918 appreciate your answer. I was going to make the same point  
11919 that Cathy McMorris Rodgers made, that we spent hours talking  
11920 about Title X. Clearly, this does apply, this is relevant.  
11921 And I think that we should continue with the Hyde Amendment.

11922 And any implications, and it may have been my fault, I may  
11923 have misheard it. Any implications that somehow this would  
11924 also be covered by the 2021 Appropriations Act has now been  
11925 set aside and we now know that that is not the case.

11926 So if we go forward without the McMorris Rodgers  
11927 Amendment, we will be changing the precedent established in  
11928 1976.

11929 And if anybody would like my time, I am happy to yield  
11930 to them.

11931 Hearing none, I yield back.

11932 \*The Chairman. Mr. Crenshaw, I believe you are next  
11933 anyway. So if you want to just -- you would be recognized  
11934 for 5 minutes.

11935 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Move to strike  
11936 the last word.

11937 I want to echo some of my colleagues' statements. This  
11938 is relevant. I mean, we just had a long debate about Title  
11939 X. So if Title X is relevant, I do not see why this is not.  
11940 because here is the thing, the controversy over Title X, it  
11941 has never been about women's health care or contraception, as  
11942 many of my colleagues are dishonestly implying. That program  
11943 has long been bipartisan. We do care about those things.

11944 The last amendment took away no current funding from it.  
11945 The last bipartisan COVID bill we passed, hundreds of  
11946 millions of dollars for Title X.

11947           This is not about a simple disagreement; it is about a  
11948 fact that we all know is true. Abortion organizations like  
11949 Planned Parenthood deceive the public and they take Title X  
11950 money, and they use it for abortion. We have long suspected  
11951 this. Because it is impossible to track the money down to  
11952 the lowest levels. But Planned Parenthood proved us right  
11953 when they recently left the Title X system after President  
11954 Trump instituted the Protect Life rule. He called their  
11955 bluff and they folded. Because the truth is that their  
11956 primary business is abortion, the taking of life, and we all  
11957 know it.

11958           Unfortunately, President Biden recently reversed this  
11959 common sense accountability rule. It is all the more reason  
11960 we need the Hyde Amendment back in there. We need those  
11961 protections.

11962           And let's be very clear about something. Abortion is  
11963 not health care, never has been. A human being with a  
11964 heartbeat is not just part of the body; it is its own body,  
11965 it is its own life. We all acknowledge that fact when we  
11966 want the pregnancy. But for some reason, we dehumanize a  
11967 human life as just a body part when the pregnancy is  
11968 unwanted.

11969           As a country, we should stop lying to ourselves about  
11970 the reality of abortion. It is the taking of an innocent  
11971 life, pure and simple.

11972           Republicans are clearly on the side of the American  
11973 people here. Fifty-eight percent of Americans do not want  
11974 taxpayer money funding for abortion. And according to  
11975 Gallup, 65 percent of Americans believe abortion should be  
11976 illegal after 12 weeks. Here in Congress, we are actually  
11977 debating the Born-Alive Bill, or whether \$50 million should  
11978 be going to abortion clinics like Planned Parenthood. We are  
11979 debating whether taxpayer money should be used for abortions,  
11980 something that is so divisive in this country, something I  
11981 thought we agreed upon for decades, as many of my colleagues  
11982 have pointed out.

11983           Let's continue with that bipartisan consensus and pass  
11984 this amendment. Thank you.

11985           I am happy to yield to anyone who needs it. Going once,  
11986 going twice.

11987           I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

11988           \*The Chairman. All right. And next, actually, I think  
11989 Mrs. Lesko was more senior, so I should have called on you  
11990 first. But next, I recognize Mrs. Lesko for 5 minutes.

11991           \*Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I move to  
11992 strike the last word.

11993           I am in total support of this amendment. I know it is  
11994 not a surprise to you or to the other members, because I am a  
11995 pro-life conservative woman that cares about protecting the  
11996 lives of innocent babies.

