



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

No. 143

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, September 9, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, You are life, wisdom, truth, and blessedness. You are our hope and the center of our joy. Lord, the Founders of this great Nation walked in Your guidance and rested in Your compassion. Unite us so that we can do Your will. Remove from us all evil desires and empower us to embrace the good. Speak to our Senators so that they may understand Your will for our Nation and world. Illuminate their understanding with beings of celestial grace. Make us thankful for the privilege of prayer. May we never take it for granted.

And Lord, we continue to pray for Ukraine.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Z. Lee, of

Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, our democracy cannot hope to hang together for very long without a trusted, balanced, and fairminded Judiciary. As we have seen in stark and frightful ways in recent months, the men and women who preside from the bench hold immense power over our Nation's destiny and over our people's liberties.

When it comes to nominating people to the bench, it is imperative that we get it right. So, today, the Senate will continue its duty to advance President Biden's highly qualified, highly diverse, and highly accomplished judicial nominees.

We will begin this afternoon by voting on the confirmation of Judge John Lee to serve as circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit. If confirmed, Judge Lee will make history as the first Asian American ever to preside on the Seventh Circuit, joining the proud company of other Biden nominees who are making our courts more reflective of our country.

I expect Judge Lee to receive bipartisan support and his record certainly merits it. He has already been confirmed by this Chamber when appointed to serve as district judge roughly a decade ago. Over the course of his tenure, Judge Lee has authored over 800 opinions, while being reversed only 11 times.

- This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Later today, the Senate will vote to advance the nomination of another outstanding individual, Andre Mathis, to serve as circuit judge for the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Mathis would be the first Black man confirmed to the Sixth Circuit in nearly a quarter of a century and the first to hail from Tennessee.

Growing up, Mr. Mathis knew what it was like to go days without food, water, or heating, and yet, despite immense adversity, he was the first in his family to attend college and graduate from law school with honors. He spent over 15 years in private practice and has an extensive pro bono record. If confirmed, I am confident Mr. Mathis would make an excellent circuit court judge.

Confirming judges will continue to be a very top priority for the Senate in the days and weeks and months to come. Last night, I filed cloture on two additional circuit nominees which Members can expect to begin voting on as soon as Thursday.

Now, I want to take a moment—a moment—to emphasize how far Senate Democrats have come in keeping our promise to bring balance back to the Federal bench, which under President Trump skewed dramatically to the hard right. To date, Senate Democrats have confirmed 76 Federal judges, far more than the number confirmed at this point in President Trump's Presidency. In fact, we have confirmed more judges than either President Trump or President Obama did this far into their administrations.

In a dramatic break from the past, 75 percent of these nominees have been women, half of them women of color. That is a figure, I dare say, that has never been seen before when it comes to judicial nominees.

We are going to continue prioritizing judges moving forward. We cannot let the judiciary succumb to the hard right because, as we have seen, the consequences are devastating to the American people.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Mr. President, on Democratic results, the Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law less than a month ago and already the verdict is in. Our bill is already creating new investments, new jobs, new opportunities for American families—jobs here in America, not overseas.

Let me repeat the good news. The Inflation Reduction Act that every Republican voted against is already delivering for our country.

This morning, the New York Times reported that in the wake of the Inflation Reduction Act, a whole host of companies "have announced a series of big-ticket projects to produce the kind of technology the legislation aims to promote."

For example, companies like Toyota have announced billions in new investments to start manufacturing batteries for electric and hybrid vehicles right here in America. Elsewhere, the company First Solar announced a \$1 billion

investment to build new solar manufacturing facilities in the Southeast. Their CEO is explicit that their decision hinged in large part on our legislation, saying it provided "a level of clarity" that made investment in the United States the right move.

The examples go on. Honda and LG Energy also recently announced over \$4 billion for EV battery production in the United States. Panasonic, which supplies parts to Tesla's EV production, said they are also considering \$4 billion to build another EV battery plant. And thanks to tax incentives we passed recently that specifically reward domestic battery production, Samsung has decided to accelerate plans to break ground on their own EV battery plant in the next few months in the United States.

These are just a few examples of how the Inflation Reduction Act is already delivering on its promise to create countless new jobs and ignite billions in private sector investment and pave the way for America to lead the future with cheap and reliable clean energy.

Had we not done this, these plants probably would have been built, most of them overseas. As electric vehicles become predominant throughout our country and the world, America would have lost out. We led the world in auto production in the 20th century, and because of this act and what Democrats, without a single Republican vote, have done, we are going to lead in the 21st century as well.

It is exciting and gratifying to know that millions of Americans will be employed in good-paying jobs, in jobs that have a real future.

All of this is the result of Democratic leadership keeping its promise to the American people. Again, I have to say, this kind of thing used to happen when Democrats and Republicans came together. It is shameful that not a single Republican voted with us to pass these investments—not one.

And, of course, I would also be remiss not to highlight all the ways that the CHIPS and Science Act is sparking a new wave of investment as well. Just recently, the CEO of Micron announced a \$15 billion investment in manufacturing last week, saying that the CHIPS and Science Act "made this investment decision possible."

And Micron has committed to significantly more and even larger investments to come, I am happy to say.

When you pass good legislation, you get good results.

It has been a long time, sadly, since the American people have felt that Washington is capable of doing big things to meet big challenges. After 4 years where President Trump spent all of his time, it seems, just being nasty and negative and calling people names but never making promises and never getting anything concrete done, Democrats are actually delivering with real results.

Senate Democrats have shown that with the right people in office, govern-

ment can work to promote, not hinder, the well-being and security of the American people. It is why we took on Big Pharma and won. It is why we took on entrenched oil interests and won. It is why we took on the NRA and beat them by passing the first gun safety law in decades. And all of this is the result of Democrats following through on our promise.

While the junior Senator from Florida continues to promote tax hikes for working families and putting Medicare on the chopping block, Democrats want to cut costs for families, increase prosperity, continue to strengthen ladders for people to get into the middle class and give them the stability to say that, once they are there, they are going to stay there.

Democrats have given America hope in the future, that in the new industries and new ways of thinking and new sciences, we are going to lead, not follow, not lag behind, not spend time, as President Trump did most of his time, playing petty political games and never getting anything done. We are getting stuff done—big stuff, important stuff, stuff that gives us a brighter future. That is why we work so hard to pass our agenda and, already, it is clear the American people are feeling the benefits.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, Washington Democrats have spent nearly 2 years—2 years—borrowing, printing, and spending our economy into turmoil. Families and businesses across Middle America are paying the price. I met with many of them in my home State of Kentucky over the past few weeks.

Since President Biden took office, prices in the Commonwealth have spiked by 13 percent. At the same time, we still have 19,000 fewer workers than before the pandemic.

During a meeting with the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers in Louisville, I heard directly from employers who would, under different circumstances, be powering our recovery. Instead, many are struggling to find enough workers to meet consumer demand.

In Hopkinsville, I spoke to farmers who have watched the price of energy skyrocket, raising the cost of everything from fuel to fertilizer. As a result, all Americans are paying higher prices at the grocery store.

While Eastern Kentucky struggles to recover from devastating floods, supply

chain issues and the increased cost of building materials are hamstringing the repair process and making it even harder to rebuild.

I am sure my Democratic colleagues heard similar stories during their own August travel. Kentuckians aren't the only Americans feeling pinched.

The official inflation numbers confirmed that yet again just after the Senate adjourned last month—a fifth straight month of inflation above 8 percent. Inflated gas prices, inflated utility bills, the worst explosion in grocery costs since 1979—these are the painful effects of Democrats' reckless spending.

Americans keep communicating over and over and over that runaway costs are their top concern, and they didn't like what President Biden and his party are doing about it.

Ah, but amazingly, just a few days before the latest inflation report, Democrats had just pushed through hundreds of billions of dollars more in liberal waste on a party-line basis. Democrats packed their bill with an environmentalist wish list that won't even affect climate. They sold it—listen to this—as an Inflation Reduction Act even though experts found it would do absolutely nothing meaningful to reduce inflation. They did find room for massive, job-killing tax hikes that will hit manufacturing especially hard and kill jobs on the brink of a possible recession.

It is not getting any easier to put food on the table, pay rent, or even keep the lights on, but here we are again, starting another Senate work period with not one word from the Democratic leader about plans to bring bills to the floor to cut inflation, fight the crimewave, or secure the border.

The American people have communicated loud and clear what their priorities are, and Democrats keep communicating loud and clear they simply do not care.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. President, now on another matter, inflation is not the only way the last 2 years have shown that bad policies and bad ideas have real consequences. One especially damaging myth is the liberal notion that making our country kinder means having weaker public safety, weaker justice for criminals, and weaker borders. This misunderstanding dominates today's Democratic Party.

Across our country, Democrats have spent years—years—trying to defund law enforcement. Studies have proven that anti-police hostility changes how officers do their jobs, leading directly to more crime, including more murders. So liberals' nationwide anti-police PR campaign has literally cost people their lives.

When liberals do let police arrest criminals, a growing cadre of far-left prosecutors often simply declines to charge them. One liberal millionaire has donated more than a million dollars each to the campaigns of soft-on-

crime district attorneys in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

The Los Angeles DA has presided over a 69-percent increase in shootings and a 40-percent spike in car thefts. Chicago's liberal DA "appeared to be simply dropping nearly 30 percent of all felony cases, including"—listen to this—"alleged murders." Philadelphia's liberal DA has presided over an 85-percent spike in shootings and a huge increase in murders since he took over.

In the name of equity or compassion, these people are announcing they will not prosecute entire categories of crimes. No wonder American cities are becoming more dangerous by the day.

A couple years back, a former DA from outside Boston published a list of crimes she would not prosecute: shoplifting, breaking and entering, resisting arrest, and, even in the middle of the opioid crisis, possession with intent to distribute. As a reward, Washington Democrats made Rachel Rollins the U.S. attorney for Massachusetts. She got a promotion.

Just last month, Senator RUBIO put forward an amendment to increase funding for cops and keeping violent criminals behind bars. Democrats blocked it.

Every Senate Democrat has also voted multiple times to strip Customs and Border Protection of the only remaining emergency authorities to contend with the historic surge in illegal immigration unfolding on their watch. Of course, the open-door policies our colleagues support in office are rooted in open-border rhetoric that they have embraced literally for years.

On the campaign trail, then-Candidate Biden himself said, "You want to flee . . . you should come." So on President Biden's watch, illegal immigrants flocked—literally flocked—to the border, some carrying his campaign's flags and T-shirts.

There is an outright security crisis at our southern border. We are in the middle of the most illegal immigration arrests in more than two decades. This year, just January to August, Border Patrol says they have already run into nearly double the number of known criminals this fiscal year as they saw in the entire year—entire year—before President Biden took office and huge, huge upticks of deadly drugs like fentanyl.

But Democrats aren't just ignoring a security crisis; it is a humanitarian crisis as well. Waves of unaccompanied children have stretched Border Patrol's facilities to the limit. Under incompetent leadership, the Department of Health and Human Services has had to scramble to help ensure the safety of children in its custody.

There is nothing—nothing—compassionate about tolerating or even encouraging anarchy down at the border, violence in our streets, and a steady erosion of public safety. It is neither fair, nor is it compassionate, not to

any Americans, least of all to the vulnerable people Democrats say—say—they are helping.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, sometimes around here, in what a lot of people refer to as the "ivory tower," we talk about issues like they are abstract issues, like they don't have any real world effect. And I just wanted to touch on something, before I begin on my other subject here today, which is related to recent information that has been put out by the Department of Agriculture, the USDA's Economic Research Service, which is the arm that does projections on the economy and the farm economy, generally. What they are now concluding is that in 2022, there are going to be record cash receipts—record cash receipts—crop production, livestock production—record levels, 14-percent higher year over year. But what they go on to say is that even with record cash receipts up by 14 percent, net cash farm income is going to be down. Net cash farm income is going to be down by 1 percent.

Why is that? Well, because if you look at what has increased, increased costs on farmers in this country, they have reached some record levels. If you look at, for example, fertilizer. Farmers will spend 84 percent more, or \$21 billion more, on fertilizers than they did in 2020; 65 percent, or nearly \$8 billion, more on fuel and oil; and more than \$18 billion more on feed for livestock. Then you add in, on top of that, debt, which, for a farm operation, obviously, they are a very debt-intensive operation. So with higher interest rates and record farm debt of \$496 billion, that is expected to increase interest payments by 37 percent, or more than \$7 billion, from 2020, or 2 years ago.

So my point, simply, is that, at least in my part of the country, with corn, soybeans, wheat, livestock, and cattle prices expected to go up in record numbers in terms of overall gross farm income—gross cash receipts—that you would think would lead to good times in American agriculture, because of inflation, a 14-percent increase in gross cash receipts is going to result in an actual loss, a reduction year over year from 2021, when it comes to inflation-adjusted net farm income.

So I make that point simply to illustrate how critical it is that, as policymakers, we acknowledge what is happening in the real world, because I think around here the Biden administration tries to downplay this inflation issue like it is a nonissue.

It is a real issue. It is hitting the pocketbooks of every American in this country to the tune 8½ to 9 percent for a family. I said this before, but the analysis is out there. For an average family in this country, you are talking about, year over year to buy the same basket of goods you bought last year, an additional \$9,000 over last year—\$700 and some per month, year-over-year, month-over-month increases in costs for average families in this country. That is a \$9,000 tax increase on every family in this country.

Now, it is borne arguably more easily by people in high-income categories, but if you are a working family who is trying to make ends meet and is putting more and more on your credit card or dipping into savings—and there are more and more people in this country. I just saw this number yesterday where one out of every six Americans now is behind in their utility payments. There are people living paycheck to paycheck, and inflation is killing them. And it is like this administration has a blind eye to that and wants to talk about a lot of other issues. And I can see why, because this is an issue I would not want to have to take responsibility for.

In many respects, all the spending—all the spending pushed through here, advocated by the President—the \$2 trillion last year, the American Rescue Plan, and just in the last month, another \$750 billion in spending and taxes, and the heavy-handed regulation, the shutdown of oil and gas production in this country, which drives up the cost of energy and which is reflected, as I pointed out, in a lot of these numbers—if you look at the fuel costs year over year, you actually have a situation in American agriculture today where you have record gross cash receipts and a reduction in inflation-adjusted net income. That is the impact of inflation.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF PLAN

Mr. President, 8 days—8 days—that is how long it took President Biden to completely erase any of the supposed deficit reduction included in the Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

On August 24, 8 days after signing the Inflation Reduction Act into law, President Biden announced that, with the stroke of his pen, he would be forgiving \$10,000 in student loan debt, \$20,000 for Pell grant recipients, and taking other costly measures on student loans.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, which, incidentally, is where Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen served prior to joining the Biden administration, estimates that, all together, the President's student loan changes will cost anywhere from \$440 billion to \$600 billion over the next decade. The Penn Wharton Budget Model suggests it could be even worse than that, with the total cost over 10 years exceeding \$1 trillion.

Now, even using the most optimistic assumptions, the Inflation Reduction

Act would have only reduced the deficit by about \$300 billion. President Biden's student loan plan will wipe out every single dime of that reduction and then add hundreds of billions of dollars to the debt on top of it—so much for the Democrats' commitment to reducing the deficit, which, I think, was a hoax in the first place.

There wasn't any serious commitment to it, but it only took them 8 days—8 days—to wipe it out after they crowed about it and talked about how they got JOE MANCHIN on board because he made a commitment to deficit reduction, which was something he supposedly insisted on in these discussions. And yet here we are. Eight days—in 8 days it is gone.

Now, I have already noted that the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates that the President's student loan measures will cost a staggering half a trillion dollars over the next decade. Here is what else the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget had to say:

The student debt cancellation and relief measures announced . . . by the Biden administration . . . would meaningfully boost inflation.

“Would meaningfully boost inflation”—that is right. Americans have spent the majority of the Biden administration struggling with huge increases in the price of everything from gas to groceries, and the President just imposed by fiat a new policy that is likely to “meaningfully boost inflation.”

I guess it isn't surprising. After all, it is thanks in large part to the Democrats and the President that we ended up with this inflation crisis in the first place.

As I mentioned earlier, their reckless American Rescue Plan spending spree flooded the country with unnecessary money and the economy overheated as a result. But the President's latest reckless action underscores just how committed Democrats are to big-spending and big-government agenda.

Now, Democrats tried to suggest that they had gotten serious about the economy with their so-called Inflation Reduction Act, even though the bill was only serious about spending taxpayer dollars on ill-considered priorities like their Green New Deal agenda. But the fact—the fact—that it took the President exactly 8 days to wipe out any deficit reduction from the Democrats' bill tells you all you need to know about exactly how serious Democrats are about handling taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Now, I have talked for a while about why the President's student loan plans are such bad economic policy, but you don't have to take my word for it. Here is what former Obama economic adviser Jason Furman had to say about President Biden's student loan plans:

Pouring roughly half [a] trillion dollars of gasoline on the inflationary fire that already is burning is reckless. Doing it while going well beyond one campaign promise, [which is

\$10,000] of student loan relief, and breaking another, [which is that] all proposals [have to be] paid for, is even worse.

That is from Obama economic adviser Jason Furman.

Another former Obama economic adviser noted:

Student loan debt relief is spending that raises demand and increases inflation. . . . It will also tend to be inflationary by raising tuitions.

Well, there are even some current Democrat Members of Congress that have expressed their concerns about the President's reckless student loan decision. And the president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, which, I mentioned, is where President Biden's very own Treasury Secretary once served on the board, issued a scathing statement in which she said:

This announcement is gallingly reckless—with the national debt approaching record levels and inflation surging, it will make both worse. . . . It would do nothing to actually make education more affordable, and if anything, this policy will drive up tuition costs while raising prices on a variety of other goods and services for ordinary Americans.

This is from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, which is where the President's own Treasury Secretary used to serve.

Let me repeat that: “while raising prices on a variety of other goods and services for ordinary Americans.”

Well, as the Washington Post editorial board noted, American taxpayers will be footing the bill for the President's student loan decision. Ordinary Americans will pay in the form of higher prices. They will pay in the form of higher rates on loans and mortgages, and they will pay in the form of higher tuition costs.

The majority of Americans do not have student loan debt, either because they paid off their loans, never went to college, got a scholarship, or worked their way through college or were able to go thanks to their or their parents' savings. Now these Americans are going to be footing the bill for the 13 percent of Americans who do have student loan debt. Everyone is going to have to suffer economically to provide loan forgiveness for the few.

This is deeply, deeply unfair. It is unfair to expect Americans who either never went to college, paid off their loans, or paid their way through to shoulder the cost of other Americans' loans.

The President's decision is unfair to parents who scrimped and saved to send their children to college, representing a lot of American families; to the students who chose a lower cost college or worked to put themselves through; to the men and women in uniform in the military who fought for this country to earn money for their college education; and to the families struggling with high grocery bills and high energy bills and high rent prices who are likely to end up facing even more price increases, thanks to the President's student loan decisions.

And let's remember that taxpayers are going to be facing economic hardship to pay off student loans for Americans who, if they graduated from college, enjoy greater long-term earning potential than many of the Americans who will be helping to shoulder the burden for their debts.

The President's plan isn't even targeted to the most needy, with families making \$250,000 a year—nearly 10 times the poverty line for a family of 4—now eligible to have their loans forgiven.

There is no doubt that the cost of a college education has risen outrageously and that, in some cases, students have been encouraged to take on unrealistic levels of debt to pay for it, but the President's student loan plan does absolutely nothing to fix these problems.

The President's plan will not only do nothing to control the cost of a college education, it will almost undoubtedly make our current situation worse. What college is going to spend time worrying about lowering tuition fees if it can expect the Federal Government to pick up part of the bill for its students' educations?

The President's plan will also do nothing to discourage students from taking on unrealistic levels of debt. In fact, it is likely to encourage students to incur even more debt since the President has now set up an expectation that the government will step in to help pay down students' loan burdens.

Given the fact that student loan debt is expected to be back to its current level in 6 years, I imagine we will be hearing more Democratic calls for student loan forgiveness in the very near future. In fact, some Members of the Democratic Party already think the President didn't go far enough. More than one Democrat wanted the President to forgive \$50,000 in debt. Now, apparently, these Democrats won't be satisfied until our economy drowns entirely under the weight of reckless government spending.

The defining achievement of the Biden administration so far has been an economy that has left millions of Americans struggling to make ends meet. Apparently, the President wants that to be his legacy because, for the sake of a few possible votes in November, he has decided to pursue yet another economic policy that will almost undoubtedly result in further economic pain for the American people.

Now he will just have to hope that his strategy doesn't backfire because, while his reckless student loan plan may buy him a vote or two, a lot of other Americans may decide that they have had their fill of inflationary spending and far-left appeasement.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, since President Biden took office on January 20, 2021, he has willfully ignored what has been happening at our southern border. The President and leaders of his administration try to convince people that what they were seeing with their eyes was not a crisis but was merely a challenge. When that flopped, they attempted to blame the previous administration for the flood of humanity coming across the southern border, even though the immigration surge has now reached epic proportions since President Biden took office.

Now, once again, they appear to be ignoring the problem altogether. We have had 17 months with more than 150,000 illegal border crossings each month—17 months, 150,000 migrants each month—and the Biden administration seems to be saying: What is the problem? Their decision, apparently, is to stay the course.

What little attention there has been to the impact on the border crisis tends to focus, though, solely on the migrants, and, of course, that is part of the concern. No one is suggesting that we treat them with disrespect or in an inhumane manner. In fact, just the contrary is true. We know that people coming into the country outside of the legal immigration system endure a brutal journey just to get here. They pay thousands of dollars to cartels and coyotes—or human smugglers—and often the women and girls are raped and abused. Migrants who slow down the coyotes will be abandoned and frequently left to die. We see that particularly in South Texas around the Falfurrias checkpoint, where we see the migrants coming across the river.

Then they are put in stash houses in inhumane conditions and then driven north through the Border Patrol checkpoints. But because of their fear of being discovered, the coyotes tell them: Get out of the vehicle and walk around the checkpoint and meet us on the north side to continue our journey. The problem is, this time of year, the weather and temperatures are brutal. Frequently, ranchers in Brooks County, which is the county where the Falfurrias checkpoint is located, find the bones of migrants who did not make it or otherwise dead bodies.

Migrants are certainly the face of the Biden border crisis, but they are not the only ones being hurt by the failure of the administration to deal with this crisis. When thousands of people a day illegally cross our border, it impacts our entire border security apparatus. We are seeing unprecedented numbers of people showing up at the border, and unfortunately it is part of a plan to overwhelm the capacity of law enforcement to deal with these numbers. This is part of a business model of the drug cartels. Flood the border with migrants. Distract the Border Patrol, who

have to leave the frontlines to transport, process, and care for the migrants, creating huge security gaps.

There is no question that the cartels and criminal organizations are exploiting those gaps to traffic dangerous drugs. They are bringing across heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana—name your poison.

The truth is, these transnational criminal organizations—sometimes called cartels—are commodity-agnostic. They are in it for the money, and they will sell anything or anybody to make money.

But without a doubt, the most alarming drug that is crossing the border today is fentanyl, a synthetic opioid. Last year, the Biden administration may have not noticed, but 108,000 Americans died of drug overdoses last year alone, and the vast majority of those drugs came across the southern border because of the business model I just described. The majority of those deaths involve synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Fentanyl is especially dangerous because as little as 2 milligrams can be deadly. That is a lethal dose that fits on the tip of a sharpened pencil.

Customs and Border Protection doesn't track fentanyl seizures by milligrams, although it logs them in pounds. Since October last year, Customs and Border Protection has seized more than 10,600 pounds of fentanyl. And, no, they didn't get it all; that is just what they were able to interdict and seize. But that 10,600 pounds of fentanyl is more than 2.4 billion lethal doses—enough to wipe out the entire U.S. population more than 7 times over.

You would think this would be a matter of serious concern for the administration, an operation which uses migrants to distract law enforcement from being able to interdict a dangerous drug coming into the United States and taking tens of thousands of Americans' lives, but, frankly, it hasn't even registered any kind of reaction by the administration.

The good news is, thanks to the hard-working Customs and Border Protection officers, those 10,600 pounds of fentanyl never ended up on our streets or in our local communities, but the bad news is, there is a whole lot more where that came from.

Cartels exploit the security gaps across the border to smuggle drugs into our country. While the first stop may be Texas or another State along the southern border, these products don't stop there; they are quickly distributed by networks of criminal gangs across America to every community—not just cities but rural communities as well.

Fentanyl poses a unique danger because not only is it incredibly potent, but it is also a lot cheaper than these other drugs. Illicit drug makers will lace substances with fentanyl to cut expenses and to hook the user, and buyers often have no idea what they are actually getting.

This is a big problem in Texas but not just in my State but across the country. But we have seen a surge of fentanyl-related deaths in my State. Last year, more than 1,700 Texans died from fentanyl overdoses, and we continue to see the heartbreaking toll this drug is having on communities of every size. Cities across the State have experienced strings of overdose deaths likely tied to batches of drugs laced with fentanyl.

There is no single profile to describe the victims of these fentanyl deaths that cover every age, every demographic, and every walk of life, but one of the most concerning trends we have seen is a spike in teenage overdose deaths.

Nationwide, 77 percent—77 percent—of all teen overdose deaths last year involved fentanyl. Fentanyl is, believe it or not, the leading cause of death of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45—a shocking statistic. Teenagers may think they are buying prescription opioids—things like OxyContin or some other drug—but they may be unknowingly taking drugs that contain a deadly dose of fentanyl in addition.

One Texas community is feeling the devastation of this situation at an almost unimaginable degree. In Hays County, situated just southwest of Austin, 2½ weeks ago, only days into the new school year, a 15-year-old high school sophomore died from a suspected fentanyl overdose. Sadly, this wasn't the first death in the Hays Consolidated Independent School District. It wasn't even the second. In 1 month's time, this school district lost three students to fentanyl-related overdoses. The other two students were both seniors. We are talking about young people who are at the starting point in their lives. They have endless potential and an army of people who want to see them succeed and live happy, productive, and successful lives, but that human potential is lost because this deadly drug has made its way into our country, into our communities, and into our schools.

But Texas isn't the only State confronting a wave of fentanyl overdoses. A few weeks ago, a woman in Colorado found her 13-year-old grandson, Jose, leaning over the bathroom sink, unresponsive. Jose's family said he had no history of illicit drug use, and they believe he received a pill from someone on his way home from school. That pill contained enough fentanyl to kill this energetic eighth grader who had his entire life ahead of him.

Sadly, this is an all-too-familiar story. Earlier this summer, a 15-month-old toddler in Georgia died after being exposed to fentanyl. The same thing happened recently in California, also to a 15-month-old infant.

Law enforcement in big cities and small towns alike have seen a spike in arrests and overdoses connected to fentanyl. The problem has gotten so bad that a number of major cities, including Las Vegas, San Diego, and New

York, have installed vending machines to distribute lifesaving shots of Narcan, which is an antidote to fentanyl overdoses—vending machines on the city streets of an antidote for fentanyl because the problem has become so pervasive. This is a crisis facing everyone from toddlers to teens to adults of all ages.

Last year, more than 71,000 Americans died from a fentanyl overdose. That is 71,000 out of the 108,000 drug overdose deaths that I mentioned a moment ago. Given the rate at which fentanyl is coming into the United States, I fear the worst is still to come.

Drug cartels are taking advantage of the security gaps at the border and going to extreme lengths to boost their sales. For example, last month, the Drug Enforcement Administration seized brightly-colored fentanyl tablets in 18 States. Children appear to be the target demographic for what the DEA is calling rainbow fentanyl. They are small, colorful pills that look like candy, as well as pressed blocks of powder that look like sidewalk chalk. Mexican drug cartels and others have turned a dangerous and deadly drug into something that any child would be quick to pick up.

No, there is no question there is a crisis at the border notwithstanding the fact that President Biden and his administration have been ignoring it for the entire time he has been in office. It is certainly hurting the migrants, but it is also having a deadly impact on the American people.

Coming from a border State, I have visited the border many times, and I have spoken often to the officers and the agents who are on the frontlines of this fight. They know well about how the cartels are gaming the system, using the migrants to divert and distract while moving deadly drugs into the country. But, frankly, they cannot stop this humanitarian crisis on their own. They need a change in policy that can only come from Congress working with the administration. But so far, the administration has refused to take any steps—any steps at all—to address the migrant surge, and so the problem continues day after day after day.

I know the mayors of New York and Chicago and Washington, DC, have expressed concern that migrants are being bused to their cities, even though they advertise themselves as sanctuary cities, but, frankly, I think if that is what it takes to get the attention of the mayors of those cities, who can then hopefully get the attention of President Biden and his administration, that it is worth it.

Unless something changes, though, the 108,000 Americans who lost their lives to drug overdoses, including the 71,000 who lost their lives to fentanyl last year, will only go up. More fentanyl will come across the border and find its way into our communities. More cartels and criminal organizations and street gangs will get rich off of our suffering. And more of our chil-

dren, our neighbors, our friends, and loved ones will die.

We often talk about the need for a humane response to the border crisis. And these conversations largely focus on migrant care, and there is no question these individuals should be treated humanely. But a humane response also involves consideration for the impact this drug infestation is having on the American people.

By allowing our border to descend into chaos, the President may think he has taken a humane route, but he is sorely mistaken. Families are burying their loved ones, children are losing their schoolmates, and our country is suffering while the cartels get richer and richer and richer.

Until we can get this crisis under control, the cartels will continue to move drugs across the border and poison our communities. No, an open border policy is not humane; it is not sustainable; and despite what President Biden may think, it is not benefiting anyone.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to report back from a trip that Senator PORTMAN and I took to Ukraine last week. And the No. 1 thing I would like to report is that President Zelenskyy personally asked us—and I know that Senator PORTMAN addressed the Senate last night and reported this—but he personally asked us to thank the U.S. Senate, to thank the people of this country for the generous and unending continuing help that the Senate has given to Ukraine in their fight for democracy.

This is a country that has given it all. Sometimes we wonder, in our own country, what are we going to put on the line for our democracy? Are we going to go over and vote today? How much do we care? There, the people of Ukraine are putting their lives on the line every single day.

The ballerina who puts on camo and goes to the front lines, the exhausted workers at the nuclear plant trying to protect not just the country of Ukraine, but surrounding countries because it is the biggest nuclear plant in all of Europe, supplying 20 percent of the electricity to the people of Ukraine.

They go to work every day, under incredible stress and pressure that we can't imagine, trying to keep their country safe while surrounded by 500 Russian troops. We think of the cellist playing beautiful melodies on the front steps of bombed-out remnants of a

town square to remind people that culture and love still exist in this country.

I think of the mass grave that we visited in Bucha, in Irpin, the apartment buildings after apartment buildings burned out, but Ukraine goes on. We saw firsthand the strength of the Ukrainian people in the face of Vladimir Putin's inhuman barbarism. But just as Putin has shown his true colors, so have the people of Ukraine in brilliant blue and yellow. Over the past 6 months since the invasion, their bravery and humanity has consistently shone through.

When Senator PORTMAN and I went to Ukraine last January as part of a group of Senators—we were the last group which went in before the war started, with Senators SHAHEEN and MURPHY and Senator BLUMENTHAL and Senator WICKER and Senator CRAMER—we witnessed the incredible resolve of the Ukrainian people. Last week, we saw up close a nation defending its homeland in a way that few expected would even be possible.

We had an excellent hour-long meeting with President Zelenskyy and Defense Minister Reznikov and the President's chief of staff.

Our country has helped them so much. We heard the story of how our employees at the Embassy—we now have people located in Kyiv—went to get some takeout food from a Ukrainian restaurant, and when they got the food back, got the bag back, someone, not even knowing who they were or where they worked but thinking they were American, had written on it: "Thanks for the HIMARS."

Along with at least 42 other nations, from Japan to South Korea, to Poland, we have stood with democracy. We have stood with Ukraine.

We also discussed with President Zelenskyy the counteroffensive Ukraine is making to reclaim its territory in the Kherson region. This was one of the first cities Ukraine lost when the war began, but we have seen some initial signs of success.

Ukrainians have also announced that they have recaptured some villages and knocked out weapons and radar stations and a pontoon bridge the Russians had built.

We are working closely with the Ukrainians to tailor our security assistance to meet their immediate needs on the frontlines of the conflict, something that was more difficult to do at the beginning. Now we actually have people back in Kyiv, and we also have clear lines of communication with the Ukrainian leadership.

Of course, as I mentioned earlier, the situation on the ground remains incredibly dangerous, especially in the Zaporizhzhia region, home to the largest nuclear plant in Europe, which was a central issue that we raised in our discussions with Ukrainian leadership.

The plant, which, as I noted, previously provided Ukraine with 20 percent of its power, is at significant risk because of Russian shelling.

Just today, Ukraine announced that they may have to shut the plant down for fear of a nuclear disaster, as this skeleton crew constantly has to reconnect the lines that have been shelled to not only get the power out to Ukrainians, which Russians are trying to divert to their territories—to Russian-held territories—to making sure they have the power to keep the reactor going and safe.

We called on Russia to establish a demilitarized zone around the plant and to allow the team from the IAEA to inspect the plant. We were glad when the team of 14 inspectors visited the plant. Two inspectors will remain there indefinitely. This is all happening as we speak.

The IAEA released its report yesterday and said:

While the ongoing shelling has not yet triggered a nuclear emergency, it continues to represent a constant threat of nuclear safety and security.

The agency, which is full of nuclear safety experts from around the world, noted extensive safety concerns. They urged an immediate stop to fighting on site and in the vicinity.

I continue to call for that demilitarized zone around the plant. We know that this nuclear incident wouldn't be just an incident; it would be a catastrophe.

We all know this is a hard fight, but America must continue to stand with Ukraine.

If Vladimir Putin had been allowed just to enter their country, take over an entire democracy, he would never have stopped there.

We also held a meeting with U.S. military leaders at the 101st Airborne Division in Poland, who are there to underscore our commitment to our NATO allies and the defense of Europe. They affirmed that the Ukrainians are making great use of the weapons we have supplied in their fight against Russia.

In addition to the direct support we are providing to Ukraine, we are also seeing that sanctions are working in Russia, as just yesterday, the administration reported—our administration—that Moscow is in the process of purchasing rockets and artillery shells from North Korea. It shows how much trouble Russia is in when they are purchasing military equipment from the country of North Korea. This type of desperate purchase says a lot about the state of Russia's supply chain.

In fact, we have seen that as Russia has attacked Ukraine, its actions have been met with almost universal condemnation. It was a key factor in Finland and Sweden's decision to pursue NATO membership, a measure we here in the Senate supported on the floor with a resounding 95-to-1 vote.

The United States has provided economic, military, and humanitarian aid since the invasion. Our leadership has brought and continues to bring other nations to the table and has allowed Ukraine to continue to fight for its freedom.

We remember that moment after the invasion began when President Zelenskyy stood in Kyiv and said the simple words: "We are here." "We are here." That video went viral. "We are here."

From that moment on, he and his people inspired the world—a living symbol of courage. So now it is our time to assure the Ukrainians, knowing that they are up against the evil of Vladimir Putin, with the simple words: "We are here."

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. CANTWELL).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON LEE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lee nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote 327 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Lujan	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Warner
Duckworth	Markley	Warnock
Durbin	Merkley	
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Boozman	Cassidy
Blackburn	Braun	Cornyn
Blunt	Capito	Cotton

Cramer	Johnson	Rubio
Crapo	Lankford	Sasse
Cruz	Lee	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Marshall	Shelby
Fischer	McConnell	Thune
Grassley	Moran	Tillis
Hagerty	Paul	Toomey
Hawley	Portman	Tuberville
Hoeven	Risch	Wicker
Hyde-Smith	Romney	Young
Inhofe	Rounds	

NOT VOTING—6

Burr	Murkowski	Rosen
Menendez	Ossoff	Sullivan

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 736, Andre B. Mathis, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Ben Ray Luján, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patrick J. Leahy, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andre B. Mathis, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 328 Ex.]		
YEAS—48		
Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—7

Burr	Murkowski	Sullivan
Crapo	Ossoff	
Menendez	Rosen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Andre B. Mathis, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF PLAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, October 4, 1957. Many in the Chamber were not alive at that date. I was. I was a teenager, maybe in high school, just starting, or at the end of grade school. But it was a big day in the history of the world, October 4, 1957, because at 7:28 p.m. at night, the Russians launched Sputnik.

Sputnik was a basketball-size satellite, and we were concerned because we believed the Russians—then the Soviet Union—had the capacity to drop an atomic or nuclear bomb on the United States, and if they could do it from space, for goodness' sake, how would we defend ourselves?

So a mild panic hit America, particularly in this town of Washington, and out of that panic came a pretty good idea, as far as I was concerned. They decided that for the first time in the history of the United States, we would start loaning money to college-age students so they could go to college. The notion was, if we had to fight the Russians or the Soviets in technology, we better have people educated and prepared to do it.

So someone who in those days sat down and wrote up the names of these

wonderful ideas came up with a great one. It was called the National Defense Education Act. The National Defense Education Act said that those who applied for Federal college loans could borrow money and pay it back at 3 percent interest but not have to pay until 1 year out of college, and then they had 10 years to pay it off.

I didn't know at the time, but that turned out to be my ticket to college. There was no way that my family could afford to send me, nor could I afford to go to school at good schools from any money that I had saved or could earn during the summer. It was the government loans that got me through it. And I wasn't alone. By the tens of thousands, students all over the United States took out these National Defense Education Act loans.

Well, what happened as a result of that idea that we could educate ourselves out of this problem? It worked. It worked dramatically. In the early 1960s, there was this explosive expansion of our economy, of technology and research and scientific endeavors that we took advantage of for decades and still do to this day.

I think about the race to the Moon and all the other things that we set our sights on, and they were all based on enough well-educated people at every level who could compete with countries around the world and do it successfully. So the concept is sound, and I think it was executed—not flawlessly, but very well—for myself and for many others, and I ended up borrowing that money to get through college and law school.

The amount of debt if I even said it on the floor maybe would draw a laugh by the pages and everyone else because it was so small, but it was enough debt that it just scared me to death. It was the equivalent of 50 percent of my gross pay coming out of law school in 1 year. But most students today would accept that in a second: 50 percent of their gross wages in their first year as their student loan debt.

The average is higher. The average is over \$25,000, and for some students, it is almost astronomical what they end up borrowing. I can't even imagine the cost of colleges and law schools today and medical schools and dental schools and the debt that is involved—which leads me to the second point in history and I think it was sometime in the 1960s.

Somebody wrote a story about student loan borrowers who went to medical school, finished medical school, then got their licenses to practice medicine with a pretty good opportunity to make some real money in life, but they had one more stop. They stopped at the bankruptcy court and they discharged their student loans in bankruptcy court and then went on to practice medicine.

Well, that sounded like a pretty bad deal for the government who trusted them to get a degree and earn enough money to pay back the loan and in the

fairness of this, that they wouldn't accept their responsibility. So someone dreamed up the idea that, well, let's make sure you cannot discharge your student loan in bankruptcy court.

There are a handful of debts that you can incur that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy court—but just a handful. Taxes that you owe the government, for example, I believe, are not dischargeable; money that you owe in divorce settlements and child support are not dischargeable; and a handful of other things. But otherwise, anything you can borrow money for, you can go to bankruptcy court and say, "I want to walk away from all my debts," and achieve that goal.

For example, if you had a mortgage on your home and you want to be discharged from paying off that mortgage, you can do it in bankruptcy court. You may or may not have any home left after it is discharged in bankruptcy, but it is a fact. If you borrow money to buy a boat, you can discharge that loan in bankruptcy. If you buy a car, you can discharge it in bankruptcy. A second home? Discharge it in bankruptcy. But when it came to student loans, we said because some of these people took advantage and didn't pay back their loans, we are not going to allow you to discharge it in bankruptcy.

That ultimately meant that those who borrowed money to go to school or college when they were 19 or 20 years old, they would have a debt that they will have to pay back or carry it to the grave—literally, carry it to the grave. There was no way to get rid of it.

So what happened? We know. A lot of people got too deeply in debt. It turned out that even the promise of a college diploma was not enough to meet their obligations, so they are deeply in debt.

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

Now, Mr. President, let me mention a third category of things that started before the Presiding Officer arrived. There was Sputnik which changed the world and the National Defense Education Act; we went and changed the bankruptcy law and said that you can't discharge a student loan in bankruptcy.

Now, let me introduce a third phenomenon. And I have done so before, but I want to give you two numbers, and I want you to get out your pens and pencils, and I want you to write them down because they are going to be on the final. OK? There are two numbers: 8 and 33—8 and 33. So when you see the question on the final of what percentage of college students go to for-profit colleges and universities, hold up your hand. It is 8 percent. Eight percent of college students go to for-profit colleges and universities. Those are the ones that are heavily advertised. You see them everywhere.

Thirty-three. What percentage of all student loan defaults are students who went to for-profit colleges and universities? Thirty-three percent. Eight percent of the students have 33 percent of the student loan defaults.

What is going on here? Why are those students so disproportionately defaulting on their student loan debt? They were misled into going into these schools that were worthless—worthless.

You see ads on TV that show this lovely young lady. She was in her bedroom in her pajamas with a laptop computer saying, "I am going to college."

And you think to yourself: Get real. This isn't real college. This is a way to get you to pay too much in tuition for something that is basically worthless. And students do. Eight percent of college students do it.

So the point I am making is, many of these students are deceived and duped into going to these colleges because of the promises they make about what these degrees are worth and how easy it is to acquire an associate's or bachelor's degree. So they are deeply in debt, and they can't find a job and take care of them. I will tell you the story of one of them in just a moment.

But put those together, and that is why we need to do something about student loans in America. Yes, we need student loans in America. They are good for America and its economy. Should they be dischargeable in bankruptcy? I think, under some circumstances, they should be.

If 10 years have passed and you still had a balance on your student loans and you were literally head over heels in debt, you ought to be able to discharge that in bankruptcy. You tried your best. Ten years is enough. That is one approach. But the other approach, President Biden has just suggested. That is why he issued a one-time student loan debt relief program to ease the college debt burden on middle- and lower-income families.

Under the President's plan, the government will erase \$10,000 in Federal student loan debt for some borrowers who make less than \$125,000 a year. If you are married and file taxes jointly or head of household, you qualify if your income is \$250,000 or less. If you received a Pell Grant while you were going to college—and those are for lower-income families—you could qualify for an extra \$10,000 of student loan cancellation.

Under the President's plan, 43 million Americans will receive some amount of debt cancellation. A majority of them—about 27 million borrowers—will see up to \$20,000 knocked off their student loan balance. For 20 million borrowers, that is enough to totally wipe out their entire student loan balance. They literally can start again. They can consider going back to school—maybe even a good school that gives them the kind of training, education, or degree that really can lead to a better life. Or they can try to take another course of action.

There are other approaches. I have got labor unions all over my State bargaining for apprentices—good-paying jobs for skilled craftsmen and the like.

They don't need a college degree to achieve that. Some of them may consider that.

Everyone who qualifies for relief will get a lower monthly payment at least, and that means real help now. Of course, it isn't a real complete solution to the challenge. Too many colleges are charging too much money.

When I ask of a nice college: What does that nice college ask for tuition? I visited one just over the August break. And someone said: It is \$72,000 a year. I said, For tuition? How in the world can it be?

Well, they give a lot of student grants and scholarships and fellowships and this, that, and the other thing. But the cost of higher education is getting beyond the reach of average people, and that is a big problem. We need to have affordable education and education that helps you meet your goals.

I might also say that some of the people who have been involved in borrowing money have some sad stories to tell.

Vickie Vences is one of thousands of Illinois students who were deceived by one of these for-profit colleges called Westwood. Vickie grew up on the South Side of Chicago. She is the first person in her family to attend college.

She decided that she wanted to go into law enforcement. She enrolled in a criminal justice program in Westwood College in 2004 in Chicago. She believed the recruiters. They said: A degree from Westwood is going to open the door for you, young lady, right into the field of law enforcement.

She found the opposite was true. They laughed at her when she showed her resume from Westwood College. They said: That is not a real college. That is not a real degree, and that doesn't help you a bit—because Westwood hid the truth about the fact that they were not accredited in Illinois. A lot of young people were duped into believing it was a ticket to a good law enforcement job.

By the time Vickie found out how badly she was into it, she had \$50,000 in student loan debt, and she didn't have even a Westwood degree to point to.

That is unfortunate. She could have done a lot more with her life, were it not for the student debt and the deception of these for-profit schools. She is working mostly for nonprofit organizations. She finds it hard to make any of her loan payments. The good news is that the Department of Education canceled the student loan debts of all former Westwood College students following investigations into Westwood's widespread misconduct. Vickie is going to get a break.

That is why, I have to tell you, I was a little upset with one of our colleagues—and I won't name names. We are not supposed to do that on the Senate floor. But he started mocking the students who are heavily in debt. I think he referred to them as "slatternly baristas." I think that means they are lazy and work at Starbucks—

and here, they have too much debt, and it is their own damn fault.

I couldn't disagree more. Students, when you are 19 or 20 years old, don't know what is a reasonable debt and what isn't. They just don't have life experience. Many of them are first-generation college students in their family. Mom and dad are not much help. They want to see their kids get a college degree. That is supposed to be the ticket to success. So young people sign up for loans, and they sign up in schools that can't produce a diploma that leads to a job, and they get stuck with it.

Vickie, I mentioned earlier, tried her best to pay off these loans and doesn't have much luck. She says that being freed of some of this debt is going to be at least lifting part of the burden. Let's be honest about it. I don't know that she is lazy or if "barista" is now a negative term. I don't think it is. Those folks are working, and I respect the fact that they are.

She said, "I'm not asking for anything for free. I just think things should be fair. Education should be affordable. And we ought to be able to earn enough to pay back what we owe."

These Republican colleagues of mine are setting out to stop this plan by Joe Biden. I guess it will be a great source of pride if they do it. They can say: We stopped this relief for all of these young people who are in debt. We sunk them deeper into despair. And we did it because it is an election year.

I think it is unfortunate. The President's student loan forgiveness plan is not a giveaway to rich doctors and lawyers who racked up big debt at Ivy League schools. Ninety-eight percent of the student loan borrowers did not attend those schools. The majority of these debts are held by families who have zero net worth—zero. What will their life be like without help? Nearly 90 percent of the relief dollars in the President's plan will go to borrowers who earn less than \$75,000 a year.

And let's reflect for a moment on what has happened over the last few years in the United States of America under the previous President who will go unnamed and what we have seen as a result of this pandemic.

Remember when we came up and were unable to articulate the number "trillion dollars" without shaking? We started talking about trillion-dollar relief packages in the pandemic. And we said to people: We are going to have loans through the Small Business Administration for people who have a job or a business and need a helping hand in terms of borrowing money to get by. And if you can prove that you spent the money on payroll and utilities and rent, it is forgiven.

So take a look at that mechanism. Through no fault of their own, they were stuck with debt because of the pandemic. They borrowed money from the Federal Government—taxpayers' money—and if they could spend it for the right things, it was forgiven, a

walkaway. I didn't hear a lot of speeches about "slatternly baristas" at that point in time. And we have also seen it happen before. In fact, we have had a number of Members of Congress who applied for some of those PPP loans.

The same people who are criticizing forgiving student loan debts literally personally borrowed money that they didn't pay back to the Federal Government, and they don't think there is anything wrong with that. I can go into a long list of people who have benefited by loans that were forgiven or grants given by the Federal Government.

Better than going through that list, let me say the bottom line is this: If we can help these young student borrowers with an opportunity to reduce the debt they owe and get their lives back on track, that is a great outcome for them and a great one for this Nation.

The same type of idealism that drove us to the National Defense Education Act after Sputnik applies as well today. We should have a well-trained, well-educated American workforce ready to compete with the world. I think we can do it. Joe Biden's step is a reasonable, humane step in the right direction. It should have bipartisan support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4798

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, last month, in a completely partisan process, Senate Democrats pushed through their progressive and deceptively named Inflation Reduction Act. That bill was a disaster, as it was full of reckless tax increases and spending.

Perhaps the worst part of it was that it authorized \$80 billion in new funding to the IRS—\$80 billion. For reference, that is about the same as what we allocated for Florida's entire State budget when I was Governor, and Florida is the third largest State in the Nation. Even though the IRS does a poor job with the resources it currently has, the Democrats opted to supersize the IRS so they could fund 87,000 new IRS agents, some of whom will be armed and willing to use deadly force to carry out their duties.

So, while the Democrats are calling to defund the police and are leaving our Border Patrol agents without the tools they need to secure the southern border, they are happy to enlarge the IRS. We don't even have 20,000 Border Patrol agents—a quarter of the number of new IRS agents the Democrats want; yet they have now approved 87,000 additional IRS agents. That is insane.

That many agents under the direction of President Biden should concern every American. We all remember that when Joe Biden was Vice President, the IRS went after conservative groups and Tea Party organizations. Now, armed with tens of billions in new funding and tens of thousands of new agents, what is stopping Joe Biden

from directing the IRS to go after groups he doesn't like? What about pregnancy resource centers or Second Amendment groups?

Here is what the Democrats are doing: They are turning the IRS into a super Agency to audit more Americans so they can fund even more of their reckless tax-and-spend agenda. Let's not forget that last year, the Democrats wanted the IRS to spy on nearly every American's bank account and track one's everyday transactions. American families can see straight through Biden's plans, and they are furious. We all should be furious.

Without a single Republican vote, the Democrats authorized 87,000 more IRS agents—doubling the size of the Agency—all to pull as many dollars as they can away from hard-working families and small businesses so they can fund liberal projects and appease their radical base with more government bailouts.

Case in point: Biden's illegal order to transfer student loan debt from borrowers to taxpayers. Someone has to pay for the hundreds of billions of dollars of debt that these borrowers voluntarily took on. Now, instead of the borrowers paying for their own educations, that burden is now borne by every American taxpayer. You didn't go to college? The Democrats don't care. You will pay the debt of lawyers and doctors. Have you already paid off your loans? Biden doesn't want to hear it. Tough luck. Your taxes are the money pot for other people's student debts, and if Democrats are going to keep declaring everything to be free, Biden is going to need a lot more taxpayer money.

That, my fellow Americans, is how we get full circle back to the supersized IRS. It is a vicious cycle to fund a radical, socialist agenda. We have to stop it now.

I am here to do what countless Floridians have asked me to do—strike this terrible policy from law. It is time to rein in the Federal Government, and that work begins with putting a stop to Biden's IRS army. My bill would simply repeal this disastrous IRS expansion, and I ask all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4798. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, it is time for a reality check here in the Senate.

The far right has had an awful lot to say about the IRS in these last few days. Even Senators who should supposedly know better are spinning wild fantasy stories about 87,000 agents who are armed to the teeth and coming to

the doors of innocent small business people. All this talk is unscathed by the truth.

Here is what is true: Every year, wealthy tax cheats and scofflaw corporations skip out on paying what they owe and rip off the American people for billions and billions of dollars. Let me say that again. Wealthy tax cheats are ripping off innocent taxpayers, every year, of billions and billions of dollars. They are sophisticated. They are wealthy. They want to protect the status quo. By attacking the IRS, the Republicans are helping high-flying tax cheats get away with breaking the law.

The IRS has had its resources gutted by the Republicans over the last decade. It is badly outmatched now by the wealthy tax cheats, who have armies of lawyers and accountants who are prying open loopholes and hiding income in the shadows. Let me give the Senate an example.

A few weeks ago, I put out the findings of a yearlong Finance Committee investigation into the largest alleged tax evasion scheme by one individual in American history. With the right financial wizardry and a complicated network of offshore accounts and partnerships, this individual, Robert Brockman, was able to evade taxes on over \$2 billion in income. To hide his money, he set up offshore entities that we call shell banks. They were offshore entities dressed up like financial institutions that Mr. Brockman set up to hide his money from the IRS, betting correctly that the IRS wouldn't have the resources to uncover his scheme. There may be hundreds of thousands more of these shell banks that the IRS has never examined.

The Finance Committee is also in the midst of an investigation into the tax practices of some of the biggest members of Big Pharma. One of the companies whose tax data we examined was AbbVie. In 2020, 75 percent of AbbVie's sales were made in the United States, but AbbVie reported only 1 percent of its income to the United States for tax purposes. Earlier this year, we requested financial information from Merck, which makes nearly half of its sales in the United States, but it reported only 14 percent of its income here. We also requested information from Bristol Myers Squibb, which reportedly used a thicket of foreign subsidiaries and partnerships to take its effective tax rate from 24.7 percent all the way down to a negative 7 percent in a single year.

The IRS struggles to do anything about many of these cases even when they get reported in the press. Criminal tax evasion cases have fallen nearly by half. The number of highly trained experts who know how to break down these complex tax evasion cases has fallen by a third. It takes hundreds and hundreds of hours to review the tax filings of corporations and the rich, and the IRS just doesn't have the resources to go after these wealthy tax cheats and scofflaw corporations. So there is a

reason the Democrats believe you have to invest more resources to enforce the laws on the books.

Here is the most important point: It doesn't have anything to do with middle-class taxpayers, because their taxes are taken out automatically of every single paycheck. That is really different than the way the big guys go about their activities in ripping off the little guys with complex tax evasion schemes. What so many Republicans want to do is preserve the status quo so that only the little guys get audited while billionaire friends like Robert Brockman get off scot-free.

Funding for the IRS is also about providing a basic level of customer service to taxpayers who are in Colorado, in Oregon, and in every part of the country. At one point during the filing season this year, the IRS told the Finance Committee that it was able to answer only 11 percent of the service phone calls it was receiving. Taxpayers in America deserve better service from their government, and that means making sure the IRS has the resources to provide it.

The far right and the tax cheats—the wealthy tax cheats—want the IRS, apparently, to continue to struggle because it makes it easier to attack and vilify. That is why we have heard so many falsehoods about the thousands of new IRS agents. I don't know where this number came from. It is absolute nonsense that has been conjured out of nothing.

Even worse are the falsehoods about IRS agents and firearms. Alongside the DEA, the FBI, and other law enforcement Agencies, the IRS often plays a part in going after drug cartels, money launderers, and other serious, hardened criminals. So the question is, How do my Republican colleagues expect IRS criminal investigation officers to defend themselves during drug busts against violent cartels? Should they bring a set of sharpened No. 2 pencils?

We are talking about living in the real world. The IRS funding that the Democrats passed last month is about making sure that the IRS can do its job and meet the expectations of the American people.

I can tell you, as a Senator who has townhall meetings in every county of my State every year, the people of my State say: Look, we are law-abiding. We pay our taxes. There is something way out of whack when these wealthy tax cheats and scofflaw corporations can pay little or nothing.

It is time for Members of Congress to stop going to bat for these wealthy tax cheats who break the law. The IRS needs to be able to crack down on these rip-offs. The IRS needs to be able to provide adequate and timely service. The taxpayers need help, and that is what the IRS funding does.

What we have heard so much about from my colleagues on the far right in raising this specter of agents—thousands of them, armed to the teeth, coming to the doors of small busi-

nesses—is simply unscathed by the truth.

For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I agree with my colleague that if you owe taxes, you should pay your taxes, but what is inconsistent with what my colleague just said is that we had an amendment vote that would say that none of these agents could go after anybody making less than \$400,000 a year. Every Democrat, I believe, in the Senate voted against that. So the goal is, absolutely, we should make sure that wealthy taxpayers pay everything they owe, but we had an amendment that would make sure this was focused on wealthy taxpayers—this was during a vote just before we left on recess—and every Democrat voted against that.

For all of those who are watching, here is what you are going to see: The Democratic Party has created a platform to audit more Americans—not just wealthy Americans but all Americans. This isn't about fairness; this is about power. The Democrats want to spy on your bank transactions, and they want to send 87,000 more IRS agents on the streets to collect the bill for their reckless spending.

Joe Biden has pitched his provision in the image of Robin Hood taking from the rich, but in reality, this expansion is in the image of the Sheriff of Nottingham stealing from the poor and the working class.

None of us should be surprised the Democrats are doubling down on the radical IRS expansion policies. We all should be pretty mad. When the Republicans take control of Congress in January, you can expect that we will do everything in our power to repeal this terrible policy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would just like to briefly discuss the amendment that came up during the budget discussion.

Senate Democrats made it very, very clear that we were strongly against taxing those in our country with incomes under \$400,000. The problem with the amendment that the Republicans offered is they used the word "taxable" income. So, while we strongly opposed raising taxes on middle-class people and others making under \$400,000, the wording of the Republicans' amendment, which talked about taxable income, could have immunized billionaires from being subject to an audit. That is because, as the Presiding Officer and I have talked about, billionaires often live by this "buy, borrow, and die" philosophy, and they have little or no taxable income for years on end. My colleagues probably saw some of the stories, for example, about billionaires who are claiming the child tax credit because their taxable income

is actually low under the way it is defined.

Just to make sure the record is clear, we are all in on this effort of not taxing middle-income folks. We subscribe completely. In fact, it is what we had in the bill, and our enforcement section made that clear as well. But we are not for creating new paths to tax evasion for billionaires. Regrettably, that is what the language in the Republicans' amendment would have done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. The easiest way to solve my colleague's issue would have been to propose an amendment to make sure that we didn't go after taxpayers making less than \$400,000 a year, but not one Democrat did that. All they did was just vote against this and then after the fact say: Well, it was a language issue. If it were simply a language issue, we could have solved it that night.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

INFLATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the crisis that is hitting all Americans. It is a crisis caused by the Democrats. It is a crisis of inflation and a crisis of the recession which we are living.

Right now, it looks like Democrats want to take a victory lap. I have heard the President give his speeches. He seems to want to do this because the Democrats have passed one of the largest tax-and-spend bills in the history of the country. They crammed it through Congress in just a matter of days. It was partisan. It is a liberal wish list. And for some, it seemed like it was a green-haired liberal's dream come true.

The bill includes hundreds of billions of dollars for the radical climate agenda that so many of the Democrats have been talking about. They are going to double the size of the Internal Revenue Service. Audits will be up. It is going to raise taxes on the middle class by tens and tens of billions of dollars.

Democrats, of course, passed this bill on a party-line vote—not a single Republican voted for it in the House or the Senate—and Joe Biden signed it into law. Ever since then, the liberals and the press have been singing Joe Biden's praises.

Yet here is a recent headline that I saw from NBC News. It said:

Democrats reluctant to campaign with Biden—

Reluctant to campaign with Biden. And then the headline goes on—despite the recent winning streak.

Winning streak? There is nothing winning about this. This is a losing streak hitting the American people.

All of this Democratic celebration just shows how out of touch today's Democratic Party really is. Working families aren't celebrating right now.

No. They are struggling—struggling—in this age of inflation and economic crisis.

Here is the reality: We are in a recession. Just last week, the government confirmed the economy has now shrunk for 6 months in a row. It has been the definition of a recession for decade upon decade, no matter what the White House wants to say about how they want to redefine "recession."