11997           And so I heard a couple of my Democrat colleagues say  
11998 this is just a red herring. I am sorry, to me, this is not a  
11999 red herring. This is talking about funding abortions, which  
12000 take away innocent lives. That is not a red herring to me.

12001           Another one of my Democratic colleagues said, look, this  
12002 package has to do with COVID. Exactly. I totally agree with  
12003 you. So why would you not want to agree to an amendment that  
12004 says you are not going to fund abortions with this COVID  
12005 money? I mean, if it truly is for COVID relief and the  
12006 crisis that was caused by COVID, why would you want to fund  
12007 abortions with it? This makes no sense to me.

12008           I totally support Mrs. Rodgers' amendment. And I  
12009 really, again, say that if you truly want unity and you truly  
12010 want bipartisanship, then you would agree to this amendment  
12011 because you know this is important to Republicans. You know  
12012 it is. You know that this is a poison pill.

12013           And so thank you, Mr. Chairman, and unless Mrs. Rodgers  
12014 wants any time? No? I will yield back.

12015           \*The Chairman. Thank you. And now I see we have Mr.  
12016 Ruiz is recognized for five minutes.

12017           \*Mr. Ruiz. Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want  
12018 to once again correct the misinformation in the statements  
12019 that have been made that discontinuing a pregnancy is not  
12020 health related. Discontinuing a pregnancy is medically  
12021 indicated when there is anencephaly, a developmentally --

12022 disorder in the formation of the neural tube that can result  
12023 in a failure of the brain, skull and scalp to develop, the  
12024 condition called anencephaly.

12025         When there is chromosomal abnormalities, when there are  
12026 genetic changes responsible for the majority of the  
12027 miscarriages and many stillbirths, they are generally random,  
12028 they do not repeat in subsequent pregnancies, but they are a  
12029 frequent indication for therapeutic terminations.

12030         Hydrocephalus or water on the brain occurs when cerebral  
12031 spinal fluid cannot flow properly between the ventricles in  
12032 the brain, resulting in a buildup of pressure.

12033         The Meckel-Gruber syndrome, it's usually a combination  
12034 of congenital malfunctions that include a too-large  
12035 fontanelle, polycystic kidneys, polydactyly and impaired  
12036 liver and lung development. It is always fatal.

12037         You have Potter's syndrome, you have thanatophoric  
12038 dysplasia, you have problems in pregnancy itself that is an  
12039 indication. For example, amniotic band syndrome. You have  
12040 maternal health conditions that are an indication to end a  
12041 pregnancy. You have some premature rupture of membranes,  
12042 which is a condition in which the bag of water, the amniotic  
12043 sac, breaks before the pregnancy reaches full term. You have  
12044 selective reduction, severe preeclampsia.

12045         So do not say that ending a pregnancy has no health  
12046 related. So let's speak truth. Let's actually understand --

12047 \*Mr. Hudson. Will the gentleman yield?

12048 \*Mr. Ruiz. No.

12049 And with that, you know, there is a lot of --

12050 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Will the gentleman yield?

12051 \*Mr. Ruiz. No.

12052 There is a lot of ectopic pregnancies, too.

12053 \*The Chairman. I will let the gentleman finish.

12054 \*Mr. Ruiz. There are a lot of ectopic pregnancies, too,

12055 that are indications for that.

12056 So the statement that terminating a pregnancy has no

12057 health reasons is just plainly false.

12058 And with that, I give my time to the Chairman. I yield

12059 back my full time.

12060 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Will the gentleman yield?

12061 \*Mr. Ruiz. No, I am giving it to the Chairman.

12062 \*The Chairman. I am not asking for it. So if you want

12063 to yield back, you can.

12064 \*Mr. Ruiz. Then I yield back to you, Chairman.

12065 \*The Chairman. All right, let's see. I do not have a

12066 Republican, but if somebody wants to raise their hand?

12067 \*Mr. Hudson. Mr. Chairman, it's Mr. Hudson.