Inflation remains at a 40-year high. People can't keep up. They are falling behind. Just this morning, a new Gallup poll came out, and what did it show? Today's Gallup poll showed a majority of Americans saying inflation is causing them personally—them—"financial hardship." That is who is struggling. That is who is hurting most, American families trying to make ends meet.

For low-income Americans, according to this poll by Gallup out today, three out of four are facing financial hardship from the inflation that has been brought on to this country by the Democrats' reckless spending. For the middle class, it is two-thirds, two out of three members of the middle class.

The American people aren't celebrating now. They are having to cut back on their spending because they can't afford to keep up, and they are falling further and further behind. So it is astonishing Democrats think they are on a winning streak.

It is fascinating to watch Joe Biden and Democrats pat themselves on the back because gas prices are now a dollar and a half more a gallon than they were the day Joe Biden took office. In some places, they are less than \$4 a gallon but not in Nevada and Washington State, just to name a few. There is no celebrating, in my opinion, when gas prices are \$1.50 a gallon more today than they were the day Joe Biden took office and then a day after Saudi Arabia announces that they are going to cut back on the production of oil, even though Joe Biden went hat in hand, on bended knee, and said: Please, Saudi Arabia, produce more oil and sell it to the United States because even though we have it here, we are not going to let the American people get it out of the ground.

Democrats haven't lifted a finger to produce one more drop of American oil or American energy. Supply is down from the prepandemic peak. Prices are down right now a little because demand is down because people can't afford to drive at the high prices that gasoline went up to because of Joe Biden's policies and the Democrats' commitment to keeping the oil in the ground.

The American people are driving less in the summer of 2022 than they were in the summer of 2020, and that was the year of the pandemic, when the country was in a shutdown. That is what really high prices of energy will do in terms of demand for using oil.

Increasingly, people not only can't leave home because of the cost of gas,

they can't afford to stay home either. They can't afford to heat their home or cool their home. Half of American homes are powered by natural gas, but Biden's position is, keep that gas in the ground.

Right now, 20 million Americans have fallen behind on paying their electric bills. That is a record. In total, the American people owe more than \$16 billion in unpaid electric bills. It is double the amount owed before the pandemic. And 20 million people may be facing what is called as "a tsunami of shutoffs." It is all because of Democrats' out-of-touch policies.

At the grocery store, prices are up 13 cents on the dollar in the last 12 months. That means a \$100 grocery bill last year would be \$113 this year. I was at the grocery store. A woman had two bags, and she said: Does this look like \$100 worth of groceries? Week after week, this adds up.

This is the fastest increase in grocery prices in 43 years. We are talking about meat and milk and eggs and vegetables. We are talking about fruit—things people buy when they go to the grocery store. Higher costs for gas and groceries are steadily eating away at the finances of the American people.

In total, prices have gone up more than 12 percent since Joe Biden took office. Last week, we learned that prices have increased faster than wages. What people have to pay is going up faster than what people are earning for 16 months in a row. As a result, the American family today can afford a lot less than they could the day Joe Biden took office.

Wages can't keep up so people are turning to their savings and to debt. One out of three Americans has taken an average of \$600 out of their savings this year just to pay the bills to keep up just so they don't fall further behind.

Household debt has never been higher than it is right now, and it is only going up. Half of American families say they expect to add even more to their debt by the end of the year.

So what are Democrats offering working families, people who are out there struggling, trying to get by? The Secretary of Energy has this to offer. She says: Hey, a 30-percent discount on solar panels.

Under the new spending bill, the taxpayer will pay for 30 percent of the cost of those new solar panels—that is taxpayers across the country for people who want to get the 30-percent discount. People can't afford basic groceries like milk and eggs right now, let alone solar panels. Does Secretary Granholm really think middle-class families are running out to buy solar panels? Not a chance. They are not. The American people are saying to the climate extremists: Thanks, but no thanks.

Democrats' inflation is not going away any time soon. The effects are going to be with us for a long, long time. The American people know it.

That is why they think the country is heading in the wrong direction.

We may actually even see inflation getting worse. That is because Democrats have now poured jet fuel on the fire of inflation. They did it twice this past month. First, they passed this incredibly expensive spending bill. Then a few days later, Joe Biden announced a very unfair \$500 billion taxpayer-funded handout to people with college loans. It is a one-two punch to families who work, pay their taxes, and pay their bills; who, when they sign their name to a loan, expect to pay it back.

That is not what we are getting with Joe Biden. Nope. What we are getting are actions that are going to cause more inflation.

According to Wharton School of Business in their budget model, Democrats' spending bill is going to increase inflation not just for a week, not just for a month, not just for a year but for at least 2 years. And that is something, apparently, Joe Biden is proud of. Even Democratic economists admit the student loan giveaway is going to increase inflation.

So let's name names. Former Obama economic adviser, Jason Furman, called this "gasoline on the inflationary fire that is already burning." This is Obama's economic adviser. He called it "reckless."

Former Obama and Clinton economic advisor, Larry Summers, said:

Student loan debt relief . . . increases inflation. . . . It will also tend to . . . raise[le] tuitions.

Raise tuition; is that what the Democrats are for? Hey, let's raise tuition. We are for that. That is what Larry Summers says is going to happen as a result of these positions by the Democrats in this Chamber and in the White House.

Joe Biden continues to make life more expensive, more unaffordable, and more painful for American families. To bring down costs, Republicans propose doing the exact opposite of what the Democrats are doing today.

We need to produce more and spend less. We need to produce more of lots of things. Energy is part of it. We need to unleash American energy. We need to lower costs all across the country by producing more American energy right here in the United States, not going hat in hand to Saudi Arabia, not going hat in hand, as Joe Biden did just a year ago, to Russia—to Vladimir Putin's Russia. Just a year ago, Joe Biden was saying: Please send us more oil. Oh, and he wants the same from Iran and Venezuela. We have it here in the United States. We need to unleash it.

For the last 20 months, Democrats have waged an all-out war against American energy. We need more energy, not less. What we need less of is less Washington redtape. So far Joe Biden has issued more than \$200 billion in punishing regulations in just 20 months. It makes it more expensive to create jobs here at home.

Finally, we need to stop this reckless Washington spending. The Biden inflation crisis started the month after Democrats passed their first spending bill. The first spending bill added \$2 trillion to the debt; the college loan giveaway, another half trillion. It is all going to make inflation worse. And people at home are furious.

So despite what the liberal pundits may say, Democrats have nothing to celebrate. A poll from writers last week showed Joe Biden still has an approval rating below 40 percent. Three out of four Americans say this country is on the wrong track under Joe Biden and the Democrats.

According to one poll, a full majority of Americans say America's best days are behind us. It is a record, a record high that people think the best days are behind us.

America is in a crisis right now. From our economy, to our border, to crime in our communities, Joe Biden's liberal policies have failed working families across America.

So I disagree with those who say our best days are behind us. I believe the best days for America are always ahead of us. It is the control of Washington that needs to be put behind us.

You know, Joe Biden gave a political speech the other day, flanked by marines, in Philadelphia. He told the American public it was a policy speech. It was not. He intentionally misled the American people and tried to lie to the American people because, if it had been a policy speech, he would have actually addressed the issues that are keeping Americans awake at night—the issues that they care about, the pain that they are suffering.

He never mentioned once the words: prices, inflation, gas, the border, crime, cartel, fentanyl, or debt. He never mentioned those. No. The President closed his eyes to all of those things that he has done that are causing massive pain to the American people. But he looked down his nose at tens and tens of millions of Americans who are struggling to get by and the American economy that this President and the Democrats have intentionally undermined.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I think we all enjoyed being in our States during August. And during the time I was there, I wrapped up what I do each year, which is to visit with each of our 95 counties. And this is truly a listening tour for me, being able to talk with our citizens, to talk with our elected leaders. And I would leave those meetings so encouraged and think, I could not be more impressed with the things that are being done in these communities.

I would go to the next community and again would be just as impressed. Tennesseans are working hard. And this year has been a difficult year for everyone. But I want to focus on our

local leaders today because they are the ones who are keeping these communities afloat. And they have done it in spite of everything that Washington, DC, and the Democrats are doing to them.

I thought it was interesting that yesterday the majority leader opened the Senate by reciting a laundry list of the Democratic Party's accomplishments. Now, he put quite a spin on this.

Back home in Tennessee, the people that I work with every single day are seeing this laundry list for what it is and how it affects them. There is hundreds of billions of dollars for the Green New Deal giveaways, and there are Big Government power grabs; there is crippling regulatory overreach; billions more have been spent on this student loan forgiveness program. Indeed, it could end up being a trillion dollars. And there are attacks on our fundamental constitutional rights.

Yes, indeed, the way Tennesseans see it is that Joe Biden and the Democrats are putting together the pieces for what they call their transformation, their great socialist experiment. But in Tennessee, local leaders are really working around the clock to keep that vision from coming to be and to keep their communities from falling apart.

And as I visited with these 95 counties, they gave to me one message that came through time and again, repeatedly. They don't like what they are seeing from this socialist agenda that is being pushed forward here in DC. Indeed, they would talk about their worries and their fears. They would talk about the impact of 9 percent inflation and \$5-a-gallon gas.

Now, that may be CHUCK SCHUMER'S version of success, which he really helpfully laid out yesterday as to what he thinks are successes and achievements, and that depends entirely upon his ability to spend somebody else's money on things that the American people have repeatedly said they do not want and they do not need. That message came through every one of our 95 counties.

Now, in Tennessee, when we talk about success, you hear about something different. You hear about growth. You hear about investments that companies are making in our State. And we have earned this the hard way. And, indeed, the rest of the country is noticing. Tennessee is one of the most well-managed States. It has no State income tax. And you have got Ford Motor Company and SK Innovation that have seen the potential in our State, specifically in Haywood County. And they have invested billions of dollars.

When I was in West Tennessee last month, I visited their Blue Oval City project site where, in just a few years, they will have a brandnew manufacturing hub that will create thousands of jobs and grow the local economy by millions and millions of dollars.

The people at Lone Oaks Farms in Hardeman County are working to make

certain that there is a great workforce. And they are developing STEM education programs. When I visited them, they were hard at work planning for the new 4-H Development Center, where students will learn how to be good stewards of Tennessee's natural resources.

Across the State in Blount County, I was so happy to officially welcome Smith & Wesson to Tennessee. Now, see, they have moved their headquarters and their manufacturing facility down from their old home in Massachusetts. And they are certainly pleased with the Southern hospitality and the good business working environment that they are seeing in Tennessee.

The largest Buc-ee's in the Nation is coming to Kodak, TN. Also, over on the east end of the State, the Techstars Accelerator Program is thriving in Knoxville. Red Stag set up a new logistics hub in Sweetwater. And we have a brandnew emergency clinic in the Upper Cumberland.

This is the sort of laundry list that I would hope and wish that my Democratic colleagues would be proud of. From one end of the State to the other, Tennessee is drawing investment, no thanks to this White House, to President Biden, and the Democrats that run the House and the Senate. It is our local leaders that are doing the heavy lift, in spite of what Washington, DC, is throwing at them every day.

But with that said, these local leaders deserve the respect and support from the Democratic Party. Even a bare minimum promise to not sabotage their hard work would be welcomed by them. But across all 95 counties, the message I received, as I said, was pretty much the same: They are worried. They are very worried. They are fearful. But they are not letting themselves get caught up in what the Democrats are doing.

Yes, they know the Democrats have a socialist-style agenda that they are pushing. That is the Democrats' vision for the future. In Tennessee, our counties are not going to let the Democrats destroy their hope for a better future.

They know that since the day the Democrats took power, Joe Biden and the Democrats have done everything they could do to seize control and remake a vision for this country into their image, where the elites, the select few—the Democrats—control the power on all the levers, and they can dictate to the States how they are going to live, what they are going to accomplish, what they are going to do.

Tennesseans are suffering the consequences of these policies in the form of record-breaking inflation, obscene fuel and energy costs, rising crime and drug use, and the overall sense that they have been abandoned by the Federal Government. That is how they see it.

The overwhelming issue right now is inflation, inflation, inflation. It is the top concern in all 95 counties. It affects

every county budget, and it affects small business.

In Fayette County, I got to speak to Joey Hays of Dyer Foods and some of the truly resilient workers at one of his local grocery stores. We should all be grateful for people like the workers at Dyer Foods. They didn't have it easy during the pandemic, and it hasn't gotten any easier now than it was during the pandemic because more of their paychecks are being eaten up by inflation. Interesting, isn't it? Inflation is outpacing any wage growth.

Many Tennessee counties that have managed to pull themselves out of distress status lost all traction when inflation skyrocketed. And now, guess what? They feel like they are back at square one because of decisions that had been made in Washington, DC. No fault of their own, mind you, decisions that are made here.

Dayton City Manager Tommy Solomon told me he saw the price of pipe go up 200 percent. They had to stop some of their water projects because they couldn't afford to buy the supplies. That is right. The pipe was up 200 percent.

Hamilton County Mayor Coppinger told me the worker shortage has made the inflation-driven problems even worse. They have raised salaries, and they still can't fill critical roles, especially in public health.

In Rhea, Bledsoe, McMinn, Marion, and Grundy Counties, inflation and supply chain issues are wiping out farmers. Most small farms in these counties only planted about half their normal crop due to fuel and fertilizer prices. Their businesses—these small businesses—are drying up.

Many other businesses, including large manufacturers, are being stonewalled by regulators from the EPA with no explanation as to why they are making the decisions that they make.

Do you know what? Unfortunately for small business manufacturers, there is no end in sight to what these regulators in this administration will do.

Meanwhile, while all of this is happening, the border is open by order of the White House. The drug mules are streaming in, and drug use is spiking. Every single sheriff—every one of them—that I spoke to in Southeast Tennessee, told me that fentanyl is their No. 1 issue, and I can tell you that it is an issue in other areas of the State as well.

In Grundy County, Sheriff Shrum told me about what happened to one of his deputies who accidentally came into contact with a dangerous amount of fentanyl. He started the day trying to save a life, but by the end of that day, it was his colleagues from the sheriff's department who were saving his life and giving him a dose of Narcan.

This is what our first responders and our local law enforcement are facing because Joe Biden and the Democrats

and this DHS are refusing to secure the southern border. Two million plus and counting, about three quarters of a million known got-aways, but they will stand up there and tell you: Oh, the border is closed.

Law enforcement in our State does not believe that, and I don't either. This is a shame.

Crime is on the rise, but rather than supporting police officers, Joe Biden and the Democrats are obsessed with undermining, defunding, and disbanding police departments.

In Tipton County, I was truly blessed to meet Deputy Gene Molder and his family. Deputy Molder was shot in the line of duty last March while he was trying to help a group of people escape a violent hostage situation. Thank God, he is all right now, but people are outraged at the leftist rhetoric that is clearly designed to increase violence against law enforcement.

Tennesseans aren't asking for much. They don't want a Federal Government to make their decisions for them. They don't want a handout. They don't want centralized control. Honestly, they wish that they could just be left alone when it comes to Washington, DC, and what they are doing out. They want you, the Federal Government, to get out of the way so that they can fulfill their vision for the future—prosperous, safe, secure.

This President's socialist agenda won't help them do that because prosperity, freedom, independence, liberty, equal treatment under the law, equal justice for all is not what is at the top of their to-do list. It won't help Hamilton County hire workers or the Dayton Public Works Department buy pipe. It certainly won't help farmers in Rhea County grow the food you eat, and it won't help police officers keep their communities safe and secure.

These local leaders in the great state of Tennessee know better than anyone here in Washington what they need us to do in order to help them get things done, and that message came through clear as a bell in 95 counties. What did they tell me—that message I heard all across 95 counties? Please secure the border and support law enforcement, repair and secure our supply chains, keep taxes low, and develop a business-friendly attitude, and, above all else, stop the out-of-control Federal spending.

I know this administration has made a name for itself telling people what they can and cannot do. But I will tell you that this is a power struggle that you are not going to win, at least where Tennesseans are concerned.

The Democrats have an agenda, but in Tennessee I have met with some of the most wonderful people in this country. They have a vision for what they want the future to be. They want it to be focused on hope, on opportunity for all, and I want to thank every single Tennessee leader, law enforcement officer, business owner, and citizens who gave me their time, who talked with

me and who offered their advice this past year. Their wisdom is what guides my decisions here in Washington. I only wish that my Democratic colleagues would take their words to heart as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I will proceed with my trusty, battered “Time to Wake Up” chart and my—I don’t know—280-something speech.

For once, I can start with some good news, which is that the Democrats, at last, passed a climate-focused reconciliation bill this year. This is a huge step and essential, given the cascade of harms climate change is already inflicting: wildfire in Yosemite National Park, billions of dollars in flood damage; Europe broils in heat wave; extreme heat led to “brutal” rise in sea temperatures; dangerous heat hits United States; emissions rising of methane, glacier tragedies; Houston slogs through brutal heat; climate change is forcing massive wildlife migration. Wherever you look, you see the news of what is happening—heat waves, droughts, wildfires, collapsing glaciers, rising seas, record carbon dioxide and methane concentrations in the atmosphere.

It is a bombardment of hard evidence that the Earth is fast becoming less hospitable for human life. The costs of our political negligence are high and rising.

My friends across the aisle like to fixate on the price of gasoline, which undeniably affects family budgets. But climate change imposes costs on American families much worse than gasoline prices. Climate change causes effects that raise insurance premiums, snarl supply chains, reduce crop yields, sicken people, and damage cars, homes, and businesses.

A lot of thoughtful groups have quantified this damage. The International Monetary Fund estimates this “climate tax” on American families at over \$5,000 per year based on their calculation that we subsidize fossil fuel by allowing them to get away with doing all this pollution and harm for free to the tune of \$660 billion every year. That is the International Monetary Fund—5,000 bucks per family from climate change harms.

They are not alone, of course. Resources for the Future, which is a well-regarded, well-trusted calculation shop, has just looked at what the social cost of carbon should be, and they pegged it at \$185 per ton of carbon emissions. Right now, the nominal social cost of carbon left over from the Obama administration is \$51 per ton. Resources for the Future has done a more rigorous calculation and puts it at \$185 in harm per ton of carbon emitted.

What does this all add up to? Well, you can go to corporate consulting firm Deloitte, which is a corporate con-

sulting firm. We are not talking about, you know, Green New Deal folks here. This is a corporate consultancy. They say that inaction on climate change could cost the world’s economy \$178 trillion over the next 50 years.

Now, the bad news is climate change harms could cost \$178 trillion. The good news is if we got after this and behaved responsibly, you could gain \$43 trillion in economic development in that same time period. So if you put the two together, that is a \$220 trillion swing depending on decisions that we make today. So it kind of matters to getting this right, and we are not yet getting this right.

The reconciliation bill, good as it is, won’t decarbonize our economy in time without a lot more action. The bill likely takes expected emissions reduction from around 25 percent, which we are assuming right there—that is our baked-in number—and it raises it to about 40 percent. So it is a 15-percent increase in emissions reduction, from 25 percent to 40 percent. So that is good. That is good, but it still leaves much to do, because, remember, net zero is the target, and if you have reduced by 40 percent, that still leaves 60 percent that is work to be done.

So soon we are going to need another bill, and the contours of such a bill, if it is going to be effective, are pretty clear.

There is bipartisan interest in a carbon border adjustment, which would make American manufacturing more competitive and reduce carbon pollution worldwide. We export pressure against carbon pollution with a carbon border tariff.

There is also bipartisan interest in commonsense permitting reform to safely and quickly build out the clean energy infrastructure of the future. My coastal State needs it for offshore wind. The Presiding Officer’s Mountain State needs it for transmission lines to connect to the grid the capacity we have for solar and wind.

And the fossil fuel industry at least pretends to be interested in a price on carbon emissions. Now, that is just pretense. They put their whole political operation into effect to make sure none of that happens, but it is a good sign. It is a step on the path when they have to pretend to support a price on emissions. That is a step on the way to actually supporting a price on carbon emissions.

I will do everything in my power to do all of those things. But let’s be clear. It would be much easier if corporate America were not a wall of opposition to serious climate bills.

And it is not just the fossil fuel industry. Banking, insurance, retail, tech—pick your industrial sector. You name it—in this building, useless on climate. Or worse, there is a huge spread between what they tell their shareholders and their customers and the public and what they send their emissaries into Congress to tell us.

And until that is solved, until corporate America aligns what it is telling

the public with what it is doing in Congress, legislation is going to be tough to do.

So that leaves the executive branch, and that is what brings me to the floor today, because there is a lot that the executive branch can do under existing executive authorities. And in this recent article, the White House said they were going to get started:

Biden Prepares More Actions to Cut Emissions.

Regulations from the E.P.A. and elsewhere will help the president meet his aggressive climate goals.

“The president has not chosen to just look at Congress, he’s chosen to recognize that he has presidential authorities and responsibilities under the law to keep moving this forward.”

Well, he sure does, and there is plenty of room to do different things and new things.

So what can be done by executive action?

Let’s go through the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions since that is our target. The No. 1 source—by the way, these 11 sources of carbon pollution amount to almost 70 percent of our carbon emissions. So if we can tackle these, we are making a big dent in that remaining 60 percent left undone.

So cars and light trucks is the largest category. It generates almost a fifth of total U.S. carbon pollution.

The EPA and DOT restored Obama-era greenhouse gas emission standards. So now go further, as California has. Start with model year 2027 and begin a ramp-up to 100 percent zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

There is authority for this under the Clean Air Act and the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. And, by the way, when you double your car’s energy efficiency, doubling your fuel economy is exactly the same thing as cutting oil prices and gasoline prices in half. So push in that direction.

And, by the way, getting off of fossil fuel for cars and light trucks will help us get off the Big Oil treadmill of cartel prices that are set with the help of foreign despots in Russia, in Saudi Arabia, in Venezuela, outside the rule of American law. But Americans have to pay because our oil industry goes along with the international cartel instead of charging market-based prices. We just saw them do that and reap record profits. So there is a lot to be done on cars and light trucks.

Coal-fired powerplants is the next biggest one. Coal-fired powerplants belch carbon pollution, but also a lot of other pollutants. So if you regulate for health against those other pollutants, you get a lot of cobenefits with carbon pollution.

Among the worst is fine particulate matter, which is also known as soot or, more technically, PM 2.5. It is the leading cause of the estimated 100,000 to 200,000 air pollution-related premature deaths each year. So it is causing real harm.

And then you add in coal ash, which is the toxic sludge left after you burn

coal, loaded with arsenic, mercury, lead, and uranium, and often stored in lagoons which sometimes burst, just as you see in this picture, not only swamping this farmhouse but also poisoning rivers and ground water.

This should be a “never event.” This should be a “never event,” but it is not. It is all too frequent, and poor communities often take the hit. EPA regulations can eliminate these threats and produce carbon reduction cobenefits.

Nothing in the recent West Virginia v. EPA decision prevents EPA from requiring that coal-fired powerplants install carbon capture technology. And carbon capture technology can eliminate up to 95 percent of the carbon pollution. Add EPA’s authority under the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act to regulate fine particulate matter and coal ash, and you can make real progress.

That brings us, then, to gas-fired powerplants, the next category. They are big carbon polluters, and they are still being built. EPA regulations for new and existing gas-fired plants can limit their carbon pollution the same way. Carbon capture can be one option. Co-firing with zero carbon hydrogen could be another option.

Next on the list is heavy-duty vehicles, trucks, and buses. Now EPA has a proposed rule, and that proposed rule on trucks and buses does nothing to reduce carbon pollution. EPA and DOT have ample authority here, and they should use it. California has its own “advanced clean trucks rule” requiring increased zero emission heavy-duty vehicles. If EPA can’t do any better, then follow California’s lead.

Next comes methane, spewing from oil and gas facilities as leaks, vents, or flares. EPA has a proposed rule—no actual rule yet—but even the proposed rule has flaws. First, it doesn’t cover low-producing wells. A low-producing well can be a very high-leaking well.

So whether it is high or low producing should matter less than whether it is a big leaker.

Second, the rule does little for venting and flaring, which are major pollution sources. Now one development is that satellites can now very precisely locate methane leaks. So we can aggressively pursue and punish big methane polluters, and we should do that. Set up a task force. Have people go hunting for the big methane leaks. Find who is responsible and get after them.

If you do all that, it would cover more than half of gross carbon emissions in the United States. So let’s do it. No more complaining about not enough staff. EPA has more employees than all of Congress combined. If you don’t have enough staff, then detail folks in from the regional offices, borrow from your State counterparts. Do what it takes to get after this like you mean it, because we need to.

There is a list that I tweeted out of things that the administration could

be doing within its existing executive authorities. Within the White House, OMB, or the Office of Management and Budget, 18 months in, needs to finalize its social cost of carbon, the costs and the harms from each ton of carbon pollution emitted. That is the number that I mentioned earlier that Resources for the Future just calculated at \$185 per ton.

OMB needs to finalize the social cost of carbon, set the number, and require its use throughout government decision making. All the regulatory agencies should use it, even the quasi-independents.

And you can add in procurement decisions. The Federal Government contracts for over \$600 billion in goods and services every year. We buy buildings, vehicles, planes, cement, steel, appliances. You name it, the government buys it. Plug the social cost of carbon into procurement, as many private companies do, and you engage the power of government contracting against the climate threat.

And when you do that, that then drives economies of scale that make those low-carbon projects and products cheaper for everyone else, not just the government buyer.

The social cost of carbon should drive Department of Interior fossil fuel royalty rates for oil, gas, and coal produced on Federal lands and waters. Those rates right now are so low that we lose money on royalties compared to the costs that those fossil fuels impose on all of us. That is just dumb and also unfair. So let’s fix that flagrant imbalance by putting the social cost of carbon into the fees and royalties.

I would add that the Department of Justice has a role to play here. Years ago, under the Clinton administration, the Department of Justice sued Big Tobacco for decades of misrepresentations about the harms of its product. Well, DOJ won that lawsuit, and they won big, and they got a court order requiring Big Tobacco to quit lying.

Well, like Big Tobacco, Big Oil has spent decades misrepresenting the dangers associated with its product. The Department of Justice is way overdue to take a serious look at fossil fuel lies.

As they look around the country, they see States and municipalities and counties bringing lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. It is happening out there. It is incumbent on the Department of Justice to advise the President on what the Department of Justice should be doing. To turn a blind eye to all that litigation, to ignore its own victory in the tobacco case, to refuse to recommend to the President any course of action or to take any course of action is just not an acceptable way of going forward. If the DOJ took an honest look, I bet they would find the case against Big Oil every bit as solid as the case they won against Big Tobacco.

And while we are at it, there is the bully pulpit. The administration should use the bully pulpit to call out

the dark money, the lies, the fake science, the phony front groups, the spin doctors, the co-opted lobby groups, the dirty political spending, the whole apparatus, the whole machinery that the fossil fuel industry has used to corrupt Congress and obstruct progress.

Calling out crooks is the right thing to do, and the public deserves to know that there is a villain here who has blocked progress on purpose and what that villain is up to.

There is a lot that the Biden administration can and should be doing. Yes, it is good to declare a climate emergency. It is better to act like it is a climate emergency and deploy your Executive authorities accordingly. That means the sort of regulatory surge I have just outlined—no waffling, no excuses.

A winning strategy ultimately includes regulation, litigation, legislation, acquisition, and communication. Across those five fronts, the Biden administration should have a plan to move forward in each and every one. It needs the kind of leadership that Eisenhower gave to the Normandy landing and the invasion that followed.

By the way, while you are organizing it that way, do it with gusto. This is a fight that is worth having. It is not just that the planet depends on it; it is not just that our international credibility depends on it; it is not just cleaning out this place from rotten fossil fuel industry depends on it; it is the right thing to do. The American public will stand behind a President who stands up against lies and dark money and the schemes to blockade climate safety.

So I will close by saying that whether there was ever a time for half-hearted, half-baked, and halfway measures, it is done. We need to build on the success of the Inflation Reduction Act. We need to take that as a launchpad, a first chapter, not a last chapter. And on this fight, it is all in or lose because our adversaries are determined. They are just wrong, but they are determined. So it is all in or lose.

By the way, if we lose this race, the laws of chemistry and physics are going to be unforgiving.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LABOR DAY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, earlier this week, we celebrated Labor Day, a day when Americans come together to honor the people who make this country work.

Whether you punch a clock, whether you swipe a badge, whether you earn a salary, whether you make tips, whether you are caring for children or an

aging parent, all labor has dignity. When work has dignity, hard work pays off for everyone, no matter who you are, where you live, what kind of work you do. Yet we know that for so many Americans, their work simply doesn't pay off like it should.

Look at what has happened in Minnesota, Ohio, and Rhode Island—and I know Senator GRASSLEY is coming out—and in Iowa. Look what has happened over the last 30, 40 years. Executive salaries have soared. CEO pay is up 1,300 percent since 1978—1,300 percent. Corporate profits have risen. Stock prices are up. Workers are more productive than ever before. But for decades—for decades—wages barely budged for most Americans. Their purchasing power has largely been flat for some five decades because Wall Street rewards corporations that raise prices without raising paychecks. Wall Street rewards stock buybacks. Wall Street rewards union busting. Wall Street really rewards shipping jobs overseas. Wall Street rewards automating jobs. Wall Street rewards outsourcing full-time, in-house work to contractors.

Wall Street analysts actually downgrade stock prices when American companies invest in American workers, in American production. If a company owns a new factory in Ohio, Wall Street might often downgrade its stock. If that same company instead buys back its own stock, sending 40 percent of the returns to foreign investors, Wall Street rewards it.

We work to change that. For the first time in far too long, we have a government on the side of workers. We have a dues-paying union member as Labor Secretary.

Contrast this Labor Secretary—a laborers' union activist who carried a union card before he came; I think he still does as Secretary of Labor—contrast that with the Trump Secretary of Labor, who worked for one of the major world leaders in union busting and who made millions of dollars a year by busting unions.

We took on Big Oil—I am sorry. We have a National Labor Relations Board actually looking out for workers and willing to go after union busting. We passed the most pro-worker infrastructure bill ever, the strongest “buy American” provisions ever in a piece of legislation. We have taken historic steps to put workers first, to invest in American workers, to make our economy work for every American, not just CEOs and not just Wall Street.

That is what you came to the Senate from Minnesota for, and that is what Senator WHITEHOUSE came from Rhode Island for—to make these fights.

We passed the CHIPS Act to bring our supply chains home, to bring down prices for American families, and to create thousands—tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs in Ohio and across the country.

This groundbreaking that President Biden and I and Congressman RYAN and others are going to do this Friday in

Licking County, OH, will mean, at a minimum, 5,000 good-paid, union, building trades jobs—carpenters, electricians, pipefitters, laborers, ultimately millwrights, so many others—at least 5,000 over the next 2 or 3 years that will last at least for 10 years.

Passing the CHIPS Act brings our supply chains home to bring down prices for American families. We passed the Inflation Reduction Act, taking on three of the most powerful special interests in Washington. We took on the big drug companies, Big Pharma, to bring down drug prices. We took on Big Oil to lower energy prices and create jobs, union jobs, in the industries of the future. We took on Wall Street, finally taxing stock buybacks that reward CEOs and executives at the expense—always at the expense—of workers and jobs.

These are big wins for workers—together, the biggest steps we have taken in decades to create an industrial policy that puts our most valuable resource—American workers—first. It counters the business model where corporations hopscotch the globe in search of lower wages and lower wages and lower wages.

From the infrastructure bill, the CHIPS Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, we have laid down a new marker. The technology of the future, from semiconductors to batteries, to electric vehicles, will be developed in America, made in America by American workers.

It hasn't been easy. Our work is far from finished, but I am optimistic. I see more momentum behind the labor movement than at any time in my career. All over the country, more and more workers are seeing that unions are the best way to have a voice, from Starbucks to Amazon. Seventy percent of Americans—I don't ever remember it being that high—70 percent of Americans approve of unions; for sure, the highest level of support in 50 years.

More people than ever want to join a union. They know that carrying a union card means higher wages. It means better benefits. It means better working conditions. It means more control—particularly for young families or families taking care of an aging parent—more control over your schedule.

We know what workers are up against when they organize. Corporations unleash all their power to fight their own workers—too often, illegally. It is why I will never stop fighting to pass the PRO Act to finally level the playing field between workers and corporations in union organizing.

This week, we honor the workers who built this country. We recommit ourselves to the fights ahead because when work has dignity, every American is paid the living wage they have earned. When workers have dignity, all workers can afford childcare and healthcare and housing. When workers have dignity, American workers have retirement security and paid leave and power over their schedules and their lives—

because when you love this country, you fight every day for the people who make it work. That is what the labor movement has done for a century; it is what I will continue to do.

REMEMBERING DAVID KISKA

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ohioan David Kiska, a Korean war vet, a tank commander, and a decorated war hero.

Mr. Kiska served our country by enlisting in the Army and fighting in Korea. He fought bravely in the Battle of Outpost Harry and many other battles—that battle, one of the most devastating of the war. After 8 days, he and his fellow soldiers prevailed, securing a strategic military route despite being significantly outnumbered. The Battle of Outpost Harry is remembered as an outstanding military feat of the Korean war.

When David returned home to Ohio, he worked at the The Shovel Company in Lorain and raised a family. His service to our State and to fellow veterans never ended. He became a director of the Lorain County Veterans Services, where he worked for 20 years as head service officer.

Ohio is blessed in our 88 counties that each of our 88 counties has a veterans service officer. Cuyahoga and Franklin have dozens of people serving. In small counties like Vinton and Noble, there is maybe only one veterans service officer, but they are always there every day to serve veterans.

David wanted to make sure in that job that every veteran received his or her full benefits, regardless of when and where they served their country. He helped with paperwork. He supported veterans through career transitions.

For David, the job never ended there. He took veterans out to lunch, paying out of his own pocket often. He visited sick and injured vets just to keep them company—a friendly face to help through hard times. Every Memorial Day, he volunteered to put American flags on the graves of veterans.

That was how David Kiska lived his life. He fought with bravery; he gave back selflessly. He fought with bravery; he gave back selflessly.

Our thoughts are with his family. We recommit ourselves, as we did with the Heath Robinson PACT Act, to following his example of serving those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Madam President, I know that Senator GRASSLEY will speak in a moment.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF ANIMAL FARM BUTTER

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in my home State of Vermont, where there are more cows than people, the local dairy industry is the bedrock of our communities. From Derby to Pownal, small dairy farms provide honest jobs and produce fine dairy products sought after by Michelin Star restaurants across the country. These farms also provide the beautiful backdrop of green pastures, grazing livestock, and the iconic bright red barns that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to our picture perfect little State every year.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, consolidation within the agriculture industry, falling milk prices, supply chain delays, and the rising costs of equipment and other goods, small dairy farms have been hit hard. These difficulties, both longstanding and recent, continue to lead some lifelong Vermont dairy farmers to move on to other careers or to retirement, where they are often faced with the difficult decision to either sell their business and livestock to large, industrial factory farms, or undertake the difficult journey to find a local farmer who can take on their business and beloved cows.

Today, I would like to highlight a piece of good news from the Vermont small dairy industry, a story of how the retiring founder of the most sought-after small-batch cultured butter operation in the country found a graduate of the University of Vermont's animal science program to continue a famous Vermont tradition. Together, Vermonters Hilary and Ben Haigh, learning from Shoreham's own Diane St. Clair, have continued a boutique butter business—yet another example of Vermont perseverance, and the high-quality products coming Vermont's small family farms, like the Animal Farm Creamery.

I ask unanimous consent that the June 10, 2022, New York Times article titled “America’s Most Luxurious Butter Lives to Churn Another Day” be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, June 10, 2022]

AMERICA’S MOST LUXURIOUS BUTTER LIVES TO CHURN ANOTHER DAY

(By Melissa Clark)

SHOREHAM, VT.—In a wooden barn perched on a grassy hill, some of the most celebrated cows in the dairy business—the bovine royal family of American fancy butter—sampled hay in their new abode.

Diva, the bossiest of the group, hovered regally over the shy, gentle Cinnamon. Lying down were Ruby and Lacy, who were chewing cud over their folded forelegs. Rutabaga, May and Patch ruminated impassively as Dell peed, effusively, in greeting.

A few months earlier, in February, the herd’s former owner, Diane St. Clair, loaded them onto a trailer and drove them seven miles down the road from her Animal Farm

Creamery in Orwell, Vt., to Rolling Bale Farm in Shoreham, a 100-acre organic property nestled into a clearing about an hour south of Burlington.

“That was a hard day,” Ms. St. Clair said. “But there was no way for me to continue.”

Ms. St. Clair had spent the previous 22 years making the most sought-after small-batch cultured butter in the United States. It’s the same butter that the chef Thomas Keller serves at the French Laundry and Per Se—and that retails for an eye-popping \$60 per pound.

But at 65, she was ready to retire. Decades of twice-daily milking, barn mucking and hoisting 70-pound jugs of fresh milk into the butter churn had taken a toll on her back. Her husband, Al Clarisse, a large-animal veterinarian who was her only helper, had developed knee problems. And although her heart still clung to her cherished Jersey cows (her “other family,” as she called them), her creative urges had shifted from butter to a new, more sedentary, but just as aromatic, passion: blending exclusive perfumes.

The question was, would she be able to find the right people to take on her treasured herd and her churn? Or would her extraordinary butter, with its subtle nutty, grassy flavors that changed with the seasons, simply disappear?

For many small dairies in Vermont, retirement can be a heartbreakingly matter of selling off cows and equipment to large agribusinesses and calling it quits. In 1969, Vermont had 4,017 dairy farms, most of them small, family-run operations. By 2020, that number had dropped by 84 percent to 636, with many having consolidated to benefit from economies of scale.

Even at farms where the next generation wants to step up, dairy farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to make a living. A national oversupply of milk, made worse during the pandemic, brought down prices to the point where it may no longer make financial sense to keep going.

All of this has caused the demise of many beloved farms and dairy products, including the prizewinning cheeses from Orb Weaver Creamery, whose owners spent years trying to pass on their dairy to young cheesemakers before finally having to sell off their last cow and close down. This was something Ms. St. Clair intended to prevent: Keeping her business intact and her bovine “other family” together—and far from any industrial mega-farms—was her top priority.

“I wanted my cows to go to a farm that would treat them like I did, with people who would know their names, and who would name their calves,” she said.

Happily, Ms. St. Clair’s story is a rare piece of good news in the world of small dairies. It’s an example of how one single-minded, cow-loving farmer was able to create a market for the kind of handmade cultured butter that had nearly gone extinct in the United States. Then, through a combination of resolve and serendipity, she was able to pass that business to a young family with exactly the right kind of grit, experience and disposition to carry it on. And they happened to live just down the road.

Building a Better Butter

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to pass that business to a young family with exactly the right kind of grit, experience and disposition to carry it on. And they happened to live just down the road.

When Ms. St. Clair started Animal Farm in 1999, she knew she wanted to raise Jersey cows. With them came a seemingly endless river of milk that needed a purpose.

“Everyone else in Vermont was doing cheese,” Ms. St. Clair said, “I saw a niche with butter.” Specifically, the kind of tangy, high-fat, marigold-colored butter she’d eaten in Europe, for which the ultra-creamy milk her Jersey cows produced was perfectly suited. (Most dairy cows in the United States are Holsteins, which yield a larger quantity of milk with a lower fat content.) Back then, no one she knew in the United States was making small batches of European-style butter from their own cows, and there were no guidelines for how to do it. The nearby Vermont Creamery had started making European-style butter a year earlier, in 1998, but from purchased milk, which, like making wine from purchased grapes, puts the agricultural part of the equation out of the producer’s control.

Besides, Ms. St. Clair said, “I was in it for the cows.”

Relying on out-of-print dairy manuals from the 19th century, she eventually figured out that culturing the cream before churning it, a process also called clabbering, vastly improved both the taste and the texture, making the end result thicker and more pliant, and adding a pleasing nuttiness.

Culturing is a standard practice for premium butter in Europe, and it was in the United States as well before the widespread industrialization of the dairy industry shifted to uncultured “sweet” butter, those pale, bland sticks in the supermarket, because it was faster and cheaper to produce at scale. (The intense labor involved in producing small quantities of handmade butter from Ms. St. Clair’s own Jersey cows, along with high demand from luxury restaurants, accounts for the extravagant price tag.)

Once Ms. St. Clair was satisfied with her experiments, she overnighted a sampler 3,000 miles away to a famous chef she’d never met, along with a handwritten letter requesting his feedback. Thomas Keller remembered the moment well.

“Diane sent me five little knobs of misshapen butter in a Ziploc bag,” he said. “I called her immediately and said, ‘How much do you make? We’ll buy it all.’”

Eventually, she built a small dairy near the barn, brought in a few more Jersey cows and, still working mostly by herself and by hand, increased production to 100 pounds of butter per week and the plush, lightly sour buttermilk that was its byproduct.

This was the business she had needed to sell. Ben and Hilary Haigh, both 33, of Rolling Bale Farm turned out to be the ideal buyers.

GREENER PASTURES FOR A CHERISHED HERD

Hilary Haigh has always been “a little obsessed with butter,” she said.

When she was studying animal science at the University of Vermont, her brother gave her a countertop butter churn, which she used for years before switching to a food processor when she and Ben married.

The couple met, coincidentally, at Animal Farm when they were both in college. Ms. Haigh, who grew up on a nearby farm, was cow- and house-sitting for Ms. St. Clair. Mr. Haigh was helping his uncle build the dairy’s roof.

The two started Rolling Bale Farm in 2014, raising pastured beef, chicken and lamb to sell at the local farmers’ market. They also kept a family cow to provide plenty of milk to drink and to feed Ms. Haigh’s churn.

Having a microdairy like Ms. St. Clair's was a dream, Ms. Haigh said, "it just happened sooner than we anticipated."

When she and Mr. Haigh heard that Ms. St. Clair was looking for buyers, they sent her a handwritten letter expressing their interest.

It reminded Ms. St. Clair of the letter she'd sent Mr. Keller all those years ago. "Who sends letters anymore?" Ms. St. Clair said. "It's like it's all come full circle."

After piecing together two loans and a grant to come up with the \$281,000 necessary to buy the business and install a dairy at Rolling Bale Farm, the Haighs took over Animal Farm Creamery in January. (Ms. St. Clair wanted to retire on her farm, so the business and cows were sold, but not her property.)

Now, several times every week, Ms. Haigh makes butter and buttermilk exactly as Ms. St. Clair taught her: by hand, by herself, in a dairy built on the same pasture where the Haighs' herd grazes, but with the addition of her two young sons tumbling underfoot, eating as much butter and cream as they can get their small hands on.

Then, once a week, she ships the butter to the same six accounts that Ms. St. Clair had long supplied: Thomas Keller, the Inn at Little Washington in Virginia, Menton in Boston, Ocean House in Rhode Island, Dedalus Wine Shop and Market in Vermont, and Saxelby Cheesemongers in New York.

So far, Ms. Haigh said, none of the accounts seemed to notice the change of hands. Benoit Breal, an owner of Saxelby Cheesemongers, said the transition had been "100 percent seamless."

"The quality is the same," he said, "it's still the quintessential artisanal butter. There's no one else doing it like that."

For her part, Ms. St. Clair misses her cows. But she's happy to have the time to immerse herself in orris root, ylang-ylang and the other heady tools of perfumery needed for St. Clair Scents.

And Diva, Cinnamon, Dell and the rest of the herd seem to have fully adapted to their new home. "Ben and Hilary love their animals; they're good farmers," Ms. St. Clair said. "Now when I go to visit the cows, they're like, 'Oh, hi, Diane.'"

She paused and added, a little wistfully, "They're doing fine without me."

RECOGNIZING THE GRANITE INDUSTRY IN BARRE, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I have been honored that Vermonters have sent me here to the U.S. Senate to represent them for many years. In turn, I always welcome the opportunity to recognize the commitments, achievements, and successes of Vermonters and the industries found in the Green Mountain State. Today, I want to highlight the granite center of the world—not Italy, China, or Brazil—but Barre, a small town of just over 8,500 year-round residents nestled among the Green Mountains in central Vermont.

It was 350 million years ago when geologic processes created a unique granite formation 10 miles deep, 4 miles long, and 2 miles wide in the heart of present-day Barre. This extraordinary formation is now home to the world's largest deep-hole granite quarry that produces a form of granite called "Barre Gray." Known around the world as the finest quality gray granite on the market, Barre Gray has

been an economic engine and tourist attraction in central Vermont since the first quarry opened in the 19th century. Barre Gray is renowned by fine architects, builders, and sculpture artists in every corner of the world and is just another example of the exports coming from Vermont and extracted by Vermonters.

The granite industry in Barre has brought jobs and economic opportunity to thousands of Vermonters over the years, including many immigrants. Like my grandparents, many people came to Vermont from Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries in search of a better life. Through a combination of hard work, skill, luck, and the geologic processes that created Barre Gray 350 million years ago, many Scottish, Irish, and Italian immigrants were able to build better lives for themselves in Vermont working in the granite industry. Unfortunately, many of the immigrants working in the Barre granite industry also died in high numbers during the 1918 influenza pandemic. As many of the Vermonters we tragically lost to COVID-19 are now laid to rest under Barre Gray granite headstones, so too are many of those who worked the Barre granite quarry over 100 years ago.

Today, the granite quarry and surrounding manufacturing facilities employ more than 1,000 Vermonters who create the vast majority of the granite used in headstones and memorials in the United States. The Rock of Ages visitor center offers tours of the quarry and their 160,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, which in addition to the nearby Vermont Granite Museum, attract more than 100,000 visitors per year. These institutions also serve as important educational experiences for classes of local school children who frequently take field trips to see the geology taught in their textbooks take place in real life.

The granite industry and its history in Barre were profiled in a June 16, 2022, article published in the Washington Post. I ask unanimous consent that the article titled, "In Barre, Vt., granite is a way of life—and beyond," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, June 16, 2022]
IN BARRE, VT., GRANITE IS A WAY OF LIFE—
AND BEYOND

(By Walter Nicklin)

If one's final earthly travel destination is a graveyard, then the penultimate stop might well be Barre, Vt., the self-proclaimed "granite center of the world." Here, in the scenic foothills of the Green Mountains, are the quarries that produce many of America's most sought-after tombstones.

Business is booming. The pandemic's "excess mortality" has meant increased demand for quality granite to be quarried, then crafted into memorials. Moreover, as aging baby boomers realize they won't live forever, they often embrace their own mortality by purchasing "pre-need" memorials.

Even if you don't like the idea of picking your own tombstone, Barre (pronounced

"Barry") is worth a visit. You'll gain an appreciation for what you may have previously taken for granted, or simply preferred not to contemplate—namely, gravestones. You'll learn about their fascinating history, along with the remarkable industry and craft required in creating them. Most fundamentally, you'll be exposed to the geological story behind the sturdy stone that carvers use to immortalize human transience.

Although small (population less than 10,000), Barre is easy to find, just seven miles from the state capital of Montpelier. Signage for Exit 6 on Interstate 89 lets you know this is where the "Granite Quarries" are. You then might drive along Quarry Street or Stone Road on your way to a place called Graniteville. Along the way, you may pass the Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen, spot fence posts made out of granite and catch sight of what otherwise would be unremarkable commercial signs, such as for lawyers' offices, engraved in granite.

Granite, granite, everywhere—highlighting the town's economic *raison d'être* and the stone artistry of its residents. In front of the public library stands a stone statue of Charles Dickens's Mr. Pickwick. Another statue—of the poet Robert Burns, next to the Vermont History Center—was erected by the 19th-century Scottish masons who brought their stonemasonry skills to Barre. On the other side of town is another, equally imposing statue personifying the Italian stonemasons who also brought their skills to Barre.

The European immigrants brought with them a tradition of organized labor, and Barre became the headquarters for the Quarry Workers' International Union of North America. Still standing on Granite Street is the old Socialist Labor Party Hall, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

Rock of Ages—not the hymn but a quarry company with a visitor center of the same name—is perhaps Barre's single biggest tourist draw, typically attracting more than 100,000 visitors annually. In the fall, when the leaves turn colorful, attendance peaks. But in mid-May, on the very first day it opened for the summer season, my wife, Pat, and I were pleased to find not much of a crowd. In fact, ours was one of only three cars in the caravan that Roger, the tour guide, led from the visitor center to the huge Rock of Ages excavation site called the E.L. Smith Quarry. Still, Roger jotted on an index card the number of cars and the number of occupants in each car, so he could be sure that he could account for everyone at tour's end—that no one had fallen and vanished into the massive hole in the ground. Covering about 50 acres and almost 600 feet deep, it lays claim to being the world's largest operating deep-hole quarry for dimension stone. (Crushed stone—gravel—is the product of other quarries.)

Now retired after having worked most of his life in the quarry, Roger knew whereof he spoke. He explained that the granite quarried here—known as "Barre Gray"—is known worldwide for its fine grain, even texture and superior weather resistance. Its unique proportions of quartz and feldspar (granite's main ingredients) make it especially hard while also exceptionally receptive to intricate carving and sculpting.

The granite was formed as intrusive igneous rock approximately 350 million years ago. Called a pluton by geologists, the Barre granite formation is calculated to be four miles long, two miles wide and 10 miles deep. Based on what had been extracted since the Barre quarries began operation in the 19th century, Roger estimated that "it would take 4,500 years to extract all the granite."

Perched on the quarry's edge was a chain-link fence to prevent visitors like us from

falling in. I had seen many quarries over the years, but nothing like this. As if guarding a precious artwork, the fence barrier seemed to make the scene that much more spectacular, even otherworldly. The quarry's sheer sides, where blocks and slabs had been cut away, looked like a huge canvas of abstract art, with oxidized water stains dripping like paint. At the very bottom was a turquoise pool, this seemingly out-of-place color created by granite sediments and crystals in the water when slabs of rock are cut. Framing the scene in the far distance, the distinctive outline of Camel's Hump, Vermont's third-highest peak, punctuates the horizon.

About five miles away is the Vermont Granite Museum, housed in a renovated manufacturing shed that dates from the turn of the last century. Although massive (about 30,000 square feet), it was called a "shed" for its open layout and cathedral-like ceiling. Machinery to cut and move the granite blocks was powered by a dam and turbines on the nearby Stevens Branch of the Winooski River. A railroad spur, leading directly to the shed, could then transport the finished stonework. Today's visitors are transported back in time through hands-on exhibits and collections of rock specimens and old tools, even industrial rollers made of granite.

Nearby Hope Cemetery showcases local granite and the artistry it spawned. Established in 1895, the 65-acre, parklike setting is a splendid example of the 19th-century garden cemetery movement, which favored burials in rural, nonsectarian settings. The coincident, ever-more-popular use of granite for tombstones and memorials created an outdoor museum of sculpture. The once-prevalent sandstone slates and marble headstones proved much less enduring than granite.

I've been called a tombstone tourist for past pilgrimages to the dead-celebrity-populated burial ground Père Lachaise in Paris and Cimitero Acattolico, the Roman cemetery where the poet John Keats's gravestone famously reads, "Here lies One Whose Name was writ in Water." But you don't have to be a melancholic taphophile to appreciate the artistry on display in Hope Cemetery, such as a Pieta-like statue and realistic representations of violins and airplanes. It's the "Uffizi of Necropolises," in the words of Vermont folklorist Joseph A. Citro. All of the monuments are made of Barre Gray, and virtually all have been sculpted by Barre stonemasons—some for their own graves before they died.

For Pat and me, who had lost one old friend to covid-19, a lone granite memorial in Hope Cemetery seemed especially poignant. Erected on the centenary of the 1918 pandemic, it commemorated the many Barre residents who had died of the flu. They had suffered disproportionately because of their existing silicosis (called stonecutters' disease) from inhaling granite dust while working in unventilated sheds.

Our visit to Barre was not all about death and granite, however. The trip easily included the Vermont fare of covered bridges, village greens, white church spires and maple syrup. Indeed, Pat insisted that we experience that quintessential summertime taste of the Green Mountain State: a frosty creemee. "What's that?" I asked. The delicious answer came at the Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks: towering swirls of soft ice cream, especially creamy, served in a cup or cone, accented with a generous portion of maple syrup or straight maple sugar.

As granite is hard and enduring, a creemee is soft and ephemeral—a most harmonious balance.

RECOGNIZING STAFF

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD the names of my staff who worked tirelessly to serve the constituents of Massachusetts and to pass the Inflation Reduction Act. Many of these staffers stayed up late into the night on Saturday, August 5, 2022, and into the next day on Sunday, August 6, 2022, in order to secure the passage of this transformative piece of legislation.

As I told my team in the hours after the bill passed the Senate, we made history today. There are tremendous policy achievements in this legislation: a plan to cut carbon emissions by 40 percent over the next 8 years, capped spending on prescription drugs for seniors and finally—finally—authorizing Medicare to negotiate some drug prices. For the first time in 30 years, we have raised corporate taxes for behemoth corporations. Policy is my love language, but that is because all this wonkiness is ultimately about people—little kids who have fewer asthma attacks and older people who don't have to choose between filling a prescription and having a meal and maybe a breakthrough that means both our democracy and our earth will survive. Making these kinds of changes is exactly why I am here.

To all of you, I offer my deepest thanks. Without you, I couldn't fight the righteous fights. But with you, we have already made big, structural change—and I am convinced there is more to come.

Caroline Ackerman, Branden Alberts, Stephanie Angel, Randy Beltre, Preerna Bhat, Alex Blenkinsopp, Meaghan Body, Jose Danilo Boquin Moran, Tess Byars, Matias Cano, Anthony Chen, Brian Cohen, Kunal Dixit, Jon Donenberg, Gabrielle Elul, Caroline Freedman, Bruno Freitas, Laura Gerrard, Chris Gongora, Daylan Gray, Allyson Huntoon, Maya Jenkins, Daniel Ki, Amielle Kutzen, Carys Lamberg, Catherine Laporte-Oshiro, Dana Larkin, Nikko Mendoza, Diana Nunez Calcano, Beth Pearson, Marielle Rabins, Ruby Robles, Anthony Ruano, Alex Sarabia, Benjamin Schiller, Nyanna Slaughter, Mandy Smithberger, Nikhil Srinivasan, Olivia Teixeira, Astou Thiane, Evan Turnage, Caleb White, Zena Wolf, and Jessica Wong.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 1105, Carrin F. Patman, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iceland.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 812, Douglas T. Hickey, of Idaho, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 785, Randi Charno Levine, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 979, Margaret C. Whitman, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kenya.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 782, George J. Tsunis, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmations of Executive Calendar No. 1069, Carlos Felipe Uriarte, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General; Executive Calendar No. 1070, Carlton W. Reeves, of Mississippi, to be Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission; Executive Calendar No. 1071, Carlton W. Reeves, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2027; Executive Calendar No. 1072, Laura E. Mate, of Iowa, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2027; Executive Calendar No. 1074, Luis Felipe Restrepo, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2025; and Executive Calendar No. 1076, John Gleeson, of New York, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2023.

HONORING PRIVATE JOHN SHAUGHNESSY

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I would like to share a few words today to honor the life and service of Private John Shaughnessy, a first-class Montanan and World War I veteran.

A native son of the Treasure State, John was born and raised in Missoula. His father, John A. Shaughnessy, was one of Missoula's pioneer builders who constructed a portion of the original buildings at Fort Missoula.

Never one to shy away from service or sacrifice, John answered the call to duty at the outbreak of World War I by enlisting in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the 339th Infantry and served in the American North Russia Expeditionary force, more commonly known as the Polar Bear Expedition.

During that expedition, Private Shaughnessy sadly contracted and died

of pneumonia in Archangel, Russia, on September 15, 1918. He was buried in the American cemetery in the town until his body was able to be removed and returned to Missoula in 1929.

While Private Shaughnessy was finally laid to rest in his native land, he never received the proper military headstone he deserved and earned.

It is my honor to say today, 104 years after his passing, Private Shaughnessy will at last receive his long-overdue military headstone in Missoula.

While our debt of gratitude to him can never be fully repaid, this military honor rightly ensures his sacrifices in service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

He is an American hero who has made Montana proud, and our country would not be what it is today without him and others in uniform who put their life on the line in return for our freedoms.

On behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to him and his family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING BURTON “BURT” ALBERT

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Burton “Burt” Albert, a Connecticut native and remarkable man. Sadly, Mr. Albert passed away in 2019, at the age of 86. He will be remembered for his tireless commitment to community service and his deep devotion to his wonderful family.

Born in Waterbury, Burt spent much of his life in Connecticut, attending Cheshire Academy and Amherst College, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts in 1954. A member of the ROTC program, Mr. Albert went on to serve for 2 years as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force. Burt remained proud of his time in the military, and I applaud his strong sense of patriotism and record of military service.

It was also in the Air Force where Mr. Albert met the love of his life, Sylvia Meisel, who would become his wife of 61 years. They would go on to build a wonderful family together, having three children—Eric, Jonathan, and Debbie—and many grandchildren they adored. Mr. Albert was a remarkable family man and cherished time with his loved ones above all else.

Mr. Albert returned to Connecticut to work in his family’s scrap metal recycling business. Burt became the third generation of Alberts to lead Albert Bros. Inc., a company that recently celebrated 125 years of outstanding industry in the State of Connecticut. I have visited Albert Bros. and seen firsthand the amazing new methods for turning waste material into a useful new resource. The company is an integral part of Waterbury commerce.

Under Mr. Albert’s leadership, Albert Bros. grew substantially, and he was respected by employees and customers alike. Amid all his success, working with his sons and grandson in the family business was one of the highlights of Mr. Albert’s professional career.

Mr. Albert devoted much of his time to serving the Waterbury community, bringing his tremendous leadership skills to many organizations including St. Mary’s Hospital, the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, the Harold Leever Cancer Center, and the Connecticut Community Foundation. Mr. Albert was also very active in the United Way of Greater Waterbury and B’nai Israel Synagogue. In these endeavors, Burt generously gave so much of his time and resources to helping others.

Burton Albert leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service—to our country, the State of Connecticut, and his community. But he will be remembered most by his loving family as an extraordinary husband, father, and grandfather. Burt’s sense of humor, passion for learning, and conviction in his beliefs are models for all of us. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Burton Albert. •

REMEMBERING JUDGE GREG RAY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sevier County Judge Greg Ray, who passed away on August 30, 2022, at the age of 61.

Judge Ray was a beloved member of his community and a fearless advocate for his constituents about whom he cared deeply. Those who had the chance to work with him remember his sense of humor, determination, and kindness.

Since 2010, Judge Ray served as a county leader and was intimately involved in a number of county and State organizations, including the County Judges Association of Arkansas—CJAA—where he served as first vice president and developed close relationships with county judges across the State. CJAA Chief Legal Counsel Mark Whitmore reflected that Judge Ray “was a dear friend, full of life and always had a big smile and happy disposition. He was a pillar of the CJAA and a leader in his community.”