12068 \*The Chairman. Yes, Mr. Hudson is recognized.

12069 \*Mr. Hudson. I would like to claim the time and yield

12070 to Mrs. Rodgers.

12071 \*The Chairman. Mrs. Rodgers is recognized.



12072            \*Mrs. Rodgers. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

12073            Dr. Ruiz, I just wanted to ask you if you were saying  
12074 that it was okay to have an abortion if there is a  
12075 disability? We have a colleague, Dr. Ruiz, who had a  
12076 pregnancy where her baby was diagnosed with Potter's  
12077 syndrome, one of the ones you listed. She was told there was  
12078 no chance that baby would survive.

12079            Well, Abigail today is 7 years old. And she survived  
12080 and she is thriving. It is amazing what technology is  
12081 allowing today. It is amazing.

12082            So I just was a little concerned by what I was hearing  
12083 there.

12084            But again, I will just take a step back. I recognize,  
12085 we have differing opinions on the issue of abortion. But I  
12086 want to underscore this is about taxpayer funding of  
12087 abortions, which has been the law of the land for a long time  
12088 in this country, since 1976. There is consensus. The  
12089 majority of Americans, whenever they are asked, a large  
12090 majority of Americans do not want taxpayer funding of  
12091 abortion. And I believe it is important and that that remain  
12092 in place.

12093            We have legislation before us where we are deciding what  
12094 the priorities are going to be. And one of those priorities  
12095 should continue to be the Hyde protections that have been the  
12096 law of this land, that are largely supported, and to make

12097 sure that we are always giving life a chance. Thank you.

12098 \*The Chairman. The time is with Mr. Hudson.

12099 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I yield back to Mr. Hudson.

12100 \*Mr. Hudson. If anyone else would like to claim my  
12101 time, I would offer it up. If not, I will yield back to you,  
12102 Mr. Chairman.

12103 \*The Chairman. Mr. Crenshaw had his hand up. If he  
12104 wants your time?

12105 \*Mr. Hudson. I would be pleased to yield to Mr.  
12106 Crenshaw.

12107 \*Mr. Crenshaw. I take Mr. Hudson's time. Thank you.

12108 Look, I just have a question for Mr. Ruiz. You listed  
12109 that lengthy list of medical conditions that might force a  
12110 woman to make a hard decision to terminate a pregnancy. Not  
12111 necessarily intentionally kill the baby afterwards, but at  
12112 least terminate the pregnancy.

12113 But the question is, does that then imply that you agree  
12114 with us that all healthy pregnancies should indeed be  
12115 protected because they have value?

12116 I yield back my time to Mr. Hudson.

12117 \*The Chairman. All right, I don't know how, Mr. Hudson,  
12118 but somehow you ended up with another 5 minutes. So would  
12119 you yield back?

12120 \*Mr. Hudson. I would be happy to yield back, Mr.  
12121 Chairman.

12122           \*The Chairman. All right, thank you.

12123           All right, so next we have Lizzie Fletcher is recognized  
12124 for 5 minutes.

12125           \*Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to  
12126 strike the last word.

12127           \*The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

12128           \*Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I will  
12129 try to keep it brief. We have had a lot of discussion this  
12130 evening and I know we have a lot of ground still to cover.  
12131 But I am compelled to respond to the statements that have  
12132 been made by my Republican colleagues tonight that are simply  
12133 untrue, making baseless, unfounded, and unproven allegations  
12134 against Planned Parenthood. And, you know, this is nothing  
12135 new. Anti-abortion politicians have been on a many-years-  
12136 long crusade against Planned Parenthood.

12137           But the suggestion that the rejection of a policy that  
12138 prohibits women from exercising their constitutional rights  
12139 is not an admission of the conspiracy theories of anti-  
12140 abortion opponents, it is simply not, and that should not be  
12141 in the record of this hearing.