Judge Ray was an instrumental figure in establishing the new Sevier County Medical Center, which is set to open at the end of this year. At the ground-breaking ceremony, he praised the residents of Sevier County for the high voter turnout in support of the new medical facility. “The citizens didn’t just show up. They showed out,” he said.

Thanks to his leadership and advocacy, the new hospital will bring much needed assistance to the people of rural southwest Arkansas, a legacy his loved ones and the citizens he served will be proud to reflect and carry on for years to come.

Outside of his role as county judge, he enjoyed fishing and served as a key organizer for the Sevier County Chamber of Commerce’s annual Tri-Lakes Big Bass Festival. He also hosted the annual Senior Citizens Day celebration on the Sevier County Courthouse Square.

I join Judge Greg Ray’s family, friends, and all Arkansans in mourning his passing. He set a worthy example for his hard-working staff and county judges across the State to emulate, and the people of Arkansas are grateful for his dedication to better our lives and communities. •

TRIBUTE TO J. DAVID BAILEY

• Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a West Virginian who triumphantly fought for our country during World War II. J. David Bailey, who was recently awarded the highest French recognition—the Legion of Honor—is one of the oldest surviving veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. His story is an extraordinary example of the American philosophy to fight for freedom around the world.

David was born in Bluefield, WV, on January 3, 1922. At the age of 21, he, like 16 million other Americans, answered the call to fight against tyranny. He became a dedicated member of the battalion of the U.S. Army’s 422nd Regiment, 106th Infantry Division.

On December 16, 1944, at the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, the bloodiest and largest battle of World War II, David and his entire battalion were imprisoned by German troops east of St. Vith, Belgium. Ultimately, he escaped imprisonment to rejoin his fellow soldiers and went on to serve in other campaigns, including northern France and the Army of Occupation. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on November 24, 1945.

In recognition of his honorable service to our country, David has received the Combat Infantry Badge, two Bronze Stars, four Battle Stars, and four service ribbons, as well as the Order of St. Maurice Medallion from the National Infantry Association. He also appeared on the cover of a victory edition of the military publication “Stars and Stripes.”

David has also been a key figure in preserving the history of World War II throughout the years. At one point, he served as the national president of the Battle of the Bulge Association. On January 25, 2022, at the age of 100, David was one of several veterans to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the end of the Battle of the Bulge. He also attended the opening ceremonies of the World War II Memorial, the 70th anniversary of V-E Day in 2015, and he was also the personal guest of President Barack Obama at the White House for the Veterans Day ceremony in 2011.

J. David Bailey's life has been dedicated to the service of our country, and the impact that he has had will be remembered for years to come. I am proud to call him a fellow West Virginian.●

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN PORTARO

• Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to honor decorated West Virginian Benjamin Portaro. Mr. Portaro recently received the French Legion of Honor for his service in France during World War II.

Born in a small village in Italy, Mr. Portaro's family immigrated to the United States searching for the American dream. Mr. Portaro's father, Pete, found work in the coal mines in Anmoore, WV, where the family would settle down. The Portaros prospered in Anmoore, where young Ben began school and helped his parents learn English.

As a young man, Benjamin Portaro began work as a construction contractor, working for a local carbon plant in Anmoore. In 1943 Mr. Portaro entered the Army and was sent to Europe where he would fight on the frontlines in France. Promoted to staff sergeant under General George Patton, Mr. Portaro was sent to the Battle of the Bulge.

It was during the Germans' last major offensive that Mr. Portaro was wounded and captured by the Nazis. Taken as a prisoner of war, Mr. Portaro was forced to march for miles in the dead of the winter, as many of his fellow prisoners starved to death. Months later, Mr. Portaro and another prisoner decided their best chance at survival would be trying to escape. After dark, they hid in ditches until they could run away from their captors. After 3 days, Portaro and his friend were rescued by the American Army. At this point, Mr. Portaro weighed a mere 100 pounds. After being rescued, Benjamin was transported to a hospital for treatment and eventually made it back home to Anmoore, where he would spend his life working for and with veterans and prisoners of war.

Mr. Portaro has received many medals for his service, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Prisoners of War medal, WWII Honorable Discharge, American Campaign, Yankee Division badge, WWII Victory Medal, European Campaign, Army Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and Staff Sergeant Badge.

Mr. Portaro and his wife Claire had 7 children, 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. After 69 happy years, Claire passed away in 2011. Ben continues to live in West Virginia and is an inspiring voice and story to all.

Mr. Portaro's story is one of sacrifice, hope, and courage. He is a proud West Virginian and a great representative of our State. I am proud to represent Mr. Portaro and thrilled that, after so many years, he still calls West Virginia home.●

RECOGNIZING THE IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO AWARDS

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I honor the Idaho Hometown Hero Awards for highlighting the spirit of philanthropy in communities across our great State of Idaho. The award pays tribute to commitment to improving communities across Idaho, while continuing to preserve and promote the richness of our State and create a better world for all of us in the future.

Doctors Fahim and Naeem Rahim, of Pocatello, ID, established the Idaho Hometown Hero medal in 2011 to spotlight Idahoans who are extraordinarily dedicated to hard work, self-improvement, and community service. The Hometown Hero Award's mission statement focuses on recognizing those who:

“Exemplify a life dedicated to the Idaho way of hard work, self-improvement, and community service.

Embody the spirit of philanthropy while showing remarkable commitment in both their personal and professional lives to improving communities across the State of Idaho.

Preserve, celebrate, and promote the richness of history, tradition, and values of our great state while working to create a better world for all of us in the future by the work they do today.

Share gifts with the community to boost recognition of the great State of Idaho.”

The Hometown Hero Medal highlights that Idaho is an incredible place, but it is the people of Idaho who make it a great State. I could not agree more. Thank you to the Rahims, the award's committee members, the volunteers, and other organizations for drawing attention to good works in our communities.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB FEE

• Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize my good friend Mr. Bob Fee as he nears the end of his term as the 116th chairman of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America—IIABA—also known as the Big “I.” He was installed as chairman of the Big “I” in September 2021 in Kansas City. Over the past year, he has done a remarkable job leading the association as a strong and thoughtful leader for independent insurance agents and small businesses across the country.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Kansas and the USF&G School of Insurance in Baltimore, MD. He is currently the president of Fee Insurance Group in Hutchinson, KS. He joined his family's agency in 1987, continuing a long family tradition of serving the community. The Fee Insurance Group can trace its roots back to 1883 in its hometown of Hutchinson and now has four locations throughout the State.

At the national association level, Bob has been a member of the Big “I” government affairs committee and the Trusted Choice board of directors, including a term as the Trusted Choice board chairman. He received the Big

“I” Chairman's Citation in 2011. At the State association level, Bob served on the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents—KAIA—board of directors and as the Kansas director on the national association board. He has also served on several KAIA committees, including the government affairs committee, and was the 2007–2008 KAIA president.

As chairman of the Big “I,” Bob has represented his country, his industry, and the great State of Kansas with distinction.

The State of Kansas is proud of Bob Fee and wishes him and his wife Annie well following his successful term as chairman of the Big “I.”●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-188. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois urging the United States Congress to protect, strengthen, and improve the child nutrition programs through a Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act that builds on the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 to ensure that low-income children continue to have access to nutritious meals through the year; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 615

Whereas, Regular access to healthy and affordable meals has been proven to be one of the strongest means of improved school performance, improved health, and sound childhood development; and

Whereas, According to 2020 census data, Black households reported food insecurity rates that were more than twice as high as white households; and

Whereas, Research shows that childhood hunger and food insecurity have a range of negative impacts on the health, academic performance, and overall well-being of children; and

Whereas, Research suggests that older Black students may be more likely to skip meals during the week than white students; and

Whereas, School nutrition programs offer the opportunity to provide healthy food and improve dietary quality for students who may otherwise not eat; and

Whereas, School meals can also have a positive impact on grades, absences, and tardiness among students; and

Whereas, Students from Black families are more likely to receive free or reduced-price

lunches during the school year, and research shows students who receive these meals during the school year are more likely to face food insufficiency in the summer; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic led to a dramatic spike in the rate of children experiencing hunger and food insecurity, peaking at 18% of families with children reporting their household did not have enough to eat in December 2020 according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and also created challenges to safely accessing child nutrition programs; and

Whereas, Substantial racial and ethnic disparities in food insecurity exist among parents of school-age children, and Black families experienced significant hardship as a result of the pandemic; and

Whereas, Approximately four in 10 families with parents who are Black (40.8%) reported food insecurity in the prior 30 days, almost triple the rate of families with white parents (15.1%); and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an ongoing increase in the scope and scale of children experiencing hunger and food insecurity, with the most recent estimates from Feeding America showing that 13 million may face hunger in 2021 compared with the all-time low of 11 million in 2019, according to USDA; and

Whereas, Non-congregate meal delivery options were especially critical in distributing meals to children in rural and hard to reach communities or where transportation challenges make it difficult for programs to distribute meals at a localized site; and

Whereas, Child nutrition programs are the front line of defense against childhood hunger and food insecurity, promoting healthy eating and providing healthy, nutritious food for the nation's children through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC), Pandemic-EBT, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and

Whereas, The SEBTC Program reaches children who most need additional food support over summer and school breaks and is proven to reduce food insecurity among children; and

Whereas, P-EBT, a temporary program providing a grocery benefit to children who have lost access to free and reduced priced meals at school due to COVID-19, has been highly effective at reducing food insecurity; and

Whereas, The CEP program promotes equity and reduces stigma for families and has been proven to reduce hunger and improve student outcomes; and

Whereas, A proven barrier to continued participation in the WIC Program is unavailability of remote appointments, short certification periods, and lack of flexibility in food purchasing, ordering, and delivery; and

Whereas, Millions of children benefit from these programs, including the 21.5 million low-income children who participated in the school lunch program and the 12.4 million who participated in the school breakfast program in the 2018-2019 school year, as well as the 6.3 million mothers and children who received food and nutrition education through WIC and 2.8 million children who ate summer meals in 2019; and

Whereas, The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 has improved the nutritional standards for school nutrition programs, and as a result, kids have access to increased fruits, vegetables, and whole grains but less sugars, fats, and sodium; Congress has the opportunity to ensure that children continue to have access to nutritious and quality meals to help prevent childhood hunger and obesity; and

Whereas, Congress has an opportunity to improve and strengthen access to nutrition through the 2021 Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) bill by making permanent the COVID-19 waiver flexibilities that help to better reach children and by including provisions that would increase access and reach more kids through streamlining, reducing administrative burdens, and providing program flexibility, giving them the access to quality meals that they have during the school year; and

Whereas, An adequately funded and evidence-based reauthorization bill can reduce childhood hunger and food insecurity in America, help reduce childhood obesity, improve child nutrition and health, and enhance healthy child development and school readiness, allowing children to reach their full potential; and

Whereas, Congress has a unique opportunity in the upcoming reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act to improve and promote equitable access and nutrition for millions of children, particularly low-income children; Therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly of the State of Illinois. That we urge Congress to protect, strengthen, and improve the child nutrition programs through a Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act that builds on the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 to ensure that low-income children continue to have access to nutritious meals throughout the year; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Congress to streamline and simplify provisions governing the summer meals program in order to reduce administrative burdens, bureaucracies, and duplications in program administration and operation during the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Congress to allow for more flexibility around where children are able to access and eat summer meals, by allowing for non-congregate models in communities where summer meals sites are not available and by lowering the threshold required to operate sites open to all children; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Congress to permanently authorize the operation of the SEBTC program, make program funding mandatory, and expand the reach of the program to kids eligible for free or reduced-price school meals in all states, tribal nations, and localities in order to close the summer meals gap; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Congress to permanently authorize the PEET system beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing authorities to quickly deliver increased nutritional aid during times of crisis; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Congress to expand the well-documented benefits of CEP, which allows schools to serve meals at no charge to all students if enough are identified as qualifying for other assistance programs, by lowering the minimum identified student percentage (ISP), by increasing the ISP multiplier, by expanding direct certification with Medicaid data nationwide, and by supporting the improvement of direct certification systems; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Congress to increase the flexibility of WIC appointments through increased access to remote appointments and extended certification periods as well as to support equitable access to the WIC food package through modernization efforts that increase access to online ordering, online purchasing, and delivery; and be it further

Resolved, That we support the enactment of a Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act that ensures low-income children's improved and equitable access to and participa-

tion in the child nutrition programs and includes the policy goals stated above; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, and other federal and state government officials and agencies as appropriate.

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POM-189. A resolution from the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico requesting the government of the United States to grant a partial exemption from the application of the Coastwise Laws to the maritime transportation of crude oil and petroleum products between the United States and Puerto Rico for the duration of the armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia and the collateral effects thereof; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 718

The implementation of the so-called Coastwise Laws in Puerto Rico began with the approval of the Organic Act of 1900, known as the Foraker Act. The Jones Act was subsequently approved in 1917 which, among other things, maintained the effectiveness of the coastwise laws until the present day. The Jones Act was enacted at a historical juncture which posed certain challenges to the United States of America that are no longer a concern. As a result, maritime transportation from U.S. ports to the Island may only be provided by U.S.-built, -owned and -crewed vessels. Thus, the U.S. Congress enacted legislation providing that, in order to move goods between the United States of America and Puerto Rico, vessels should not only be built in the United States but must also be owned and operated by U.S. citizens. This federal legislation also applies to Guam and the states of Alaska and Hawaii. The territory of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, however, are exempt from the Jones Act.

With regard to maritime transportation, on March 14, 2013, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, commonly known as GAO, issued a report stating that the Jones Act may result in higher freight rates, particularly for certain goods, than would be the case if service by foreign carriers were allowed. Likewise, the conclusions of the report state that the original goal of the Act remains important to military preparedness and to the shipbuilding and maritime industries, but understanding the full extent and distribution of the costs that underlie these benefits is elusive.

It is a well-known fact that Puerto Rico is facing difficult economic challenges that have worsened with the passage of hurricanes Irma and Maria, the earthquakes of January 2020, inflation, the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, and more recently, the cost of fuel, factors that are out of the government and the consumer's control. That is, the rising oil prices coupled with the effects of inflation and the emergencies have steadily increased the prices of food, transportation, and electricity, thus adversely affecting consumer and business spending.

In addition to global security concerns, the war between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in a shortage of consumer goods and pushed oil prices above \$125 per barrel, after having remained steady between \$80.00 and \$90.00 for a considerable time. Should this war continue and no agreement be reached, it might lead to a crude oil shortage in Europe, which would have repercussions on the global market, such as even higher prices. There is concern due to the fact that there is no indication as to whether the price of

crude oil, goods, and transportation shall stabilize any time soon. On the contrary, projections show that rising costs and instability shall persist.

In spite of our efforts to transform electric power generation in Puerto Rico, our system still relies primarily on crude oil and petroleum products. Likewise, most individual, mass transit, and freight motor vehicles on the Island run on gasoline or diesel. Therefore, granting Puerto Rico a partial exemption from the Jones Act is necessary to prevent future electricity rate increases, mitigate the rising costs of gasoline, diesel, transportation, as well as the potential shortage of crude oil in Europe.

For all of the foregoing, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico deems it necessary to take action in order to mitigate the multiplier effect that crude oil price fluctuations are having on the economy, by requesting the President of the United States of America and his government to approve a partial exemption from the application of the Coastwise Laws to the maritime transportation of crude oil and petroleum products between the United States of America and Puerto Rico for the duration of the armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia as well as the collateral thereof.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—The President of the United States of America is hereby requested to grant a partial exemption from the application of Coastwise Laws to the maritime transportation of crude oil and petroleum products between the United States of America and Puerto Rico for the duration of the armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia and the collateral effects thereof. The foregoing for the purpose of addressing the demand for land transportation and energy generation on the Island, as well as to mitigate what would otherwise be higher crude oil prices given the volatility of the international market.

Section 2.—A copy of this Resolution, translated into the English language, shall be delivered to the President of the United States of America; the Department of Homeland Security; the leadership of the United States Congress; and the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington, D.C.

Section 3.—This Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

POM-190. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan opposing the designation of additional national wilderness areas in Michigan's Upper Peninsula; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 150

Whereas, the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), established under the Wilderness Act of 1964, is made up of more than 800 national wilderness areas, which are defined as "areas of undeveloped Federal land retaining their primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation." National wilderness areas must be formally designated by Congress, and are subject to specific management restrictions which generally aim to preserve them in their natural condition; and

Whereas, Sixteen national wilderness areas have already been designated in Michigan, including the Beaver Basin; Big Island Lake; Delirium, Horeseshoe Bay; Huron Islands; Isle Royale; Mackinac; McCormick; Michigan Islands; Nordhouse Dunes, Rock River Canyon; Round Island; Seney; Sleeping Bear Dunes; Sturgeon River Gorge; and Sylvania wildernesses. These areas cover more than 294,000 acres of land throughout the state; and

Whereas, There is an effort underway to ask Congress to designate four more national wilderness areas in the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP), including the Ehlico area; Trap Hills; Norwich Plains; and the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Addition. Together, these areas would add over 65,000 acres to the NWPS in Michigan; and

Whereas, In the Record of Decision for the 2006 Ottawa National Forest Management Plan, the areas proposed for wilderness designation were determined by the National Forest Service to lack wilderness characteristics. In their decision, the Regional Forester reported that the area had "no features or conditions that warrant a recommendation for wilderness study" and has "low to moderate wilderness potential"; and

Whereas, There is little evidence that designating additional wilderness areas would result in improving the ecological health of the Ottawa National Forest. Once wilderness restrictions go into effect, opportunities to practice scientifically proven silvicultural treatments, such as selective thinning, harvesting, and planting; prescribed burning; and invasive species management, are limited. These practices have been crucial in helping to restore these areas to the quality they are today; and

Whereas, Potential economic development would be limited by wilderness designation. Local communities currently benefit from economic returns related to timber harvests and tourism in the Ottawa National Forest. In 2016, the National Forest Service reported that the Ottawa National Forest supported an estimated 960 jobs, which resulted in more than \$39.3 million of direct income to local communities; and

Whereas, Recreational users currently enjoy a wide range of activities in the Ottawa National Forest, such as hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing, camping, motorized trail activities, and boating. Wilderness designation would significantly limit recreational access to these areas by prohibiting motorized equipment and mechanical transport. Additionally, enforcing such restrictions would increase the burden on entities charged with managing those lands; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we oppose the designation of additional national wilderness areas in Michigan's Upper Peninsula; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-191. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam expressing support for the passage of H.R. 6504, the "Native Pacific Islanders of America Equity Act," because it seeks to allow eligible Native CHamoru and Native Northern Marianas organizations to qualify for federal contracting opportunities through their participation in certain small business programs that are administered by the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

RESOLUTION NO. 260-36

Whereas, I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the U.S. Congress stated in the Small Business Act at 15 U.S.C. §631(f) that "the opportunity for full participation in our free enterprise system by socially and economically disadvantaged persons is essential if we are to obtain social and economic equality for such persons and improve the functioning of our national economy; that many such persons are socially disadvantaged because of

their identification as members of certain groups that have suffered the effects of discriminatory practices or similar invidious circumstances over which they have no control; that such groups include, but are not limited to, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Indian tribes, Asian Pacific Americans, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and other minorities; that it is in the national interest to expeditiously ameliorate the conditions of socially and economically disadvantaged groups; that such conditions can be improved by providing the maximum practicable opportunity for the development of small business concerns owned by 1 members of socially and economically disadvantaged groups; that such development can be materially advanced through the procurement by the United States of articles, equipment, supplies, services, materials, and construction work from such concerns; and that such procurements also benefit the United States by encouraging the expansion of suppliers for such procurements, thereby encouraging competition among such suppliers and promoting economy in such procurements"; and

Whereas, the Small Business Act also states in 15 U.S.C. §637 that "socially disadvantaged individuals are those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities"; and "economically disadvantaged individuals are those socially disadvantaged individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities as compared to others in the same business area who are not socially disadvantaged"; and

Whereas, the 8(a) Business Development Program administered by the Small Business Administration, commonly known as the 8(a) Program, is designed to assist small minority-owned businesses compete in the wider American economy. The 8(a) Program provides training, technical assistance, and contracting opportunities. One of the program's major benefits is that 8(a) firms can receive federal contracting preferences in the form of set-aside and sole-source awards. A set-aside award is a contract in which only certain contractors may compete, whereas a sole-source award is a contract awarded, or proposed for award, without competition. The 8(a) Program is limited to eligible businesses unconditionally owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged groups; and

Whereas, the 8(a) Program was originally established for the benefit of disadvantaged individuals; however, in the 1980s, Congress expanded the program to include small businesses owned by four (4) disadvantaged groups, specifically Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs), also known as group-owned 8(a) firms; and

Whereas, on January 25, 2022, the Native Pacific Islanders of America Equity Act was introduced in the 117th U.S. House of Representatives by Guam Congressman Michael San Nicolas and co-sponsored by Congressman Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan as H.R. 6504. The Native Pacific Islanders of America Equity Act seeks to allow eligible Native CHamoru and Native Northern Marianas organizations to qualify for federal contracting opportunities through their participation in certain small business programs that are administered by the Small Business Administration; and

Whereas, the term 'Native CHamoru' in H.R. 6504 means an individual who can document that one (1) or more of the individual's

direct ancestors resided on Guam before August 1, 1950. No residency or blood quantum shall be required for an individual to qualify as a 'Native CHamoru' under paragraph (1) of the bill; and

Whereas, I Liheslaturan Guáhan finds the definition of Native CHamoru in H.R. 6504 is tied to 1950 and does not describe the native inhabitants of Guam prior to the 1521 contact with outsiders, prior to the over three hundred (300)-year occupation by the Spanish, prior to the Treaty of Paris, prior to the U.S. Naval rule, prior to the World War II occupation of Guam by the Japanese, or prior to the 1950 conveyance by the United States Congress of citizenship on the residents of Guam; but I Liheslatura further finds for purposes of this particular small business program that this definition will adequately address the disparity and significantly help to remedy the needs of Native CHamoru businesses of Guam as was the goal of the Section 8(a) programs; and

Whereas, the Native Pacific Islanders of America Equity Act would establish under the Office of the Governor a "CHamoru Registry Program, which shall keep a database to serve as a genealogy bank to verify Native CHamoru ancestry requirements. The Governor of Guam shall include in the database the name of any individual who submits to the Governor of Guam a request to be included and a copy of the birth certificate of that individual and birth certificates of direct ancestors that demonstrate that one or more of the individual's direct ancestors resided on Guam before August 1, 1950.;" and

Whereas, I Maga'hágan Guahan may request for an appropriation if necessary from I Liheslaturan Guáhan to cover any implementation and operating costs; and

Whereas, H.R. 6504 would also amend the Small Business Act to include Native CHamoru organizations and Native Northern Marianas organizations as eligible disadvantaged groups under the 8(a) Program. In H.R. 6504, the term 'Native CHamoru Organization' is defined to mean any organization that is a nonprofit corporation that has filed articles of incorporation with the director (or the designee thereof) of the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation, or any successor agency; that is controlled by Native CHamorus (as defined in section 4 of the Organic Act of Guam); and whose business activities will principally benefit Native CHamorus. The term 'Native Northern Marianas Organization' in H.R. 6504 means any organization that is a nonprofit corporation that has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary (or the designee thereof) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Commerce, or any successor agency; that is controlled by persons of Northern Marianas descent (as defined in Section 4 of Article 12 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands); and whose business activities will principally benefit persons of Northern Marianas descent; and

Whereas, I Liheslaturan Guáhan finds that passage of H.R. 6504 would benefit eligible Native CHamoru-owned businesses who compete for billions of dollars in federal contracts by providing training, technical assistance and contracting opportunities. In FY 2020, 8(a) firms were awarded \$34 Billion Dollars in federal contracts, including \$9.3 Billion Dollars in 8(a) set-aside awards, \$11.1 Billion Dollars in 8(a) sole-source awards, \$2.2 Billion Dollars to an 8(a) firm in open competition with other firms, and \$11.3 Billion Dollars with another small business preference (e.g., set asides and sole-source awards for small businesses generally and for HUBZone firms, women-owned small businesses, and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses); and

Whereas, I Liheslaturan Guáhan further finds that the passage of H.R. 6504, the Native Pacific Islanders of America Equity Act, shall not absolve or relieve the United States of any liability for land takings or waive the historic demand of the people of Guam for return or restoration of the land, nor does it negate the rights of the people of Guam to self-determination; Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guáhan does hereby, on behalf of I Liheslaturan Guáhan and the people of Guam, respectfully request that the Congress of the United States include Native CHamoru-owned businesses in its small business programs targeting socially and economically disadvantaged groups; and be it further

Resolved, That I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guáhan does hereby, on behalf of I Liheslaturan Guáhan and the people of Guam, express its support for the passage of H.R. 6504, the "Native Pacific Islanders of America Equity Act," because it seeks to allow eligible Native CHamoru and Native Northern Marianas organizations to qualify for federal contracting opportunities through their participation in certain small business programs that are administered by the Small Business Administration; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States; to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Representative and Vice Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez, Chairwoman of the Committee on Small Business, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam Delegate, U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, I Maga'hágan Guáhan.

POM-192. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho opposing the removal or breaching of the dams on the Columbia-Snake River System and its tributaries; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 103

Whereas, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the Columbia-Snake River System as part of the United States Marine Highway network; and

Whereas, the Columbia-Snake River System and its tributaries, collectively and in its entirety, are a multiuse system providing navigation, transportation, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, hydropower generation, flood control, and irrigation to the citizens and industry of the Pacific Northwest; and

Whereas, the Columbia-Snake River System and its tributaries provide a vital contribution to the well-being of the State of Idaho and to the quality of life of its citizens, being among the most operationally important and cost-effective projects in the Federal Columbia River Power System; and

Whereas, a balanced river system produces economic benefits like jobs, trade, and renewable electricity while caring for environmental values through good management practices and reinvestment in our natural resources; and

Whereas, no amount of money can replace the lifestyle and economies of the commu-

nities that depend upon the Columbia-Snake River System's hydropower, navigation, irrigation, flood risk management, recreation, and municipal and industrial water supply benefits; and

Whereas, the State of Idaho reasserts and confirms sovereign control over all water resources within the state; and

Whereas, the decline of anadromous fish is due to many factors, including increased predation, unfavorable ocean conditions, and harvest levels; and

Whereas, breaching the four lower Snake River dams is an idealistic, single variable model to Pacific salmon recovery that flies in the face of reality for salmon, is illogical from an environmental perspective, hurts industry and communities, puts politics over science and local jobs, and may neither restore Idaho salmon nor prevent their extinction; and

Whereas, only four of the thirteen Endangered Species Act-listed salmon runs swim past the lower Snake River dams, and they do so with over 95% survival at each of the dams; and

Whereas, breaching the four lower Snake River dams would be a drastic measure that would forever alter our way of life in the Pacific Northwest; and

Whereas, breaching the lower Snake River dams is an outdated argument that is not supported by current dam passage survival studies of juvenile Pacific salmon; and

Whereas, in 2008, 2014, and 2020 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration produced biological opinions that stated breaching the four lower Snake River dams was not necessary action for salmon recovery; and

Whereas, the governor of Idaho commissioned the Governor's Salmon Workgroup, a diverse group of stakeholders that worked for 18 months to study the issue of salmon recovery, representing for the first time broad interests working collaboratively to help shape the state's salmon and steelhead policy; and

Whereas, that workgroup developed many practical recommendations to address the issue of improved river systems and habitat conditions for healthy salmon populations, specifically excluding any recommendations for removing dams; and

Whereas, due to the efforts of the state, the Nez Perce Tribe, and Idaho water users in entering into the 2004 Snake River Water Rights Agreement, up to 487,000 acre-feet of Idaho's water is used for flow augmentation for salmon and steelhead in the lower Snake and Columbia rivers, with water being released through willing-buyer, willing-seller arrangements. In return for flow augmentation, the 2004 agreement provides protections to Idaho water users in the form of a 30-year biological opinion; and

Whereas, agricultural and industrial applications of water have a legal priority within the state; and

Whereas, the Port of Lewiston, Idaho's only seaport, is part of the collective Columbia-Snake River System and is an asset to the State of Idaho and an asset to the Inland Northwest region, providing global competitiveness and connectivity for regional products, economic development investment, and multimodal transportation; and

Whereas, the State of Idaho supports the Port of Lewiston activities and believes that reservoir drawdowns or removal of the dams on the lower Snake and Columbia rivers would inflict on the citizenry a loss of recreation, an increase in electric rates, a loss of navigation, a risk of floods, economic hardship, and an impaired quality of life; and

Whereas, cruise boat traffic to the Port of Lewiston has steadily increased over the last 10 years and is projected to increase from

19,000 passengers in 2019 to over 33,000 passengers in 2022, a growth of 76%, bringing much financial growth to the entire Snake River area; and

Whereas, the Columbia-Snake River System acts as a top wheat export gateway in the United States, with approximately 10% of all United States wheat exports barged through the four dams on the Snake River and about 50% of all Idaho-grown wheat barged from Lewiston to Portland and then onto export markets around the world; and

Whereas, barging on the Columbia and Snake rivers is the safest, most fuel-efficient means of transporting cargoes in the Northwest, being 40% more fuel-efficient than freight trains and 270% more fuel-efficient than semitrucks; and

Whereas, without the ability to barge goods down the river, diesel fuel consumption would increase by nearly 5 million gallons per year as barges would be replaced by less efficient truck-to-rail shipments, resulting in increases in carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions by over 1.2 million tons per year; and

Whereas, the Columbia-Snake River System is also highly valued on the west coast for forest product exports and mineral exports, is second in the nation for soy exports, and is a major gateway for auto imports and exports. Each year, around 250,000 tons of wood chips are barged from the Lower Granite Pool to be turned into pulp for paper production at mills on the lower Columbia River; and

Whereas, hydroelectric power is one of the best energy sources we have, with clean, reliable, renewable baseload generation that is more valuable than ever as the four lower Snake River dams produce thousands of megawatts of low-cost, affordable electricity, which is renewable energy that provides power to 22 rural Idaho utilities serving tens of thousands of Idahoans, numerous Idaho cities, farmers, and industries, while acting as a battery to integrate other intermittent renewable energy resources on the system; and

Whereas, the Idaho Legislature believes that any actions to degrade the functionality, in whole or in part, or to remove or breach dams on the Columbia-Snake River System or its tributaries, or to take water from the state for anadromous fish enhancement efforts would inflict on the citizenry of the state a loss in economic and trade opportunities, a loss of recharge waters for the state's aquifers, a loss of navigation and transportation, an increased risk of floods, an increase in electrical rates, a shortfall in power generation, a loss of recreational opportunities, and a threatened quality of life for Idaho citizens; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that Idaho opposes the removal or breaching of the dams on the Columbia-Snake River System and its tributaries, has sovereignty of its water resources, prohibits contributions of water from Idaho's reservoirs for flow augmentation except those expressly authorized by state law, contends that efforts for further recovery of anadromous fish must be based on sound science, and supports maintenance and multiple-use benefits of the Columbia-Snake River System. Additionally, the Idaho Legislature recognizes and supports the international competitiveness, multimodal transportation, and economic development benefits provided by the Port of Lewiston; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the

President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress and to the congressional delegations representing the states of Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon in the Congress of the United States. —

POM-193. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the reporting requirements in the Biden Administration's tax increase proposal for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2004

Whereas, the Biden administration's tax increase proposal for fiscal year 2022 includes a number of provisions that would place undue burdens on banks, small businesses and law-abiding American citizens; and

Whereas, the proposal seeks to increase tax enforcement measures by requiring peer-to-peer payment transaction apps as well as banks and other financial institutions to annually report aggregated data on all account inflows and outflows of \$600 or more to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the reports would also disclose whether transactions involved physical cash, foreign accounts or transfers between accounts with the same owner. These requirements would result in serious issues regarding privacy, compliance costs and negative impacts on low-income communities; and

Whereas, the proposal's low \$600 threshold for reporting would ensnare most active bank accounts, including those owned by individuals and small businesses. As a result, the financial data of the majority of bank accounts would be sent to the IRS, which experiences more than one bill on cyberattacks each year. In addition, a June 2021 ProPublica article revealed a massive leak of tax return data from the IRS, demonstrating that the agency is unable or unwilling to protect taxpayer information. Considering its many vulnerabilities in cybersecurity, the IRS should not be trusted with more private information; and

Whereas, by holding financial institutions responsible for data collection and reporting, the proposal would force banks to increase spending on additional staffing, technology and other resources. These costs could then be passed on to the depositors, thereby burdening tax-compliant citizens and businesses; and

Whereas, people from both political parties have expressed concern about the Biden administration's tax increase proposal. A group of 141 House Republicans explained their position in a letter to their Democratic colleagues, and House Democrats omitted the bank reporting requirements in their September 2021 list of tax policy changes due to the potential harm it may cause to low-income communities; and

Whereas, the Biden administration's tax increase proposal fails to consider cybersecurity risks and unjust burdens on lawful individuals, and the United States Congress should oppose this unprecedented intrusion into the privacy of Americans.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the burdensome reporting requirements included in the Biden administration's tax increase proposal for fiscal year 2022.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona. —

POM-194. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the

United States Congress to permanently extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 with commensurate spending cuts to avoid increasing the federal tax burden; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

Whereas, Prior to government-mandated economic shutdowns during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) spurred steady economic expansion and allowed the spirit of entrepreneurship to flourish, while creating new jobs and opportunities for tens of millions of Americans. The act resulted in a \$1.5 trillion net tax cut, and was followed by historically low unemployment rates, an increase in business investment, and a \$6,000 increase in real median household income over the next two years. This includes scores of raises and bonuses for workers immediately after the law was adopted; and

Whereas, the TCJA reduced federal tax rates for households across every income level, and this relief resulted in a tax cut of more than \$1,500 for the average middle-income earner. The act had many provisions to reduce the individual income taxes including reductions in personal income tax rates, nearly doubling the standard deduction, and substantially reducing the hated Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT); and

Whereas, the TCJA set an annual cap of \$10,000 on the state and local tax (SALT) deduction, broadening the tax base at the federal level and in many states. This caused state level budget surpluses and lead to many states offering substantial tax relief; and

Whereas, Prior to the TCJA, the top corporate income tax rate in the United States was thirty-five percent, the highest among all nations in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The act reduced the tax rate to twenty-one percent, bringing the United States back to average among OECD member nations, and dramatically enhancing American competitiveness; and

Whereas, Many significant provisions of the TCJA are set to expire after December 31, 2025. Allowing these provisions to expire would result in a massive federal tax increase on hardworking American taxpayers, a significant decline in American competitiveness, fewer jobs, reduced wage income for workers, and higher prices. In addition, the expiration of these provisions would incentivize many states to return to a period of higher taxes and inflated spending; and

Whereas, More than 100 million American taxpayers from all income groups, but especially those in the middle and working classes, have enjoyed real tax relief due to the TCJA. The majority of Americans support making these tax cuts permanent; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Congress of the United States to permanently extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 with commensurate spending cuts to avoid increasing the federal tax burden; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-195. A memorial adopted by the Senate of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to protect consumers and financial institutions from burdensome Internal Revenue Service rules and reporting requirements; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 1001

Whereas, the Biden administration and certain members of Congress have proposed

changes to tax information reporting that would require banking and financial institutions to report to the Internal Revenue Service on the incoming and outgoing transactions from every customer's financial account with gross inflows and outflows that range from \$600 to \$10,000 during the taxable year; and

Whereas, these proposals would require financial institutions to report, for both personal and business accounts, the account's physical cash amount, transactions with foreign accounts and transfers to and from the owner and the owner's other accounts; and

Whereas, savings, transactional, loan and investment accounts in these financial institutions would be subject to these proposed requirements; and

Whereas, there are serious concerns over data privacy and security if these new requirements are put in place. Keeping member and customer account information private and secure is among the primary goals of all financial institutions in this state, and these new requirements, at any threshold dollar amount, could jeopardize the security of accounts and personal information; and

Whereas, privacy is cited as one of the primary reasons individual's choose not to open bank accounts, and this proposal lays a foundation for new and future barriers for the unbanked and underbanked; and

Whereas, financial institutions in this state and nation are already subject to many burdensome regulations. Including these new and extensive reporting requirements would deepen that burden in an untenable and destructive fashion for many community-based financial institutions.

1. That the United States Congress act to protect consumers from harmful and intrusive Internal Revenue Service rules and financial institutions from burdensome reporting requirements.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-196. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the federal government to extend Title 42 to avoid a crisis at the border; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

Whereas, Former President Donald Trump's administration implemented Title 42 to prevent certain migrants without documentation from entering the United States during a public health emergency such as COVID-19. This law allowed for some vulnerable populations, such as unaccompanied children, to continue seeking refuge in the United States; and

Whereas, the President Joe Biden's administration plans to end Title 42 restrictions on May 23, 2022. The United States Department of Homeland Security has reported that it expects an estimated 18,000 people to cross the southern border each day once these restrictions are lifted. This estimate is an overwhelming increase from March 2022, when an average of 7,000 migrants entered the country every day. Despite unprecedented migration, neither President Biden nor the administration has announced a concrete plan on how to handle a possible surge; and

Whereas, Extending Title 42 will delay a possible border crisis until the administration can produce an immigration plan. The extension has bipartisan support in Congress, and recent polling showed that the majority of Americans oppose the lifting of Title 42 restrictions; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the federal government to extend Title 42 to avoid a crisis at the border; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

—
POM-197. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the United States Congress to hold a state funeral at such time of the passing of the last World War II Medal of Honor recipient to honor those who served in World War II; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 101

Whereas, the Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest and most-prestigious personal military decoration that may be awarded to recognize United States military service members who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor. The Medal of Honor represents the indomitable spirit, determination, selflessness, and gallantry of those who, in the face of overwhelming odds, performed far beyond the call of duty; and

Whereas, as members of the "Greatest Generation," which represented the character and strength of the State of Idaho and the United States, Captain Arthur Junior Jackson, United States Marine Corps, who served with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Robert Dale Maxwell, United States Army, who served with the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, were both awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II for gallantry, risking their lives, and acting with valor. Both Captain Arthur Junior Jackson and Robert Dale Maxwell, along with Idaho's other Medal of Honor recipients, are now deceased, leaving only memories of their heroic acts. The stories of these patriots' courage and valor during the war should never be forgotten; and

Whereas, the President of the United States holds the authority to designate a state funeral. A number of state funerals to honor our war heroes have been held in the past, including the 1921 state funeral for the Unknown Soldier of World War I and the 1964 state funeral honoring General Douglas MacArthur. These state funerals have offered our nation the opportunity to pause, reflect, and honor the service of those individuals and those who served alongside them; and

Whereas, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipients from World War II are 96-year-old Hershel "Woody" Williams, a retired United States Marine Corps warrant officer and United States Department of Veterans Affairs veterans service representative, and 99-year-old Charles H. Coolidge, who served as a United States Army technical sergeant; Now therefore be it

Resolved, by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that a state funeral be held at such time of the passing of the last World War II Medal of Honor recipient, to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, and to honor those who served in World War II, such distinction giving our nation the opportunity to thank those who saved the world from Nazism, fascism, and militaristic imperialism. This national recognition would also serve to honor the 473 service members who were awarded the Medal of Honor for service

during World War II, along with the 16 million American men and women who faithfully served our nation, including many Idahoans, during that war, paying a final salute to the millions of men and women of the "Greatest Generation" who served our country from 1941 to 1945; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

—
POM-198. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona supporting the enactment of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and the Ensuring Accurate and Complete Abortion Data Reporting Act of 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

Whereas, Congress and the State of Arizona have compelling interests in protecting all human life; and

Whereas, Congress passed by unanimous consent the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act "to repudiate the flawed notion that a child's entitlement to the protections of the law is dependent upon whether that child's mother or others want him or her" and "to repudiate the flawed notion that the right to an abortion means the right to a dead baby, regardless of where the killing takes place"; and

Whereas, to achieve these important objectives, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act affirmatively recognizes that all infants born at any stage of development, regardless of the circumstances surrounding their births, are "persons" for purposes of federal law; and

Whereas, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act became law in August 2002; and

Whereas, the legal recognition provided by the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act has proved to be inadequate for providing necessary legal protections for Infants born alive following attempted abortions and ensuring that they receive medically appropriate care and treatment; and

Whereas, to remedy this deficiency, Congress introduced the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would affirmatively require that medically appropriate care be given to any infant born alive following an abortion procedure; and

Whereas, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act supplements existing federal law to require that health care providers "exercise the same degree of professional skill, care and diligence to preserve the life and health of a child" born alive following an attempted abortion as the provider "would render to any other child born alive"; and

Whereas, a February 2017 poll by the Susan B. Anthony List found that 77% of Americans support legislation "that would ensure that a baby who survives a failed abortion would be given the same medical treatment as any other baby born prematurely at the same age"; and

Whereas, the citizens of this state strongly support laws providing legal recognition and protection for born-alive infants, including those who survive attempted abortions, as evidenced by Arizona's enactment of section 36-2301, Arizona Revised Statutes, which requires a physician performing an abortion and any other physician in attendance to use "all available means and medical skills" to "promote, preserve and maintain the life" of a fetus or embryo who is delivered alive; and

Whereas, the problem of born-alive infants being denied medically appropriate care following attempted abortions is a matter of official public record but still underreported; and

Whereas, to remedy the problem of under reporting of cases of infants born alive following attempted abortions, Congress introduced the Ensuring Accurate and Complete Abortion Data Reporting Act of 2019, which would make certain Medicaid family planning monies conditional on a state gathering and reporting to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention comprehensive abortion data, and affirmatively requires that states report instances of unborn children surviving abortion attempts; Therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring:

1. That the Legislature strongly supports the enactment of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

2. That the Legislature strongly supports the enactment of the Ensuring Accurate and Complete Abortion Data Reporting Act of 2019.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Arizona, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-199. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to facilitate the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

Whereas, On February 24, 2022, the Russian military launched a full-scale military assault on Ukraine. As troops invaded the country, Russia launched other military attacks, including bombing major Ukrainian cities; and

Whereas, As the Ukrainian military has valiantly defended their homeland, the fighting has created a humanitarian crisis among the country's civilians. Less than a week into the conflict, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees have fled to other countries. It has been estimated that this figure may climb to several million; and

Whereas, These Ukrainian refugees have numerous needs that must be met. Fleeing their homes, they need access to housing, education, healthcare, and other basic needs. Taking in and supporting the refugees is paramount to limiting the damage done by Russia's violence; and

Whereas, As a world leader in standing up against oppression, the United States has an obligation to commit itself to supporting Ukrainian refugees, including facilitating their resettlement. As Ukraine's neighbors may be overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis, the federal government should take action to ensure the refugees are able to be resettle in the United States; and

Whereas, Michigan must also do its part in addressing this global crisis. Our state must stand ready to do its part in supporting refugees fleeing wars of aggression; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge President Joe Biden and the Congress of the United States to facilitate the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer to assist in resettling some Ukrainian refugees in Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United

States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Governor.

POM-200. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska applying to the United States Congress, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 14

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved by the Members of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature of Nebraska, Second Session:

1. The Legislature of the State of Nebraska hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

2. The Clerk of the Legislature shall transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives from this state, and to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation.

3. This application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject.

4. This application will be rescinded as of February 1, 2027.

POM-201. A communication from the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico submitting the first partial report on House Resolution No. 446 and requesting its approval; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-202. A resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Miramar, Florida urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 and providing for an effective date; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-203. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Watsonville, California urging the President of the United States to forgive student loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-204. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Republic of Palau conveying heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the family, relatives, friends, and the people of Alaska for the untimely passing of United States Congressman Don Young, and memorializing his extraordinary contributions to the Republic of Palau; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-205. A resolution adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, Hawaii urging the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to promptly issue the proposed rule entitled "Enhancing Protections for Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins to Prevent Disturbance"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-206. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan encouraging the

United States and Taiwan to further strengthen bilateral trade between our countries and continue our strong economic and trade partnership; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

Whereas, Michigan and Taiwan have enjoyed strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchanges, and tourism; and

Whereas, Taiwan shares the same values of freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, peace, and prosperity with the United States and the State of Michigan; and

Whereas, The United States ranks as Taiwan's second-largest trading partners and Taiwan is the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States. Bilateral trade between the two countries exceeded \$856 billion in 2021; and

Whereas, Taiwan and the State of Michigan have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect of future growth. Taiwan was Michigan's seventh-largest export market in Asia in 2020, with \$225 million worth of Michigan goods exported to Taiwan; and

Whereas, To strengthen the Taiwan-Michigan bilateral economic relationship, it is essential that Michigan businesses enhance their economic engagement with Taiwan based on the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act (TRA, Public Law 96-8, 22 USC § 3301). Article 4, Section b of the TRA stipulates that "wherever the laws of the United States refer to relate to foreign countries, nations, states, governments, or similar entities, such terms shall include and such laws shall apply with respect to Taiwan"; and

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States should further strengthen bilateral trade between our countries, thereby increasing Michigan's exports to Taiwan and creating bilateral investment; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we encourage the United States and Taiwan to further strengthen bilateral trade between our countries and continue our strong economic and trade partnership; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3875. A bill to require the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-141).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Finance.

*Douglas J. McKalip, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4792. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fair and consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside the United States and Canada; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 4793. A bill to require a plan to clarify the roles and responsibilities of officials and organizations of the Army with respect to the force modernization efforts of the Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4794. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to opioid overdose reversal medication access, education, and co-prescribing grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 4795. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize a program to recognize institutions of higher education that offer outstanding services and programs for foster and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4796. A bill to repeal the limitations on multiple ownership of radio and television stations imposed by the Federal Communications Commission, to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from limiting common ownership of daily newspapers and full-power broadcast stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 4797. A bill to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Mishawaka, Indiana, as the “Jackie Walorski VA Clinic”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 4798. A bill to rescind certain funding provided to the Internal Revenue Service under section 10301 of Public Law 117-169; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 4799. A bill to simplify the grant process for nonurbanized areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. OSSOFF, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4800. A bill to establish the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship to fund international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career professionals to study nonviolent movements to establish and protect civil rights around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4801. A bill to authorize Counter-UAS activities on and off commercial service airport property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. Kaine, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 753. A resolution urging the Government of Brazil to ensure that the October 2022 elections are conducted in a free, fair, credible, transparent, and peaceful manner; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 190

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 190, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 350

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 350, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 424

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 424, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1593

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1593, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the designation of general surgery shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1848

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1863

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1863, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access to health care for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2003

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2003, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2021 through 2023 to provide assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through bilateral compacts to increase protection of women and children in their homes and communities and reduce female homicides, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

S. 2273

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2273, a bill to authorize Inspectors General to continue operations during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 2569

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to enhance the rights of domestic workers, and for other purposes.

S. 2625

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2625, a bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents In School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 2907

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3411

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include expenses for certain athletic supplies in the above-the-line deduction for eligible educators, and to allow

such deduction to interscholastic sports administrators and coaches.

S. 3569

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3569, a bill to extend the program to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at certain health centers.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 3766

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3766, a bill to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3909

At the request of Mr. KAINES, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3909, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 3972

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 3972, a bill to improve research and data collection on still-births, and for other purposes.

S. 4076

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4076, a bill to protect firefighters from exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

S. 4168

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4168, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Park Foundation.

S. 4170

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4170, a bill to reauthorize programs for mental health, and for other purposes.

S. 4213

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4213, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employers from paying employees in the garment industry by piece rate, to require manufacturers and contractors in the garment industry to register with the Department of Labor, and for other purposes.

S. 4347

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4347, a bill to require group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for over-the-counter contraceptives.

S. 4366

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4366, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to seek to cooperate with allies and partners in the Middle East to identify an architecture and develop an acquisition approach for certain countries in the Middle East to implement an integrated air and missile defense capability to protect the people, infrastructure, and territory of such countries from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial system, and rocket attacks from Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 4389

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 4389, a bill to provide for the abolition of certain United Nations groups, and for other purposes.

S. 4485

At the request of Mr. KAINES, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4485, a bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, veteran status, or military status.

S. 4511

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINES), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4511, a bill to ensure that claims for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act are processed in a fair and timely manner, to better protect miners from pneumoconiosis (commonly known as “black lung disease”), and for other purposes.

S. 4516

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4516, a bill to require the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to develop governmentwide procurement policy and guidance to mitigate organizational conflict of interests relating to national security and foreign policy, and for other purposes.

S. 4587

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4587, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin

Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

S. 4605

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4605, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure stability in payments to home health agencies under the Medicare program.

S. 4687

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4687, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 4702

At the request of Mr. KAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4702, a bill to impose limits on excepting competitive service positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 4706

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4706, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the duration of active service of the Chief Justice of the United States and associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4742

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4742, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and for other purposes.

S. 4754

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4754, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on national resource adequacy, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 644

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 644, a resolution establishing a Women’s Bill of Rights to reaffirm legal protections afforded to women under Federal law.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4792. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fair and consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside the United States and Canada; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4792

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

To establish consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside of the United States and Canada in order to increase accountability and protect American students and taxpayer dollars.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Three for-profit schools in the Caribbean have historically received nearly 3% of all Federal funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) that goes to students enrolled at foreign graduate medical schools, despite those three schools being exempt from meeting the same eligibility requirements as the majority of graduate medical schools located outside of the United States and Canada.

(2) The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation and the Department of Education recommend that all foreign graduate medical schools should be required to meet the same eligibility requirements to participate in Federal funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

(3) The attrition rate at United States medical schools averaged 3.3 percent between 1993 and 2013, while rates at for-profit Caribbean medical schools have been known to reach 30 percent.

(4) In 2022, residency match rates for foreign trained graduates averaged 61.4 percent compared to 92.9 percent for graduates of allopathic medical schools in the United States and 91.3 percent for graduates of osteopathic medical schools in the United States.

(5) On average, students at for-profit medical schools operating outside of the United States and Canada amass more student debt than those at medical schools in the United States.

SEC. 4. REPEAL GRANDFATHER PROVISIONS.

Section 102(a)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(2)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) in the case of a graduate medical school located outside the United States—

“(I) at least 60 percent of those enrolled in, and at least 60 percent of the graduates of, the graduate medical school outside the United States were not persons described in section 484(a)(5) in the year preceding the year for which a student is seeking a loan under part D of title IV; and

“(II) at least 75 percent of the individuals who were students or graduates of the graduate medical school outside the United States or Canada (both nationals of the United States and others) taking the examinations administered by the Educational

Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates received a passing score in the year preceding the year for which a student is seeking a loan under part D of title IV;”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by adding at the end the following:

“(V) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of a graduate medical school described in subclause (I) to qualify for participation in the loan programs under part D of title IV pursuant to this clause shall expire beginning on the first July 1 following the date of enactment of the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2022.”.

SEC. 5. LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY.

If a graduate medical school loses eligibility to participate in the loan programs under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.) due to the enactment of the amendments made by section 4, then a student enrolled at such graduate medical school on or before the date of enactment of this Act may, notwithstanding such loss of eligibility, continue to be eligible to receive a loan under such part D while attending such graduate medical school in which the student was enrolled upon the date of enactment of this Act, subject to the student continuing to meet all applicable requirements for satisfactory academic progress, until the earliest of—

(1) withdrawal by the student from the graduate medical school;

(2) completion of the program of study by the student at the graduate medical school; or

(3) the fourth June 30 after such loss of eligibility.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 4793. A bill to require a plan to clarify the roles and responsibilities of officials and organizations of the Army with respect to the force modernization efforts of the Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print my bill for introduction in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The bill requires a plan to clarify the roles and responsibilities of officials and organizations of the Army with respect to the force modernization efforts of the Army.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4793

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Army Facilitating Untapped Technology, Utilities, Resources, and Equipment for Servicemembers Act of 2022” or the “Army FUTURES Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FORCE MODERNIZATION EFFORTS OF THE ARMY.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan that comprehensively defines the roles and responsibilities of officials and organizations of the Army with respect to the force modernization efforts of the Army.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify the official within the Army who shall have primary responsibility for the

force modernization efforts of the Army, and specify the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of that official;

(2) clearly define the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the Army Futures Command and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology with respect to such efforts;

(3) clarify the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of officials and organizations of the Army with respect to acquisition in support of such efforts; and

(4) include such other information as the Secretary of the Army determines appropriate.

(c) ROLE OF ARMY FUTURES COMMAND.—In the event the Secretary of the Army does not submit the plan required under subsection (a) by the expiration of the 180-day period specified in such subsection, then beginning at the expiration of such period—

(1) the Commanding General of the Army Futures Command shall have the roles, responsibilities, and authorities assigned to the Commanding General pursuant to Army Directive 2020-15 (“Achieving Persistent Modernization”) as in effect on November 16, 2020; and

(2) any provision of Army Directive 2022-07 (“Army Modernization Roles and Responsibilities”), or any successor directive, that modifies or contravenes a provision of the directive specified in paragraph (1) shall have no force or effect.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 753—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL TO ENSURE THAT THE OCTOBER 2022 ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN A FREE, FAIR, CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT, AND PEACEFUL MANNER

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 753

Whereas, in 1822, the United States was the first country to recognize Brazil as an independent country;

Whereas the United States and Brazil are 2 of the largest democracies and economies in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas bilateral relations between the United States and Brazil are rooted in a shared commitment to democracy and prosperity and the promotion of international peace, security, respect for human rights, and environmental stewardship, including protection of the Brazilian Amazon;

Whereas efforts to incite political violence, encourage the armed forces of Brazil to intervene in the conduct of the electoral processes of the Brazil, and question or subvert the democratic and electoral institutions of Brazil ahead of the country’s October 2, 2022, general elections undermine the democratic foundation of relations between the United States and Brazil and must be resolutely rejected by both countries;

Whereas, according to a recent survey by the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is experiencing a 335-percent increase in violence directed against political leaders in 2022 relative to 2019;

Whereas Brazilians from all sectors of society have publicly expressed serious concern about ongoing efforts to undermine democracy in Brazil, including—

(1) close to 1,000,000 Brazilians who signed an open letter released on July 26, 2022, defending the democratic institutions of Brazil and the rule of law; and

(2) prominent Brazilian business, religious, political, and civil society leaders who released a statement expressing confidence in the electoral systems of Brazil on August 5, 2022; and

Whereas the United States Government has on multiple occasions expressed full confidence in the strength of the democratic institutions of Brazil and the ability of the electoral system of Brazil to carry out free and fair elections absent fraud; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Brazil to ensure that the October 2022 elections are conducted in a free, fair, credible, transparent, and peaceful manner that enables all citizens of Brazil to exercise the right to vote; and

(2) calls for the United States Government—

(A) to continue to speak out against efforts to incite political violence and undermine the electoral process in Brazil and to hold the Government of Brazil accountable for respecting the rights of the citizens of Brazil in accordance with international obligations and the Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil;

(B) to immediately recognize the outcome of the election in Brazil, if that election is determined by international observers and organizations to have been free and fair; and

(C) to make unequivocally clear that the United States considers bilateral United States assistance to Brazil to be predicated on the historic and ongoing commitment of the Government and people of Brazil to democratic principles and human rights and will—

(i) review and reconsider the relationship between the United States any government that comes to power in Brazil through undemocratic means, including a military coup; and

(ii) ensure United States security assistance and other forms of bilateral United States assistance to Brazil remain compliant with relevant laws of the United States related to the peaceful and democratic transition of power, including longstanding restrictions on the provision of security assistance in the event of a military coup.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5489. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5490. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5491. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5492. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5493. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5494. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5495. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5496. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5497. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5489. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—DREAM ACT TITLE LI—DREAM ACT

SEC. 5101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Dream Act”.

SEC. 5102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, any term used in this title that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) DACA.—The term “DACA” means deferred action granted to an alien pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program announced by President Obama on June 15, 2012.

(3) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the meaning given such term in section 3(1) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(1)).

(4) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term “early childhood education program” has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

(5) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; HIGH SCHOOL; SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The terms “elementary school”, “high school”, and “secondary school” have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(6) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigration laws” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(7) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education”—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

(B) does not include an institution of higher education outside of the United States.

(8) PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS.—The term “permanent resident status on a conditional basis” means status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis under this title.

(9) POVERTY LINE.—The term “poverty line” has the meaning given such term in

section 673 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902).

(10) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(11) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term “Uniformed Services” has the meaning given the term “uniformed services” in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 5103. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENTS WHO ENTERED THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.

(a) CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien shall be considered, at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this section, to have obtained such status on a conditional basis subject to the provisions under this title.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall cancel the removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, an alien who is inadmissible or deportable from the United States or is in temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), if—

(A) the alien has been continuously physically present in the United States since the date that is 4 years before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) the alien was younger than 18 years of age on the date on which the alien initially entered the United States;

(C) subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the alien—

(i) is not inadmissible under paragraph (2), (3), (6)(E), (6)(G), (8), (10)(A), (10)(C), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a));

(ii) has not ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and

(iii) has not been convicted of—

(I) any offense under Federal or State law, other than a State offense for which an essential element is the alien’s immigration status, that is punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than 1 year; or

(II) 3 or more offenses under Federal or State law, other than State offenses for which an essential element is the alien’s immigration status, for which the alien was convicted on different dates for each of the 3 offenses and imprisoned for an aggregate of 90 days or more; and

(D) the alien—

(i) has been admitted to an institution of higher education;

(ii) has earned a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school, or has obtained a general education development certificate recognized under State law or a high school equivalency diploma in the United States; or

(iii) is enrolled in secondary school or in an education program assisting students in—

(I) obtaining a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent under State law; or

(II) in passing a general educational development exam, a high school equivalence diploma examination, or other similar State-authorized exam.

(2) WAIVER.—With respect to any benefit under this title, the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under paragraph (2), (6)(E), (6)(G), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality

Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian purposes or family unity or if the waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

(3) TREATMENT OF EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS.—An expunged conviction shall not automatically be treated as an offense under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall evaluate expunged convictions on a case-by-case basis according to the nature and severity of the offense to determine whether, under the particular circumstances, the Secretary determines that the alien should be eligible for cancellation of removal, adjustment to permanent resident status on a conditional basis, or other adjustment of status.

(4) DACA RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall cancel the removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, an alien who was granted DACA unless the alien has engaged in conduct since the alien was granted DACA that would make the alien ineligible for DACA.

(5) APPLICATION FEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require an alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(B) EXEMPTION.—An applicant may be exempted from paying the fee required under subparagraph (A) if the alien—

(i) is younger than 18 years of age;

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; and

(III) is in foster care or otherwise lacking any parental or other familial support;

(ii) is younger than 18 years of age and is homeless;

(iii) cannot care for himself or herself because of a serious, chronic disability; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; or

(iv) during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, accumulated \$10,000 or more in debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line.