12142           And, you know, we have seen this over the years. We saw  
12143 it here in Houston when anti-abortion extremists released  
12144 these deceptively edited videos, accusing Planned Parenthood  
12145 of misusing funds and doing all kinds of things. And  
12146 actually a grand jury was convened here in Houston. And by

12147 the time the grand jury had finished its deliberations, it  
12148 indicted not Planned Parenthood but the people who made the  
12149 video.

12150           And so I think what we have seen introduced into this  
12151 record tonight is really not only irrelevant, but it is such  
12152 an affront to the debate that we are trying to have about  
12153 getting people health care. But we have seen that what it  
12154 does in these sweeping generalizations, in these  
12155 misstatements about what Planned Parenthood does and does not  
12156 do, we know that the majority, the vast majority of Planned  
12157 Parenthood's services are providing prenatal care, are  
12158 providing well woman visits, are providing Pap smears, are  
12159 providing HIV tests and other STD tests, are providing  
12160 cervical cancer screenings through Pap smears and other  
12161 follow-up exams.

12162           Planned Parenthood serves a vital role in my community  
12163 that I share with Mr. Crenshaw, and throughout the country.  
12164 And in our community alone, Planned Parenthood serves tens of  
12165 thousands of people who need care, and they provide care, no  
12166 matter what. They provide care on a sliding scale, a sliding  
12167 fee scale. They provide care to people who need it.

12168           And that is what we are talking about with this bill.  
12169 People need health care. Right now, we are experiencing a  
12170 global pandemic. And the discussion that we are having about  
12171 whether or not Planned Parenthood, what percentage of its

12172 funds come from abortion services is so irrelevant to the  
12173 work that is in front of us. But more important, for  
12174 tonight, it is not true, and we cannot let that stand.

12175 So I want to make sure that the record is clear that  
12176 these statements and allegations are not founded, are not  
12177 supported. And thank you.

12178 With that, I will yield back.

12179 \*Ms. Kelly. Rep Fletcher, can I have some of your time?

12180 This is Robin Kelly.

12181 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Yes, I will yield to Rep Kelly.

12182 \*Ms. Kelly. Thank you. I just feel compelled to say,  
12183 first of all, I was a proud board member of Planned  
12184 Parenthood many moons ago. But secondly, it is just  
12185 interesting to me how we pick and choose what polls we listen  
12186 to, because the comment was made most of Americans or a good  
12187 percentage do not want the money used. And then someone else  
12188 said that we do not care about the unborn fetus.

12189 Well, you know, 90 percent of Americans want background  
12190 checks, and 36,000 people die from guns every year, whether  
12191 it is homicides, suicide, or accidents. And we do not seem  
12192 to listen to that, whether it is universal background checks,  
12193 closing the Charleston loophole, trafficking or store  
12194 purchases, all the things that have led to many, many deaths  
12195 across the United States.

12196 So I just wanted to say I find it interesting that we

12197 listen to, you know, what I think it was what 58 of Americans  
12198 think, not what 90 percent of Americans think. I yield back.

12199 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you. And before I yield my time  
12200 with my 30 seconds left, I do want to respond to one other  
12201 thing that several of my colleagues have said.

12202 They said abortion is not health care. Abortion is  
12203 health care. Dr. Ruiz made this point very, very  
12204 beautifully. The fact is reproductive health care is  
12205 essential health care for women across this country. And as  
12206 I said earlier, for many women, going to Planned Parenthood  
12207 or another provider is the only health care they get all  
12208 year. But abortion care is health care and we need to  
12209 understand that as we have conversations about women's health  
12210 care going forward.

12211 I see I am out of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
12212 yield back.

12213 \*The Chairman. Thank you. Now, no one else has their  
12214 hand up. So unless somebody is going to put their hand up,  
12215 we are going to go to the vote on this.

12216 Does the Vice Chair wish to withdraw her reservation  
12217 with regard to the point of order? Ms. Kelly?

12218 \*Ms. Kelly. Yes, I do.

12219 \*The Chairman. Thank you.

12220 \*Ms. Kelly. Yes.

12221 \*The Chairman. Okay. Voice vote or has someone asked

12222 for recorded?

12223 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman, I would request a recorded  
12224 vote.

12225 \*The Chairman. Okay. A recorded vote is ordered, and  
12226 we are voting on the Rodgers Amendment.

12227 Those in favor of the Rodgers Amendment will say aye,  
12228 those opposed to the amendment will say no, and the clerk  
12229 shall call the roll.

12230 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

12231 [No response.]

12232 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

12233 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes no.

12234 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes no.

12235 Ms. DeGette?

12236 [No response.]

12237 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle?

12238 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes no.

12239 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes no.

12240 Ms. Schakowsky?

12241 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes no.

12242 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.

12243 Mr. Butterfield?

12244 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes no.

12245 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes no.

12246 Ms. Matsui?

12247 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes no.  
12248 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.  
12249 Ms. Castor?  
12250 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes no.  
12251 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.  
12252 Mr. Sarbanes?  
12253 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes no.  
12254 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes no.  
12255 Mr. McNerney?  
12256 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes no.  
12257 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes no.  
12258 Mr. Welch?  
12259 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes no.  
12260 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes no.  
12261 Mr. Tonko?  
12262 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes no.  
12263 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.  
12264 Ms. Clarke?  
12265 \*Ms. Clarke. Clarke votes no.  
12266 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.  
12267 Mr. Schrader?  
12268 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes no.  
12269 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes no.  
12270 Mr. Cardenas?  
12271 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas representing California votes



12272 no.  
12273 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes no.  
12274 Mr. Ruiz?  
12275 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes no.  
12276 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.  
12277 Mr. Peters?  
12278 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes no.  
12279 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.  
12280 Mrs. Dingell?  
12281 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes no.  
12282 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.  
12283 Mr. Veasey?  
12284 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes no.  
12285 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.  
12286 Ms. Kuster?  
12287 \*Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes no.  
12288 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes no.  
12289 Ms. Kelly?  
12290 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes no.  
12291 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.  
12292 Ms. Barragan?  
12293 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes no.  
12294 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.  
12295 Mr. McEachin?  
12296 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes no.

12297 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes no.  
12298 Ms. Blunt Rochester?  
12299 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
12300 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes no.  
12301 Mr. Soto?  
12302 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes no.  
12303 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.  
12304 Mr. O'Halleran?  
12305 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes no.  
12306 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes no.  
12307 Miss Rice?  
12308 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes no.  
12309 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes no.  
12310 Ms. Craig?  
12311 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes no.  
12312 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes no.  
12313 Ms. Schrier?  
12314 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes no.  
12315 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.  
12316 Mrs. Trahan?  
12317 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes no.  
12318 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.  
12319 Mrs. Fletcher?  
12320 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes no.  
12321 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

12322 Mrs. Rodgers?  
12323 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
12324 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.  
12325 Mr. Upton?  
12326 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.  
12327 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.  
12328 Mr. Burgess?  
12329 \*Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.  
12330 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.  
12331 Mr. Scalise?  
12332 \*Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes aye.  
12333 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes aye.  
12334 Mr. Latta?  
12335 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.  
12336 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.  
12337 Mr. Guthrie?  
12338 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye  
12339 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.  
12340 Mr. McKinley?  
12341 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.  
12342 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.  
12343 Mr. Kinzinger?  
12344 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, aye.  
12345 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes aye.  
12346 Mr. Griffith?

12347 \*Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.  
12348 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.  
12349 Mr. Bilirakis?  
12350 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.  
12351 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.  
12352 Mr. Johnson?  
12353 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.  
12354 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.  
12355 Mr. Long?  
12356 \*Mr. Long. Aye.  
12357 \*The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.  
12358 Mr. Bucshon?  
12359 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.  
12360 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.  
12361 Mr. Mullin?  
12362 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes aye.  
12363 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
12364 Mr. Hudson?  
12365 \*Mr. Hudson. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
12366 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
12367 Mr. Walberg?  
12368 \*Mr. Walberg. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
12369 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.  
12370 Mr. Carter?  
12371 \*Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.