(6) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not grant an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for aliens who are unable to provide such biometric or biographic data because of a physical impairment.

(7) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate—

(i) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien seeking permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section; and

(ii) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for such status.

(B) COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The security and law enforcement back-

ground checks of an alien required under subparagraph (A) shall be completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, before the date on which the Secretary grants such alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section.

(8) MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall undergo a medical examination.

(B) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe policies and procedures for the nature and timing of the examination required under subparagraph (A).

(9) MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall establish that the alien has registered under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), if the alien is subject to registration under such Act.

(C) DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE.—

(1) TERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD.—Any period of continuous physical presence in the United States of an alien who applies for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

(2) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BREAKS IN PRESENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), an alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States under subsection (b)(1)(A) if the alien has departed from the United States for any period exceeding 90 days or for any periods, in the aggregate, exceeding 180 days.

(B) EXTENSIONS FOR EXTEMENATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may extend the time periods described in subparagraph (A) for an alien who demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to extenuating circumstances beyond the alien's control, including the serious illness of the alien, or death or serious illness of a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child of the alien.

(C) TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY.—Any period of travel outside of the United States by an alien that was authorized by the Secretary may not be counted toward any period of departure from the United States under subparagraph (A).

(D) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ALIENS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the Attorney General may not remove an alien who appears *prima facie* eligible for relief under this section.

(2) ALIENS SUBJECT TO REMOVAL.—The Secretary shall provide a reasonable opportunity to apply for relief under this section to any alien who requests such an opportunity or who appears *prima facie* eligible for relief under this section if the alien is in removal proceedings, is the subject of a final removal order, or is the subject of a voluntary departure order.

(3) CERTAIN ALIENS ENROLLED IN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.—

(A) STAY OF REMOVAL.—The Attorney General shall stay the removal proceedings of an alien who—

(i) meets all the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (b)(1), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of such subsection;

(ii) is at least 5 years of age; and

(iii) is enrolled in an elementary school, a secondary school, or an early childhood education program.

(B) COMMENCEMENT OF REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—The Secretary may not commence removal proceedings for an alien described in subparagraph (A).

(C) EMPLOYMENT.—An alien whose removal is stayed pursuant to subparagraph (A) or who may not be placed in removal proceedings pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall, upon application to the Secretary, be granted an employment authorization document.

(D) LIFT OF STAY.—The Secretary or Attorney General may not lift the stay granted to an alien under subparagraph (A) unless the alien ceases to meet the requirements under such subparagraph.

(e) EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section or in any other law may be construed to apply a numerical limitation on the number of aliens who may be granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this title.

SEC. 5104. TERMS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS.

(a) PERIOD OF STATUS.—Permanent resident status on a conditional basis is—

(1) valid for a period of 8 years, unless such period is extended by the Secretary; and

(2) subject to termination under subsection (c).

(b) NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS.—At the time an alien obtains permanent resident status on a conditional basis, the Secretary shall provide notice to the alien regarding the provisions of this title and the requirements to have the conditional basis of such status removed.

(c) TERMINATION OF STATUS.—The Secretary may terminate the permanent resident status on a conditional basis of an alien only if the Secretary—

(1) determines that the alien ceases to meet the requirements under paragraph (1)(C) of section 5103(b), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of that section; and

(2) prior to the termination, provides the alien—

(A) notice of the proposed termination; and

(B) the opportunity for a hearing to provide evidence that the alien meets such requirements or otherwise contest the termination.

(d) RETURN TO PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is terminated under subsection (c) or whose application for such status is denied shall return to the immigration status that the alien had immediately before receiving permanent resident status on a conditional basis or applying for such status, as appropriate.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.—An alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is terminated under subsection (c) or whose application for such status is denied and who had temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) immediately before receiving or applying for such permanent resident status on a conditional basis, as appropriate, may not return to such temporary protected status if—

(A) the relevant designation under section 244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) has been terminated; or

(B) the Secretary determines that the reason for terminating the permanent resident status on a conditional basis renders the alien ineligible for such temporary protected status.

SEC. 5105. REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status granted under this title and grant the alien status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

(A) is described in paragraph (1)(C) of section 5103(b), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of that section;

(B) has not abandoned the alien's residence in the United States; and

(C)(i) has acquired a degree from an institution of higher education or has completed at least 2 years, in good standing, in a program for a bachelor's degree or higher degree in the United States;

(ii) has served in the Uniformed Services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge; or

(iii) has been employed for periods totaling at least 3 years and at least 75 percent of the time that the alien has had a valid employment authorization, except that any period during which the alien is not employed while having a valid employment authorization and is enrolled in an institution of higher education, a secondary school, or an education program described in section 5103(b)(1)(D)(iii), shall not count toward the time requirements under this clause.

(2) HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status and grant the alien status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

(A) satisfies the requirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1);

(B) demonstrates compelling circumstances for the inability to satisfy the requirements under subparagraph (C) of such paragraph; and

(C) demonstrates that—

(i) the alien has a disability;

(ii) the alien is a full-time caregiver of a minor child; or

(iii) the removal of the alien from the United States would result in extreme hardship to the alien or the alien's spouse, parent, or child who is a national of the United States or is lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(3) CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status granted under this title may not be removed unless the alien demonstrates that the alien satisfies the requirements under section 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a)).

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien who is unable to meet the requirements under such section 312(a) due to disability.

(4) APPLICATION FEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require aliens applying for lawful permanent resident status under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(B) EXEMPTION.—An applicant may be exempted from paying the fee required under subparagraph (A) if the alien—

(i)(I) is younger than 18 years of age;

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; and

(III) is in foster care or otherwise lacking any parental or other familial support;

(ii) is younger than 18 years of age and is homeless;

(iii)(I) cannot care for himself or herself because of a serious, chronic disability; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application

under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; or

(iv)(I) during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, the alien accumulated \$10,000 or more in debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line.

(5) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for applicants who are unable to provide such biometric data because of a physical impairment.

(6) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate—

(i) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien applying for removal of the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status; and

(ii) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for removal of such conditional basis.

(B) COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

The security and law enforcement background checks of an alien required under subparagraph (A) shall be completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, before the date on which the Secretary removes the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status.

(B) TREATMENT FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), an alien granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis shall be considered to have been admitted to the United States, and be present in the United States, as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.—An alien may not apply for naturalization while the alien is in permanent resident status on a conditional basis.

SEC. 5106. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—An alien's application for permanent resident status on a conditional basis may include, as proof of identity—

(1) a passport or national identity document from the alien's country of origin that includes the alien's name and the alien's photograph or fingerprint;

(2) the alien's birth certificate and an identity card that includes the alien's name and photograph;

(3) a school identification card that includes the alien's name and photograph, and school records showing the alien's name and that the alien is or was enrolled at the school;

(4) a Uniformed Services identification card issued by the Department of Defense;

(5) any immigration or other document issued by the United States Government bearing the alien's name and photograph; or

(6) a State-issued identification card bearing the alien's name and photograph.

(b) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING CONTINUOUS PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.—To establish that an alien has been continuously physically present in the United

States, as required under section 5103(b)(1)(A), or to establish that an alien has not abandoned residence in the United States, as required under section 5105(a)(1)(B), the alien may submit documents to the Secretary, including—

(1) employment records that include the employer's name and contact information;

(2) records from any educational institution the alien has attended in the United States;

(3) records of service from the Uniformed Services;

(4) official records from a religious entity confirming the alien's participation in a religious ceremony;

(5) passport entries;

(6) a birth certificate for a child who was born in the United States;

(7) automobile license receipts or registration;

(8) deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement contracts;

(9) tax receipts;

(10) insurance policies;

(11) remittance records;

(12) rent receipts or utility bills bearing the alien's name or the name of an immediate family member of the alien, and the alien's address;

(13) copies of money order receipts for money sent in or out of the United States;

(14) dated bank transactions; or

(15) 2 or more sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien who have direct knowledge of the alien's continuous physical presence in the United States, that contain—

(A) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(B) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(c) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING INITIAL ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES.—To establish under section 5103(b)(1)(B) that an alien was younger than 18 years of age on the date on which the alien initially entered the United States, an alien may submit documents to the Secretary, including—

(1) an admission stamp on the alien's passport;

(2) records from any educational institution the alien has attended in the United States;

(3) any document from the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security stating the alien's date of entry into the United States;

(4) hospital or medical records showing medical treatment or hospitalization, the name of the medical facility or physician, and the date of the treatment or hospitalization;

(5) rent receipts or utility bills bearing the alien's name or the name of an immediate family member of the alien, and the alien's address;

(6) employment records that include the employer's name and contact information;

(7) official records from a religious entity confirming the alien's participation in a religious ceremony;

(8) a birth certificate for a child who was born in the United States;

(9) automobile license receipts or registration;

(10) deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement contracts;

(11) tax receipts;

(12) travel records;

(13) copies of money order receipts sent in or out of the country;

(14) dated bank transactions;

(15) remittance records; or

(16) insurance policies.

(d) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that an alien has been admitted to

an institution of higher education, the alien shall submit to the Secretary a document from the institution of higher education certifying that the alien—

- (1) has been admitted to the institution; or
- (2) is currently enrolled in the institution as a student.

(e) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF A DEGREE FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that an alien has acquired a degree from an institution of higher education in the United States, the alien shall submit to the Secretary a diploma or other document from the institution stating that the alien has received such a degree.

(f) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE, OR A RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENT.—To establish that an alien has earned a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school, or has obtained a general educational development certificate recognized under State law or a high school equivalency diploma in the United States, the alien shall submit to the Secretary—

- (1) a high school diploma, certificate of completion, or other alternate award;
- (2) a high school equivalency diploma or certificate recognized under State law; or
- (3) evidence that the alien passed a State-authorized exam, including the general educational development exam, in the United States.

(g) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENROLLMENT IN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.—To establish that an alien is enrolled in any school or education program described in section 5103(b)(1)(D)(iii), 5103(d)(3)(A)(iii), or 5105(a)(1)(C), the alien shall submit school records from the United States school that the alien is currently attending that include—

- (1) the name of the school; and
- (2) the alien's name, periods of attendance, and current grade or educational level.

(h) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EXEMPTION FROM APPLICATION FEES.—To establish that an alien is exempt from an application fee under section 5103(b)(5)(B) or 5105(a)(4)(B), the alien shall submit to the Secretary the following relevant documents:

(1) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH AGE.—To establish that an alien meets an age requirement, the alien shall provide proof of identity, as described in subsection (a), that establishes that the alien is younger than 18 years of age.

(2) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH INCOME.—To establish the alien's income, the alien shall provide—

(A) employment records that have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency;

(B) bank records; or

(C) at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien's work and income that contain—

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(ii) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(3) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH FOSTER CARE, LACK OF FAMILIAL SUPPORT, HOMELESSNESS, OR SERIOUS, CHRONIC DISABILITY.—To establish that the alien was in foster care, lacks parental or familial support, is homeless, or has a serious, chronic disability, the alien shall provide at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the circumstances that contain—

(A) a statement that the alien is in foster care, otherwise lacks any parental or other

familiar support, is homeless, or has a serious, chronic disability, as appropriate;

(B) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(C) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(4) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH UNPAID MEDICAL EXPENSE.—To establish that the alien has debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses, the alien shall provide receipts or other documentation from a medical provider that—

(A) bear the provider's name and address;

(B) bear the name of the individual receiving treatment; and

(C) document that the alien has accumulated \$10,000 or more in debt in the past 12 months as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien.

(i) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATION FOR HARSHSHIP EXEMPTION.—To establish that an alien satisfies one of the criteria for the hardship exemption set forth in section 5105(a)(2)(C), the alien shall submit to the Secretary at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the circumstances that warrant the exemption, that contain—

(1) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(2) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(j) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—To establish that an alien has served in the Uniformed Services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge, the alien shall submit to the Secretary—

(1) a Department of Defense form DD-214;

(2) a National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service form 22;

(3) personnel records for such service from the appropriate Uniformed Service; or

(4) health records from the appropriate Uniformed Service.

(k) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien may satisfy the employment requirement under section 5105(a)(1)(C)(iii) by submitting records that—

(A) establish compliance with such employment requirement; and

(B) have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency.

(2) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—An alien who is unable to submit the records described in paragraph (1) may satisfy the employment requirement by submitting at least 2 types of reliable documents that provide evidence of employment, including—

(A) bank records;

(B) business records;

(C) employer records;

(D) records of a labor union, day labor center, or organization that assists workers in employment;

(E) sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien's work, that contain—

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(ii) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien; and

(F) remittance records.

(1) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary determines, after publication in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment, that any document or class of documents does not reliably establish identity or that permanent resident status on a conditional basis is being obtained fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary may prohibit or

restrict the use of such document or class of documents.

SEC. 5107. RULEMAKING.

(a) INITIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish regulations implementing this title in the Federal Register. Such regulations shall allow eligible individuals to immediately apply affirmatively for the relief available under section 5103 without being placed in removal proceedings.

(b) INTERIM REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the regulations published pursuant to subsection (a) shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon publication in the Federal Register, but may be subject to change and revision after public notice and opportunity for a period of public comment.

(c) FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which interim regulations are published under this section, the Secretary shall publish final regulations implementing this title.

(d) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—The requirements under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act"), shall not apply to any action to implement this title.

SEC. 5108. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not disclose or use information provided in applications filed under this title or in requests for DACA for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

(b) REFERRALS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary may not refer any individual who has been granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis or who was granted DACA to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or any designee of either such entity.

(c) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), information provided in an application for permanent resident status on a conditional basis or a request for DACA may be shared with Federal security and law enforcement agencies—

(1) for assistance in the consideration of an application for permanent resident status on a conditional basis;

(2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims;

(3) for national security purposes; or

(4) for the investigation or prosecution of any felony not related to immigration status.

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than \$10,000.

SEC. 5109. RESTORATION OF STATE OPTION TO DETERMINE RESIDENCY FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1623) is repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal under subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the original enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-546).

SA 5490. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. _____. EXTREMIST ACTIVITY BY A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES: TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COUNSELING; NOTATION IN SERVICE RECORD.

(a) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COUNSELING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(20) In the case of a member who has violated Department of Defense Instruction 1325.06 (or successor instruction) by participating in extremist activity, in-person counseling, developed by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, that includes—

“(A) efforts to deradicalize the member;

“(B) information regarding why extremist activity is inconsistent with service in the armed forces and with national security;

“(C) information regarding the dangers associated with involvement with an extremist group; and

“(D) methods for the member to recognize and avoid disinformation.”.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall complete development of counseling provided under paragraph (20) of such subsection, as added by paragraph (1), not later than the day that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary concerned shall ensure that such counseling is carried out on and after that day.

(b) SERVICE RECORD.—In the case of a member of the Armed Forces who has violated Department of Defense Instruction 1325.06 (or successor instruction) by participating in extremist activity, the Secretary concerned shall ensure that the commanding officer of the member notes the violation in the service record of the member.

(c) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

SA 5491. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1035. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO OPERATE THE DETENTION FACILITY AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2024.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to operate the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, after September 30, 2024.

SEC. 1036. REPEAL OF PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO DETAINEES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) USE OF FUNDS FOR TRANSFER OR RELEASE OF INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—Section 1033 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232; 132 Stat. 1954), as most recently amended by section 1032 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 116-283; 132 Stat. 1953), is repealed.

“(D) The appellate military judge is withdrawn by the Secretary of Defense, or the designee of the Secretary, in consultation with the Judge Advocate General of the armed force of which the appellate military judge is a member, for good cause consistent with applicable procedures under chapter 47 of this title (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).”;

(3) in section 950h(c), by inserting “(as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023)” after “of this title”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 950k. Definition

“In this subchapter, the term ‘military commission under this chapter’ means a military commission under this chapter as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subchapters at the beginning of chapter 47A of such title is amended by striking the items relating to subchapters I through VI and subchapter VIII.

SA 5492. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title I, add the following:

SEC. 155. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON USE OF TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP MODEL FOR PROCUREMENT OF NONTACTICAL VEHICLES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) It is financially prudent for the Department of Defense to procure cost-effective zero-emission vehicles by considering the total cost of ownership (referred to in this section as “TCO”) of such vehicles.

(2) A TCO procurement model would account for operating costs of vehicles, including fuel, maintenance, and public health savings.

(3) Use of a TCO procurement model by the Department of Defense in the procurement of nontactical vehicles would maximize cost savings and bolster energy and national security.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Department of Defense should calculate and consider the TCO when procuring a nontactical vehicle; and

(2) the Department of Defense, when conducting any action with the Government Services Administration relating to the procurement or requisition of a nontactical vehicle, should—

(A) work with the Department of Energy to develop a TCO procurement model that uses State-wide, regional, and inventory variables to estimate the cost of converting the nontactical vehicle fleet of the Department of Defense to zero-emission vehicles;

(B) submit to Congress a report summarizing such procurement or requisition that, at a minimum, identifies—

(i) types of vehicles by—

(I) size; and

(II) fuel source; and

(ii) the total estimated cost savings and avoided emissions that result or would have

(1) in section 950d(a)(3), by inserting “(as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023)” after “of this title”;

(2) in section 950f—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023)” after “of this title”; and

(ii) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “section 949b(b)(4) of this title” and inserting “paragraph (7)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) No appellate military judge on the United States Court of Military Commission Review may be reassigned to other duties, except under circumstances as follows:

“(A) The appellate military judge voluntarily requests to be reassigned to other duties and the Secretary of Defense, or the designee of the Secretary, in consultation with the Judge Advocate General of the armed force of which the appellate military judge is a member, approves such reassignment.

“(B) The appellate military judge retires or otherwise separates from the armed forces.

“(C) The appellate military judge is reassigned to other duties by the Secretary of Defense, or the designee of the Secretary, in consultation with the Judge Advocate General of the armed force of which the appellate military judge is a member, based on military necessity and such reassignment is consistent with service rotation regulations (to the extent such regulations are applicable).

resulted from the purchase or lease of a zero-emission vehicle instead of an internal combustion engine vehicle;

(C) incorporate the TCO procurement model developed under subparagraph (A) into any such procurement or requisition action; and

(D) authorize any exemptions from use of the TCO procurement model developed under subparagraph (A) as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate, including by—

(i) authorizing exemptions for certain categories of vehicles, including emergency vehicles or other nontactical vehicles as determined by the Secretary, when a vehicle type is not available for the needed application;

(ii) authorizing exemptions upon finding that a zero-emission vehicle is not a practicable alternative to an internal combustion engine vehicle for a particular use, or for some other compelling reason; and

(iii) developing guidance regarding procedures for requesting such exemptions, including the criteria for evaluating such exemption requests, which should be published on the website of the Department of Defense and given a 30-day period for public review and comment before the Department adopts or revises such guidance.

SA 5493. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON SMOKING IN FACILITIES OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1715 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration

“(a) PROHIBITION.—No person (including any veteran, patient, resident, employee of the Department, contractor, or visitor) may smoke on the premises of any facility of the Veterans Health Administration.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘facility of the Veterans Health Administration’ means any land or building (including any medical center, nursing home, domiciliary facility, outpatient clinic, or center that provides readjustment counseling) that is—

“(A) under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(B) under the control of the Veterans Health Administration; and

“(C) not under the control of the General Services Administration.

“(2) The term ‘smoke’ includes—

“(A) the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and any other combustion or heating of tobacco; and

“(B) the use of any electronic nicotine delivery system, including electronic or e-cigarettes, vape pens, and e-cigars.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1715 and inserting the following new item:

“1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 526 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 1715 note) is repealed.

SA 5494. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to F/A-18E/F (FIGHTER) HORNET, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert “756,865”.

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to Total Aircraft Procurement, Navy, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert “19,125,814”.

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to Total Procurement, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert “158,585,016”.

SA 5495. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1052. TERMINATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND DECLARATIONS OF WAR.

(a) FUTURE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND DECLARATIONS OF WAR.—Any authorization for the use of military force or declaration of war enacted into law after the date of enactment of this Act shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of such authorization or declaration.

(b) EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND DECLARATIONS OF WAR.—Any authorization for the use of military force or declaration of war enacted before the date of the enactment of this Act shall terminate on the date that is 6 months after the date of such enactment.

SA 5496. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Baltic Defense and Deterrence

SEC. 1281. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Baltic Defense and Deterrence Act”.

SEC. 1282. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) supporting and strengthening the security of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (referred to in this Act as the “Baltic countries”) is in the national security interests of the United States;

(2) continuing to strengthen and update the United States-Baltics security cooperation roadmap is critical to achieving strategic security priorities as the Baltic countries face ongoing belligerence and threats from the Russian Federation, including amid the Russian Federation’s illegal and unprovoked war in Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022;

(3) the United States should encourage advancement of the Three Seas Initiative to strengthen transport, energy, and digital infrastructures among Eastern European countries, including the Baltic countries; and

(4) improved economic ties between the United States and the Baltic countries, including to counter economic pressure by the People’s Republic of China, offer an opportunity to strengthen the United States-Baltic strategic partnership.

SEC. 1283. BALTIC SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall establish and implement an initiative, to be known as the “Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative”, for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties with the Baltic countries.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative shall be—

(1) to ensure timely delivery of security assistance to the Baltic countries, prioritizing assistance to bolster defenses against hybrid warfare and improve interoperability with the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(2) to mitigate the impact on the Baltic countries of economic coercion by the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China;

(3) to identify new opportunities for foreign direct investment and United States business ties; and

(4) to bolster United States support for the economic and energy security needs of the Baltic countries, including by convening an annual trade forum with the Baltic countries and the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State, \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out the initiative authorized under subsection (a).

SEC. 1284. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish and implement an initiative, to be known as the “Baltic Security Initiative”, for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Baltic Security Initiative shall be—

(1) to achieve United States national security objectives, including deterring aggression by the Russian Federation and bolstering the long-term security of North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies;

(2) to enhance regional planning and cooperation among the Baltic countries, particularly with respect to long-term regional capability projects, including—

(A) long-range precision fire systems and capabilities;

(B) integrated air and missile defense;

(C) maritime domain awareness;

(D) land forces development, including stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

(E) command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance;

(F) special operations forces development; and

(G) coordination with and security enhancements for Poland, which is a neighboring North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally; and

(3) to improve the Baltic countries' cyber defenses and resilience to hybrid threats.

(c) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the strategy of the Department of Defense to achieve the objectives described in subsection (b).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include a consideration of—

(A) security assistance programs for the Baltic countries managed by the Department of State;

(B) the ongoing security threats to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastern flank posed by Russian aggression, including as a result of the Russian Federation's 2022 invasion of Ukraine with support from Belarus; and

(C) rising tensions with, and presence in the Baltic countries of, the People's Republic of China, including economic bullying of the Baltic countries by the People's Republic of China.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense, \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out the initiative authorized under subsection (a).

SA 5497. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4543, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 144. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF C-40 AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2023 for the Air Force may be obligated to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status any C-40 aircraft.

(b) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to an individual C-40 aircraft that the Secretary of the Air Force determines, on a case-by-case basis, to be no longer mission capable because of a Class A mishap.

(2) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—If the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that an aircraft is no longer mission capable, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a certification that the status of such aircraft is due to a Class A mishap and not due to lack of maintenance or repairs or other reasons.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to

meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a member and staff listening session.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 10:10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, CLIMATE, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Subcommittee on Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

TOXIC EXPOSURE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to S. Res. 737.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 737) designating August 10, 2022, as 'Toxic Exposure Awareness Day'.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 737) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of August 2, 2022, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Mathis nomination, postclosure; and that all postclosure time on the nomination be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; further, that following the vote on the Mathis nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Mendoza nomination; that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen at 1:45 p.m., and that at 1:45 p.m. the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Mendoza nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be notified immediately of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BROWN. Finally, Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of my colleague, Senator GRASSLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FBI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, last week, while I was meeting with constituents in Iowa, news broke here

in Washington, DC, about Assistant Special Agent in Charge Tim Thibault's retirement.

Since May 31 of this year, I have highlighted Tim Thibault's partisan bias and how it infected major FBI investigations. That included a July 18 letter of this year that highlighted his role in opening a criminal investigation into Trump's campaign and advisers. That investigation is the electoral investigation that has been in the news.

For example, on July 26 of this year, the Washington Post reported on that very same Trump investigation. Now, however, the Post failed to note that Thibault was the prime mover in opening it.

Now get this: The Post failed to note that Tim Thibault predicated the investigation, in a substantial part, on liberal news articles, as well as information derived from a liberal nonprofit. Attorney General Garland and Director Wray approved a full investigation anyway, which, as we all know, was contrary to standard procedure for moving ahead on an investigation.

That Washington Post article occurred 1 day after I made the Trump investigation letter public and 1 day after I made the July 25 Hunter Biden investigation letter public.

Since Tim Thibault's exit from the FBI, I have noticed more news articles and reporting that haven't been accurate with respect to the allegations that I have made public. Let me take this opportunity, then, to correct the record with respect to that inaccurate reporting.

Some reports have noted that the Hunter Biden criminal probe is ongoing; therefore, how can the allegations of Thibault shutting down investigation activity relating to Hunter Biden be credible?

Well, this is the difference: The whistleblower disclosures to me relate to investigative activity and avenues of information that originated entirely separate from the ongoing Hunter Biden criminal probe. That is why the allegations that I made—that I brought forward—are so very, very important, because we are dealing with a separate category of potentially criminal information relating to Hunter Biden that the FBI has within its possession and the information received by the FBI was either verified or verifiable. Even so, based on allegations, the investigative activity was shut down by Special Agent Thibault and, of course, by others based on the false assertion that it was disinformation.

How many times do we have this "disinformation" coming up as an excuse all the time with GRASSLEY's investigations?

Now, to be precise, FBI officials want to take action with respect to this separate investigative information that the FBI had in its possession related to Hunter Biden. However, Thibault blocked the FBI from doing what would

normally be done. Accordingly, the investigative activity and the information cannot be advanced as it should have been, which means the FBI could have gathered more evidence with respect to Hunter Biden but cut bait instead. And the FBI and Thibault cut bait right before the 2020 Presidential election.

Since the information and activity was shut down, it wouldn't have been initially shared with any ongoing criminal probe. That calls into question, then, what U.S. Attorney Weiss is actually investigating. It also calls into question what the FBI's Baltimore field office is reviewing and whether it is the full scope of evidence.

Now, I have asked Director Wray about that whole issue. I asked him:

How can verified and verifiable information relating to the Hunter Biden's potential criminality be shared with U.S. Attorney Weiss if it is shut down?

We have no answer from Director Wray.

At the Judiciary Committee's August 4 oversight hearing, Director Wray said that it is his expectation that such information would be shared with relevant offices.

So, Director Wray, I have this question: What have you done to ensure that your expectation has been met?

Because of Director Wray's failure to answer, Congress is unaware of whether or not the FBI has finally shared full and complete information and investigative activity with any ongoing criminal probe.

Therefore, without additional transparency from the government, there is a very real chance the Hunter Biden criminal probe doesn't include the full evidentiary picture.

Now, how can the American people trust the results? Some have also questioned how an assistant special agent in charge like Thibault can have so much power—power to open and close investigative activities.

Well, that is exactly what he did. And that power is often abused within the FBI. For example, on March 28 of this year, Chairman DURBIN and I wrote a letter to the FBI about an audit. That audit showed widespread violations of internal policies designed to ensure proper handling of the FBI's most sensitive investigations.

To read from my letter with Chairman DURBIN:

The FBI reviewed 353 Sensitive Investigative Matters—just under half of all such matters that were pending during this 18-month review period—and identified 747 violations.

In 45 investigations, the FBI didn't conduct or document a legal review prior to opening it. In 40 investigations, the FBI officials who opened a sensitive investigative matter didn't obtain approval from the relevant special agent in charge or even the assistant special agent in charge.

Now, with those statistics, I fear that is just the tip of the iceberg.

In conclusion, let's look at Thibault's recent statement and the allegations

he didn't address. I think we have five or six.

First, he didn't address his role in opening a Trump investigation based on liberal news articles and information derived from a liberal nonprofit. Secondly, he didn't address his collaboration with Richard Pilger with respect to that investigation. Third, he didn't address efforts to water down the Trump investigation memo sent to Attorney General Garland and Director Wray which they ultimately approved. Fourth, he didn't address the shutting down of the investigative activity and avenues of information relating to Hunter Biden. Fifth, he didn't address the alleged criminality within the information provided to the FBI about Hunter Biden. Sixth, he didn't address the August 2020 assessment opened by Brian Auten that was used to falsely label Hunter Biden's information as "disinformation." Seventh, he didn't address his actions to try and improperly mark investigative closings so that they couldn't be opened in the future. Lastly, Thibault said that he "welcomes any investigation" into allegations against him.