12372 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.  
12373 Mr. Duncan?  
12374 \*Mr. Duncan. Duncan votes aye.  
12375 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.  
12376 Mr. Palmer?  
12377 \*Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.  
12378 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
12379 Mr. Dunn?  
12380 \*Mr. Dunn. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
12381 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
12382 Mr. Curtis?  
12383 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes aye.  
12384 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.  
12385 Mrs. Lesko?  
12386 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.  
12387 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.  
12388 Mr. Pence?  
12389 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.  
12390 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.  
12391 Mr. Crenshaw?  
12392 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.  
12393 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.  
12394 Mr. Joyce?  
12395 \*Mr. Joyce. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
12396 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

12397 Mr. Armstrong?

12398 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes yes.

12399 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.

12400 Chairman Pallone?

12401 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes no.

12402 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes no.

12403 \*The Chairman. Any other members who have not voted and

12404 are present?

12405 [No response.]

12406 \*The Chairman. Okay. All right. So if not, the clerk

12407 will report the tally on the Rodgers Amendment.

12408 \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas were 26

12409 and the nays were 30.

12410 \*The Chairman. Thank you. So the vote on the Rodgers

12411 Amendment is 26 ayes to 30 noes and the amendment is not

12412 agreed to.

12413 Now, do we have any further amendments to the Amendment

12414 in the Nature of a Substitute?

12415 [No response.]

12416 \*The Chairman. Okay. If there is no further debate on

12417 amendments, we will proceed to a vote on the Amendment in the

12418 Nature of a Substitute to the Committee Print Subtitle A,

12419 Budget Reconciliation, Legislative Recommendations Relating

12420 to Public Health, as amended -- well, I guess not as amended.

12421 Please unmute yourselves so that we may hear your

12422 response to the voice vote, which I think we are going to  
12423 have a voice vote.

12424 All those in favor of the Amendment in the Nature of a  
12425 Substitute to the Committee Print Subtitle A will signify by  
12426 saying aye.

12427 All those opposed will signify by saying no.

12428 In the opinion of the Chair -- let's see. We are going  
12429 to go to -- well, I will just say that the Amendment in the  
12430 Nature of a Substitute to the Committee Print Subtitle A  
12431 Budget Reconciliation, Legislative Recommendations Related to  
12432 Public Health is agreed to.

12433 So now we are going to vote to transmit this first  
12434 subtitle to the Committee on the Budget. And the question  
12435 now occurs on approval and transmitting to the Committee on  
12436 the Budget the committee print Subtitle A, Budget  
12437 Reconciliation, Legislative Recommendations Relating to  
12438 Public Health.

12439 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman?

12440 \*The Chairman. Yes?

12441 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Sorry.

12442 \*The Chairman. The ranking member.

12443 \*Mrs. Rodgers. I'm sorry. We would like a recorded  
12444 vote.

12445 \*The Chairman. We would like a recorded vote? Okay.

12446 So let me say that we will have a recorded vote. But I move

12447 the committee to now approve and transmit the recommendations  
12448 of this committee and all appropriate accompanying material,  
12449 including additional supplemental or dissenting views, to the  
12450 House Committee on the Budget, in order to comply with the  
12451 reconciliation directive included in Section 2001 of the  
12452 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021,  
12453 S.Con.Res. 5, and consistent with Section 310 of the  
12454 Congressional Budget and Empowerment Control Act of 1974.  
12455 And on this, we will have a recorded vote. A recorded vote  
12456 is ordered.

12457 All those in favor will signify by saying aye. Those  
12458 opposed will say no. And the clerk shall call the roll.

12459 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

12460 \*Mr. Rush. Rush of Illinois votes aye.

12461 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

12462 Ms. Eshoo?

12463 \*Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

12464 \*The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

12465 Ms. DeGette?

12466 [No response.]

12467 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle?

12468 \*Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.

12469 \*The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

12470 Ms. Schakowsky?

12471 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.



12472 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.  
12473 Mr. Butterfield?  
12474 \*Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.  
12475 \*The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.  
12476 Ms. Matsui?  
12477 \*Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes aye.  
12478 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.  
12479 Ms. Castor?  
12480 \*Ms. Castor. Ms. Castor votes aye.  
12481 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.  
12482 Mr. Sarbanes?  
12483 \*Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.  
12484 \*The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.  
12485 Mr. McNerney?  
12486 \*Mr. McNerney. McNerney votes aye.  
12487 \*The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.  
12488 Mr. Welch?  
12489 \*Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes aye.  
12490 \*The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.  
12491 Mr. Tonko?  
12492 \*Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.  
12493 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.  
12494 Ms. Clarke?  
12495 \*Ms. Clarke. Clarke votes aye.  
12496 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

12497 Mr. Schrader?

12498 \*Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

12499 \*The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

12500 Mr. Cardenas?

12501 \*Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas, representative California, I

12502 vote aye.

12503 \*The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

12504 Mr. Ruiz?

12505 [No response.]

12506 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters?

12507 \*Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

12508 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

12509 \*Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes yes.

12510 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

12511 Mrs. Dingell?

12512 \*Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.

12513 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

12514 Mr. Veasey?

12515 [No response.]

12516 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster?

12517 \*Ms. Kuster. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

12518 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

12519 \*Mr. Veasey. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

12520 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

12521 Ms. Kelly?

12522 \*Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.  
12523 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.  
12524 Ms. Barragan?  
12525 \*Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.  
12526 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.  
12527 Mr. McEachin?  
12528 \*Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.  
12529 \*The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.  
12530 Ms. Blunt Rochester?  
12531 \*Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.  
12532 \*The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.  
12533 Mr. Soto?  
12534 \*Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.  
12535 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.  
12536 Mr. O'Halleran?  
12537 \*Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.  
12538 \*The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.  
12539 Miss Rice?  
12540 \*Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.  
12541 \*The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.  
12542 Ms. Craig?  
12543 \*Ms. Craig. Craig votes yes.  
12544 \*The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.  
12545 Ms. Schrier?  
12546 \*Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.

12547 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.  
12548 Mrs. Trahan?  
12549 \*Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.  
12550 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.  
12551 Mrs. Fletcher?  
12552 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes aye.  
12553 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.  
12554 Mrs. Rodgers?  
12555 \*Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes nay.  
12556 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.  
12557 Mr. Upton?  
12558 \*Mr. Upton. Upton votes no.  
12559 \*The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.  
12560 Mr. Burgess?  
12561 \*Mr. Burgess. Votes no.  
12562 \*The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.  
12563 Mr. Scalise?  
12564 \*Mr. Scalise. Mr. Scalise votes no.  
12565 \*The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes no.  
12566 Mr. Latta?  
12567 \*Mr. Latta. Latta votes no.  
12568 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.  
12569 Mr. Guthrie?  
12570 \*Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes no.  
12571 \*The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

12572 Mr. McKinley?  
12573 \*Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes no.  
12574 \*The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.  
12575 Mr. Kinzinger?  
12576 \*Mr. Kinzinger. Kinzinger, no.  
12577 \*The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger votes no.  
12578 Mr. Griffith?  
12579 \*Mr. Griffith. Mr. Griffith votes no.  
12580 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.  
12581 Mr. Bilirakis?  
12582 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes no.  
12583 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.  
12584 Mr. Johnson?  
12585 \*Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes no.  
12586 \*The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.  
12587 Mr. Long?  
12588 [No response.]  
12589 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?  
12590 \*Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes no.  
12591 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.  
12592 Mr. Mullin?  
12593 \*Mr. Mullin. Mullin votes no.  
12594 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.  
12595 Mr. Hudson?  
12596 \*Mr. Hudson. Mr. Hudson votes no.

12597 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.  
12598 Mr. Walberg?  
12599 \*Mr. Walberg. Mr. Walberg votes no.  
12600 \*The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.  
12601 Mr. Carter?  
12602 \*Mr. Carter. Carter votes no.  
12603 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.  
12604 Mr. Duncan?  
12605 \*Mr. Duncan. Duncan, no.  
12606 \*The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.  
12607 Mr. Palmer?  
12608 \*Mr. Palmer. Palmer, no.  
12609 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.  
12610 Mr. Dunn?  
12611 \*Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.  
12612 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.  
12613 Mr. Curtis?  
12614 \*Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes no.  
12615 \*The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.  
12616 Mrs. Lesko?  
12617 \*Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes no.  
12618 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.  
12619 Mr. Pence?  
12620 \*Mr. Pence. Pence votes no.  
12621 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

12622 Mr. Crenshaw?

12623 \*Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.

12624 \*The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

12625 Mr. Joyce?

12626 \*Mr. Joyce. Mr. Joyce votes no.

12627 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

12628 Mr. Armstrong?

12629 \*Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes no.

12630 \*The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

12631 Chairman Pallone?

12632 \*The Chairman. Pallone votes aye.

12633 \*The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

12634 \*The Chairman. Any member who has not been recorded and

12635 wants to be?

12636 Mr. Long? Mr. Long, are you available? I thought I saw

12637 you.

12638 [No response.]

12639 \*Mr. Ruiz. Mr. Chairman?

12640 \*The Chairman. Yes.

12641 \*Mr. Ruiz. I was having some technical issues here. I

12642 just wanted to know if my vote was recorded.

12643 \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk, is Mr. Ruiz recorded?

12644 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is recorded as aye.

12645 \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you.

12646 \*The Chairman. Okay; is there anyone else who wishes --

12647           \*Mr. Joyce. Mr. Chair? This is Rep Joyce from  
12648 Pennsylvania. Could you please confirm what my vote is?  
12649           \*The Chairman. Yes, Madam Clerk, is Mr. Joyce recorded?  
12650           \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.  
12651           \*Mr. O'Halleran. Mr. Chair, O'Halleran from Arizona.  
12652 Can you check my vote, please?  
12653           \*The Chairman. Madam Clerk?  
12654           \*The Clerk. O'Halleran votes aye.  
12655           \*Mr. O'Halleran. Thank you.  
12656           \*The Chairman. Is there anyone else who wishes to be  
12657 recorded who is not? I know there was a couple, but they may  
12658 have left, I guess. Mr. Long, I guess, is the only one.  
12659           Okay, Mr. Long is not around, right? Okay.  
12660           All right, so the clerk will report the tally on  
12661 transmitting to the Committee on the Budget, the tally on  
12662 transmitting the bill, the title, to the Committee on the  
12663 Budget.  
12664           \*The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chair, the yeas were 31  
12665 and the nays were 25.  
12666           \*The Chairman. So on that vote, the yeas were 31, the  
12667 nays were 25, and the ayes have it. So the committee has  
12668 approved the Committee Print Subtitle A, Reconciliation  
12669 Recommendations Relating to Public Health, as amended, and  
12670 ordered the legislative recommendations transmitted to the  
12671 Committee on the Budget.



12672           Congratulations. We only got through one of the four,  
12673    though. But we are not going to stay here. We are going to  
12674    reconvene. So tomorrow, we will begin consideration of  
12675    Subtitle B, Medicaid. And we have three more. You know, we  
12676    have that and two more. We are going to start at 11:00 and  
12677    we are going to finish. I think we should be able to finish  
12678    tomorrow.

12679           But I want to thank everyone. I know it has been a long  
12680    day and not easy. But thank you all for sticking with us and  
12681    thank you to the staff. And we will now stand in recess  
12682    until tomorrow morning at 11:00.

12683           [Whereupon, at 11:30 p.m., the committee recessed, to  
12684    reconvene at 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 12, 2021.]