Well, Mr. Thibault, come on in. Sit for a transcribed interview with me and my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:57 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

ERIC L. ANDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

DAVID R. SIEMION

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

FORREST S. THOMPSON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ERIC N. JONES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LEE E. PALMER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CLARISA B. COLCHADO
ERIC B. JACKSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANGELA S. HINDS
PETER A. OLSEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MARY A. CRISPIN
MATTHEW R. DANGELO
RAYMOND N. EISENMANN
FRANKLIN R. FRAZIER
DAVID C. HATCH
GEORGE C. MAY
KEVIN G. MURPHY
MICHAEL L. RIZZO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JANELE L. GRAZIANO
THAO NGUYEN
JEFFREY T. SHELTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LOUIS M. DIBERNARDO
TASHEEMA L. FAIR
AL O. GIWA
DAVID M. GROSSER
WILLIAM A. GUSTAVE
MARCO A. LADINOAVELLANEDA
KEVIN C. MCMAINS
JOEL MILLER
MICHAEL F. MINOGUE
ROBBY W. WYATT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANDREA S. BOWERS
DAVID R. BRITT
KEITH T. CARPENTER
STEPHEN H. CASPER, JR.
ELLEN I. CODDINGTON
JOHN W. COLLINS
SCOTT C. FORBES
ROBERT J. GERLACH II
STEPHEN W. GREER
MILLER F. KING
KRIS E. KRATZ
VICKIE M. LORENSEN
DONALD P. MILLER
DANA S. PERKINS
LONNIE M. PIERCE
PHILLIP F. SOLIZ
TIMOTHY D. STONER
ANDREW G. WINSLOW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

HERIBERTO BAEZMARTINEZ
PAUL E. CARSEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LEAH G. SMITH

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

GREGORY A. HARTFELDER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER M. ALLER
STEPHANIE L. ANDERSON
TYLER P. ANDERSON
BRETT M. ANSTETT
HECTOR E. ARELLANO
ALEXANDER J. BEDLEY
MARIA L. BELTRE
DYLAN J. BURNS
LAWRENCE E. BURKART
COREY A. CATTANNO
JUSTIN L. CHAMBERS
NICHOLAS D. CRUZ
VINCENT P. DELGRECO

MEGAN E. DUNTON
KELVIN N. EDMONDS
LAUREN F. ELKINS
MIKE V. GUAIGUA
CHRISTINE D. HAGEMEIER
MATTHEW W. HARLEY
CHAKA A. HAZELWOOD
WILLIAM C. HENNINGS
TIMOTHY C. HORTON
FRANCES R. HUNTER
MATTHEW B. KARNY
AMBER R. KING
KYLE A. KINGERY
KEVIN C. LACHAT
ALEX S. LIU
BENJAMIN R. MALE
CRAIG G. MAUSS
DANIEL P. MCCARTHY
JOHN S. MCCARY
JASON T. MCGEE
MARTIN F. MILLER
YEVENIY NIKOLAYEV
JOHN M. NURTHEN II
RANDY M. OLAES
ELIZABETH O. OLOKODE
TCHA B. OUROBAGNA
JOHN J. PARADA
SAUL R. PEREZRAVLEO
MICHAEL J. POLLARD
BRANDON A. RIVERA
MICHAEL J. ROBB
JOSE R. M. RODRIGUEZ
MICHAEL A. ROSTER
MICHAEL E. ROVINSKY
BENJAMIN P. ROWE
MICHAEL K. SCAPLEHORN
ZACHARY L. SEAGRAVES
ANDREW T. SMITH
DALLAS T. SMITH
DANIEL W. SYZDEK
JASON M. Y. TANG
AARON J. THOMPSON
IKECHUKWU C. UME
NICOLAAS J. VANWYNGAARDT
RICHARD S. VETTER
NICOLAS VICCHIO
ANDREW G. WATKINS
TYLER L. J. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JOHN A. FRENCH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

GEOFFREY A. LEONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

SEQUOIA M. YOUNGBLOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DAVID J. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JACOB M. HAGAN

LOUIS F. SALAZAR, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

AARON M. BELL
BRANDY C. BROWN
CALEL J. BUTLER
DANIEL A. CHESTER
MILO C. CURTIS
STEPHEN DICOSEN
NATHAN P. GROOMS
CHAD A. HAAN
DAVID J. HAMMOND
SOLOMON HAN
EDWIN Y. HANDLEY
CHRISTOPHER M. HANSEN
DEREK M. HENSON
JAMES S. HICKS
CHAD E. HOEPPEL
KEVIN M. JACKSON
JOSE F. JIMENEZ
ABRAHAM B. JIREGNA
JONATHAN A. JONES
MARQUIS R. JONES
DONALD E. KEIM III
SOLOMON O. LLOYD
JOHN D. J. LUCKESEN
SUSAN M. MAGINN
TOMEK MAKAY
GRANT T. MAYFIELD
BENJAMIN T. MAYHUGH
MARK C. MCCRANEY
ANTHONY M. PELC

YOUREE H. POSEY III
BRADY A. RENTZ
JAMAL SCARLETT
BRADLEY J. SPEAR
MONYA A. STUBBS
JOHN G. SUTPHIN
RONALD S. WADE, JR.
AARON W. WALLING
LUKE E. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MATTHEW D. ABBOTT
WILLIAM G. ABBOTT
JULIAN G. ABELLAR
JONASHTON J. ACKERMOOREHEAD
TRAVON M. ADDERLY
GREGORY M. ADKINS
FRANKLIN E. AGLI
KRISTEN N. AINSLIE
BRYSON M. ALEXANDER
BRIAN S. ALLEN
JOSHUA F. ALLEN
CHASE E. ALLVORD
MATTHEW R. ALPERS
KATRINA P. ALSUP
MARK C. AMMERMAN
CHRISTIANE S. AMPOSTA
MICHAEL W. ANDERSON
BRENNAN K. APSEY
LEONARDO G. M. ARIAS
NEIL J. ARMSTRONG
CHRISTOPHER W. ARNDT
ZACHARY R. ARNOLD
JARED C. ASMUS
JOHN V. AUSTIN
MELISSA R. AVIDANO
KYLE A. AVOCATO
BILAL O. AWAD
DAVIES O. AWOYUNGBO
ROUBEN L. AZAD
TYLER T. BABKIEWICH
ANAVERONICA Y. BADUA
TAYLOR D. BAGGETT
MATTHEW E. BAGLINI
MICHELLE R. BAILEY
RICHARD M. BAILEY
CHRISTOPHER A. BAKER
CHRISTOPHER M. BAKER
LOGAN K. BAKER
COLIN P. BAKEY
JACOB K. BALESI
ANDREW C. BARKER
JAMES E. BARKSDALE, JR.
CHRISTOPHER E. BARMORE
KLAYTON D. BARNES
PATRICK W. BARNES
KYLE J. BARRY
KEITH P. BARTH, JR.
DANIEL M. BAXTER
LEVI W. BEAIRD
PARKER W. BEAM
STEPHEN R. BEAN
LESLIE C. BEATRICE
MARK J. BEHNKE
CALEB J. BEKEMEIER
JAMES E. BELMONT
RYAN W. BENROTH
NICKOLAS J. BERGERT
JONATHAN BERMUDEZMENDEZ
HOLLY M. BERRY
TIMOTHY S. BERRY
COREY J. BEST
CRAY M. BETTS
CONNOR D. BIBB
NICHOLAS H. BIELA
JEFFREY R. BIERMANN
BRIDGET J. BIZON
DAVID S. BLACK
JOHN T. BLACK
JUSTIN E. BLACKSTON
SCOTT C. BLAHA
Cassandra R. BLAKESLEE
RACHEL L. BLANCO
BRIAN H. BLOOM
CAMERON S. BOEHMME
JASON S. BOMBARDIER
NICHOLAS A. BONSALL
BENJAMIN T. BONTRAGER
DONOVAN S. BOONE
TAYLOR M. BOOSMANN
JUSTIN E. L. BORJA
LAWRENCE R. BORJA
KYLE C. BOSANKO
KELLY C. BOUDIETTE
JONATHAN M. BOUDREAU
EDMOND P. BOULLIANNE
LAWRENCE J. BOVICH
EVAN X. BOWER
JEFFREY C. BOWMAN
ALEXANDER S. BRACCO
AMANDA S. BRADEN
ALEXANDER S. BRADLEY
ERIK R. BRANSDFORFER
JONATHAN B. BRENNAN
LEE P. BRENNAN
AIMEE E. BRENNER
MATTHEW C. BRIGGS
ANDREW J. BRINK
SEAN M. BROKAW
JEREMY J. BROOKS
JOHN H. BROTON
CHASE P. BROWN
CODY R. BROWN

ERIC R. BROWN
 JAMES D. BROWN
 MARTIN J. BROWN
 RYAN D. BROWN
 ADAM R. BROWNSTEIN
 COLIN M. BRUTON
 TYLER D. BRUTON
 COOPER D. BULL
 KYLIE J. BUNKER
 KYLIE P. BURDICK
 BRENT D. BURGER
 WILLIAM M. BURKE
 DANIELLE M. BURNS
 JOHN P. BURNS
 ANDREW J. BUSH
 PATRICK C. J. BYERS
 TIMOTHY J. CADIGAN III
 CHARLES G. CAHOON
 JAIME I. CALDWELL
 LAUREN F. CALLEN
 MARK W. CAMPBELL
 NICHOLAS S. CAMPBELL
 KEITH V. CAMPION
 ANDREW J. CAMPOS
 MARY A. CARLSON
 ANDREW M. CARMICHAEL
 BENJAMIN R. CARRINGTON
 JO F. CARTAGENA
 CHARLES E. CARTER
 RUSSELL S. CARVAJAL
 CABOTT L. CASHWELL
 ANDREW R. CASTRO
 ANTHONY M. CATALANO
 JEREMY P. CAUSEY
 NATHAN S. CAVE
 RONALD E. CEBALLOS
 CHRISTOPHER M. CECONI
 NICHOLAS J. CERNY
 LEWIS J. H. CHALONER
 CORDARESS T. CHAMBERS
 CHUAN A. CHANG
 MARVIN G. S. CHEN
 ALEXANDER H. CHENG
 CHRISTOPHER D. CHENG
 MELISSA A. CHILMAN
 CHRISTOPHER D. CHIPPS
 JORDAN L. CHMIELEWSKI
 GHEHTI D. C. CHRISTIAN
 JACOB L. CHRISTIANSEN
 SEAN W. CHRISTMAN
 GREGORY M. CHRISTOD
 JEFFREY C. CHRISTOPHER
 BRANDON S. CIPKO
 ANDREW R. CLARK
 MATTHEW S. CLARK
 ALEXANDER C. CLEAVELAND
 LAURENCE C. CLEMENTE
 MELANIE P. CLEVELAND
 BRENT T. CLINE
 JONATHAN G. CLINE
 BRYAN J. COCO
 ROBERT A. CODER
 KYLIE D. COFFEY
 BRIAN T. COLLETTE
 DAVID N. COLON
 JACOB A. COOK
 BENJAMIN A. COOK, JR.
 JUSTUS T. COOK
 TAYLOR W. COOPER
 TYLER J. COPE
 EDGARD A. COREA
 NICHOLAS J. COREY
 CALEB J. CORNOCK
 WILLIAM T. CORSO, JR.
 DANIEL R. COSTANZO
 JOSEPH L. G. COTTON
 ANNIS M. COX
 JACE A. COX
 MICHAEL G. COX
 JOSEPH J. COXEN
 TIMOTHY J. CRADDOCK
 SEAN T. CRAIN
 KEVIN W. CRANK
 MICHAEL A. CRAWFORD, JR.
 ELIZABETH M. CRESPO
 NATALIE E. CROW
 KELLY M. CROWDER
 DAVID A. CROWELL
 THOMAS E. CRUZ
 SHANNON CRYAN
 TIMOTHY J. CULLEN
 MATTHEW L. CURTIS
 JOSEPH A. CUSICK
 ERIK M. DAHL
 DYUTI DAS
 EMILY J. DAVIDSON
 KATELYN E. DAVIDSON
 CHASE M. DAVIES
 CHRISTOPHER J. DAVIES
 BRANDON A. DAVIS
 DAKOTA R. DAVIS
 DAVID W. DAVISPOPE
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 SARAH E. WOOD
 LUCIANO A. WORL
 JOCELYNN K. WUJEK
 PAUL R. WYATT
 ETHAN A. YELVERTON
 NICHOLAS T. YERKES
 BRADLEY S. YODER
 BRENDAN C. YOUT
 WILLIAM R. ZAPALA
 CALLI M. ZIMMERMAN
 COLIN A. ZYCHLEWICZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CLIFFORD J. ABBOTT
 DENNIS C. BARRETT
 MARISSA C. BROWNFRIPP
 ERIC M. CAMPBELL
 QUINN C. CHALLINOR
 LINDSAY A. CLEMENTS
 WILLIAM P. DESOUZA
 MATTHEW H. FABER
 SHANIQUE N. GREEN
 BRITTANY N. HENLEY
 PATRICE M. HERNANDEZ
 KALAN S. KELLY
 PETER F. LAWTON
 ALISHA S. MAITLANDWHITE
 JOHN MCCUALEY
 TREVOR C. MILFORD
 COLIN W. NASH
 MASSIMO ONGARO
 RAEVIN N. PAREDES
 TIFFANY D. PEARSON
 DERRICK E. PRESCOTT
 EDWARD K. SCHNEIDER
 ARABIA E. SHANKLIN
 AMANDA M. VALISH
 JOSEPH D. E. VRANICH
 CHRISTINA J. WILLIAMS
 MEGAN C. WILSON
 MICHAEL D. WOJDYLA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

SAMMY J. AMALLA
 STEVEN W. ARNOLD
 DAVID P. BAXTER
 MICHAEL D. BLACK
 CAMRON A. BRANDT
 BENJAMIN J. CARPENTER
 NEIL A. CAUSLEY
 CODI H. CLARK
 JONATHAN L. CLARK
 BURNELL A. CLEMMER
 SARAH M. COTEY
 JOHN K. COWART
 MAX T. CUTCHEN
 ANTHONY M. DEMARTINO
 MATTHEW F. DICKERMAN
 LUKAS E. FRANSSEN
 ELIZABETH A. GEISS
 CHRISTOPHER M. GIROUARD
 DARIEN C. GREEN
 DANIEL J. HARDMAN
 CHRISTOPHER L. HEVEY
 ERIN E. HILL
 LOI V. HUYNH
 DAVID R. IRONS
 VICTOR LEE
 ALLISON F. LENZI
 KATHERINE Y. MANN
 SHANE L. MARTIN
 RICHARD T. MCCLAIN
 EMILY M. MELLIN
 WILLIAM A. MELTON
 WADE T. MEYERS
 ANDREW W. MILLER
 KARINA A. MONROE
 TRICIA D. NGUYEN
 JENNIFER N. PENLEY
 DENZEL T. R. REINA
 JOSHUA P. RICKS
 ANDREW B. ROLEY
 SAMUEL R. ROYSTER
 TIKHON J. RUGGLES
 CAROLYN A. SCHIESSE
 KYLE M. SUROVEC
 RODNEY D. THATCHER
 JASON B. WEBB
 DAVID J. WEST
 OLIVIA M. WITTMAN
 HERMAN C. WONG
 JESSICA D. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

LINDSAY S. AINSWORTH
 SEAN M. ALEXANDER
 MARGARET G. ALTES
 JUSTIN E. BASS
 SARAANN C. BENNETT
 MATTHEW P. BRANSTETTER
 KRISTEN J. E. CAPP
 SARAH CHI
 JOHN V. CORRIGAN III
 CATHERINE M. CROCHETIERE
 SEAN P. DANEHEY
 ALYSSA D. DEGNERLOPEZ
 JOHN L. FLYNN
 ANDREW J. FULBRIGHT
 TAYLER L. HAGGERTY
 GAVIN R. HILLARD
 JOSIAH N. HOUCK
 MARK A. JESSUP
 KAYLAN E. KAATZ
 JOHN D. KELLEY
 CHELSEA V. KING
 JAMES L. KRAEMER, JR.
 JEFFREY M. LARSON
 DIANA R. LEATHAM
 BENJAMIN G. LEATHAM
 TRISTANY A. LEIKEM
 ROSEMARIE A. LOMBARDI
 COURTNEY J. LONDON
 NORA T. LOPOPOLO
 MICHAEL P. MCBRIDE
 SCOTT I. MCDONALD
 JOHN A. MCGLAUGHLIN
 CLIFTON E. MORGAN III
 SHAUNA K. MORRIS
 SUSAN L. NIEMIER
 SEBASTIAN J. PACHECO
 SARAH D. PADWAY
 CASEY J. PARKER
 DANIEL J. PHIPPS
 LANDRY M. REDDING
 PATRICK R. RIGNEY
 STACY E. SAXON
 ANDREA M. SCHARFEN
 JOHN M. SCHWIETZ
 CHRISTINA SORG
 STERLING S. SPENCER
 MERIDITH A. WALES
 ROBERT A. WALSH
 JAMES L. WRAYMILLER
 JAMES P. Z. WUZHU
 PETER W. YAGEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

YUSUF ABDULLAH

MARYAM A. ADEBAYO
 SARAH W. ALEXANDER
 JORGE I. AMEZAGA
 LEXUS R. ANDERSON
 VALERIE M. G. ARNAEZ
 YOUELA ARRINGTON
 NATALIA R. AYERS
 JOHN D. BAIRD
 LINDSEY M. BANE
 HEATHER E. BARBARO
 JOSEPH M. BIDDIX
 ELISHA D. BOLTON
 LAUREN E. BOND
 STEPHANIE J. BOURDEAU
 TAYLOR L. BROUGLIO
 LAKEISHA A. BROWN
 LIAKE M. BURCHETTE
 TRISHIA P. CARINIO
 BETH A. CARTER
 JACQUELINE A. CASTER
 JASON A. CHERRY
 CAITLIN N. T. CHUN
 MOLLY E. CLARK
 LELAND B. COMER
 DIANA K. COZZENS
 AKEEKA S. DAVIS
 SAVANNAH L. DEAN
 NESTORVICENTE R. DIAZ
 SHAMEKIA N. DILLARD
 LYNNETTRIA D. DRUMMER
 ESTRELLITA D. EDMOND
 ROCHELLE T. FABRIZIO
 KRISTI D. FERCHLAND
 RAEPHAEL L. GARCIA
 AARON M. GEORGAS
 SERENA I. GERFY
 ROBERT G. GIROLAMO
 TIARA K. GODWIN
 JOSHUA P. HAHN
 JESSUCA M. HANN
 SARAH E. HART
 HEATHER A. HERNANDEZ
 CAROLYN J. HILL
 CHRISTIE M. HOBAN
 MICHELLE K. INDIANO
 SAMANTHA M. KNIGHT
 INGRID D. KNIGHT
 MARK A. KNUSTON
 STEPHEN C. LANCASTER
 MEGAN E. LINDNER
 NUBE G. MACANCELA
 LIZA M. R. MAR
 ANDREW E. MASIOLLO
 MEGAN R. MCKIM
 SHANNON D. MCMILLER
 ANTHONY T. MEIER
 MARY E. MISTURADO
 ERICA D. MONSEES
 MELISSA S. MUNA
 ELTON J. NUREDINI
 SHEILA A. OCONNOR
 PAUL D. OWENS
 SUZANNE H. PAPADAKOS
 BRENT D. PAVELL
 TONYA R. PORTMANN
 EDWARD A. ROHNER II
 ESTHER K. RUEDI
 ALICIA M. SACKS
 IVETTE SANCHEZ
 MELISSA A. SCHILLING
 JESSICA L. SCHMIDT
 MARK J. SCHMIDT
 WILLIAM B. SCOGGINS
 TAMMY L. SPEARS
 KENNETH R. STEELE
 DAVID A. STERNBAUM
 JOSEPH R. STRAHAAN
 JAMIE R. THOMAS
 ANDREW J. VILLEUX
 VALERIE P. VICK
 BERNADETTE J. VINGERHOETS
 RYAN D. WADSWORTH
 MACIEJ A. WARTAK
 JOSHUA S. WOMACK
 TINEASHA Y. WOODS
 JUSTIN K. WOOLEY
 DEMERCE A. YOUNG
 ERIN M. ZUMWALT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ANN K. ADAMS
 KELLY L. ALLEN
 VICTORIANO I. ARAUJO
 LAUREN A. BAILEY
 KEVIN A. BARNES
 JOHN B. BIRKOSKI
 KATHERINE M. BLACK
 DAVID J. BOLTON
 NANA O. BONSU
 GABRIELLE C. CARTER
 HARRISON D. CHAIRES
 SUMIT CHHIKARA
 JOSE G. CHIRINOS
 JAE Y. CHOI
 VINCENT A. CIPOLLONE
 LAURA A. CLARKE
 DANIEL H. COLLINS
 STEPHANIE M. CONENNA
 BARBARA C. CONLEY
 ADRIAN I. COPACIO
 JOSHUA J. CROFT
 DANIEL C. CULL
 JOHN M. CUSIMANO

ADAM P. DAVIDSON
 CANDI R. DECOTEAU
 DARRELL B. DEITENBECK
 STEVEN M. DICKENS
 HOLLY A. DOERR
 ORLANDO DOMINGUEZ
 AMBER N. DRAYTON
 THOMAS M. ESPOSITO
 DARA N. FARADAY
 CHRISTOPHER J. FEYEN
 BENJAMIN F. FINLEY II
 KATHRYN E. FRESE
 MATTHEW J. GIANNONE
 MARLOWE R. GONZALES
 DONALD H. GRAYBILL
 ANDREW B. HA
 DYLAN G. HAYDEN
 MITCHELL T. HENNESSY
 JASON L. HERRERA
 LAUREN E. HOVEY
 BRYAN S. JONES
 CHARLES E. KAISER III
 BRITTANY E. KEITH
 SOON B. KWON
 JAMIE A. LAWSON
 JULIAN LE
 BEZEYEM LEMOU
 SHAKEITHA L. LEWIS
 CLIFTON E. LUBER III
 DIANA J. H. MAENG
 BRANDON M. MAGILKE
 STEPHEN J. Q. MARTIR
 BLAYNE M. MARTZ
 ANDRE T. MAYOUNGA
 NICHOLAS C. MAYS
 MATTHEW G. MCQUILLIN
 DENNEN M. MINER
 ANNE N. ONYANGO
 STANLEY C. OWUAMA
 ALFREDO J. PEREZ II
 ANDREW C. PETERS
 CONOR R. RENTZ
 ANGELI D. RODRIGUEZ
 ADAM D. ROMERO
 SHERIDAN T. RUCKER
 JAMES R. RUSSELL
 BRITTNEY M. SANDERS
 CHERRY L. D. SANTIAGO
 ADRIAN R. SANTOSALBONA
 FRANK G. SILVA, JR.
 JONIZEL B. SIOSON
 TRISTAN J. SKINNER
 TYLER J. SMITH
 JEFFREY M. SOCHANCHAK
 ANDRES F. SOLARTE
 DARIUS STATEN
 THOMAS A. STONE
 RYAN J. STORRUSTEN
 BRANDON L. STRICKLAND
 TIMOTHY R. G. TAN
 SAMUEL THEODORIS
 ALEXIS G. TRAVIS
 WILLIAM T. TUCKER
 ALAN T. UICHNEY
 JESSICA R. VAETH
 CESAR A. VARGAS
 PRENOLIN VEERASAMY
 MICHELLE N. WOGU
 XIN XIA
 DAIQU ZHENG
 ELAINE ZHONG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTINE A. ANCHETA
 BENJAMIN E. ATLAS
 GEORGE BENNITT IV
 DANIEL K. BUONO
 AUDREY M. BUXTON
 SHANE S. BYUN
 DENNIS W. CHANG
 KYU J. CHOI
 JESSICA A. COWHEY
 ALEXANDRA M. DOWNEY
 DIEWITT DUONG
 SEAN R. DYRENG
 COLIN P. EGAN
 OPEYEMI E. FADOJU
 ANTHONY G. FIORETTI
 HUGO C. GARCIA
 PAIGE R. GRATER
 ANDREW J. GRINSELL
 KATHRYN B. HARRINGTON
 AGNES T. S. HO
 SCOTT D. HOPKINS
 BENJAMIN J. HORN
 LINDSAY J. JAYNE
 JOSHUA W. JOHNSON
 JAMES M. KELLOGG
 GREGORY L. KIBLER
 ALEXANDER H. KIM
 TAE Y. KIM
 JENNIFER A. KOLIN
 TAYLOO M. KOREN
 KUANG H. LEE
 YA N. LI
 KYLE A. LIVENGOOD
 ALEX P. LONG
 MELISSA J. MILDNER
 TRENTON J. MORRILL
 SOLOMON S. NAIR
 JUSTIN R. ODETTE
 DANIELLE M. P. RAPADAS
 BRADLEY D. REVENIN

NICHOLAS A. SCHNUR
 ERIN M. SEELY
 BEAU J. SHAW
 MICHAEL A. SIY
 AMANDA G. SYAMKEN
 STERLING C. THOMPSON
 VINCENT A. VAUGHN
 SAMUEL S. VOTTO
 THANH N. T. VU
 RICARDO J. M. WASSMER
 BRETT E. WEATHERINGTON
 JAMES F. WEHRMAN
 MINGHE ZHANG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

OLLIE C. ADCOX
 OLUWOLE M. AFUAPE
 AUBREY D. AGUERO
 PRENDER A. ALDERSON
 TRISTAN M. ALSTON
 CARLOS A. ALVAREZ
 AKAKPOSSA B. ANANOU
 ATO K. A. ANDERSON
 LYNDSE S. ANDERSON
 ELIZABETH A. AUCKLAND
 RAYNOLD G. AUGUSTIN, JR.
 RYAN W. BAUERNFEIND
 TEJASWI S. BELAVADI
 ANTHONY M. BELEKANICH
 JESSICA R. BLAND
 RAYMOND J. BLASI
 LEARLINO D. BLUITT
 JASON L. J. BOND
 ASHLEY L. BOSSIER
 LORNA H. BROWN
 GEOFFREY C. BURGERHOFF
 CAMERON M. BURNETT
 ALEXANDER M. BUTTON
 MICHELLE R. CABEZAS
 BENJAMIN L. CAVIN
 MATTHEW J. CHRISTENSEN
 GEOFFREY E. CIARLONE
 ALLISON M. CONFORT
 DANIEL S. CONLEY
 JOHN E. COWGAR II
 ANDREW T. DARRAH
 MILTON R. DAWKINS
 MATTHEW L. DECKER
 DUSTIN DICKAMORE
 DANIEL D. DILL
 MAUREENA B. DIMARZIO
 TRAVIS M. DOGGETT
 ANDREW C. DUFFIN
 TANEIKA N. DUHANEY
 TRINITY R. DUNHAM
 AYESHA J. EDWARDS
 BRANDON H. ELMS
 BRENDAN J. FINTON
 JODI M. FIORENZANO
 KAMISHA L. FRANCIS
 PIA FRANCISCO
 COREY J. FUGATE
 ALVARO GALO
 JOHN D. GANTHER
 RANNIE A. GIBSON
 JESSE D. GILLETT
 JUAN C. GOMEZ
 JONATHAN O. GOMEZRIVERA
 RICHARD S. GONZALES
 YOMAIRA M. GONZALEZ
 WILLIAM L. GORDON
 WILLIAM D. GRAHAM
 MICHAEL J. GRAY
 GRANT D. GREENBERG
 ASHLEY N. GRIPPE
 JESSICA L. HANEY
 RAYNA K. HERREN
 MEGAN C. HESS
 JACOB J. HESSE
 ANDREW G. HOFF
 TIMOTHY P. HOPKINS
 DAVID H. HOWERIN
 JERRY J. HUGHES
 BRENT M. HUME
 SHAUN M. HUTSEN
 AFAM N. ISAGBA
 JEREMY S. JACKSON
 STEPHEN M. JAGGI
 JENNIFER A. JEWELL
 ANDREW H. JIANG
 CHRISTIAN R. JOHNROE
 ROSLYN R. A. JOHNSON
 ALICIA C. JOHNSON
 MEGAN C. JONES
 MICHAEL KANTAR
 MEGAN E. KELLY
 DANIEL A. KEMP
 JORDAN C. KOYLE
 NATALIE M. KRUPP
 SAMUEL H. KUHR
 LANCE A. LANGREHR
 CHELSEA R. LARRO
 DONNY LE
 EDUARDO LINARES
 ERIC N. LOPEZ, JR.
 NIKIMA T. LOUREIRO
 AMBER L. LOVE
 BRITTANY A. LOVETT
 HARUN C. LUCAS
 NANCY J. LUNA
 DENNIS J. MADDEN
 IRIS D. MANSO
 ODELIA N. MCFADDEN

KEVIN J. MCNAMEUS
 NEAL D. MCNEAL
 BRIAN D. A. MCNEIL
 DARYL A. MERCADO
 KURT W. MEYER
 MATTHEW J. MILES
 KERRY N. MILLER
 CLAIRE M. MODICA
 KEVIN G. MOLLEMA
 NATHAN R. MOON
 JARRETT G. MOORE
 JEFF A. MORELEN, JR.
 RICHARD G. MORGAN
 CHRISTOPHER M. MULLAHAY
 ALICIA N. MURRAY
 FRED D. NTI
 ANTHONY P. OCHILTREE
 JEFFREY E. OSBORN
 KYNA PAK
 MARK A. PALCAN
 CHIRAG H. PATEL
 JEFFREY A. PEARSON
 VICTORIA F. G. PIAMONTE
 SAMANTHA J. PONCE
 COURTNEY C. RAFFERTY
 NEIL J. RAMPY
 VERONICA L. RESTREPOMOLINA
 RYAN C. RIGBY
 MICHAEL S. ROACH
 LEAH B. ROBERTS
 BARBARA K. RODRIGUEZ
 TIMOTHY S. RUTHERFORD
 DENISE M. SAHM
 JAMES W. SALASSI III
 ASA N. SCHAEFER
 MICHAEL S. SCHAEFER
 LINCOLN J. SCHNEIDER
 MARY C. SCHOFIELD
 BENJAMIN L. SCRIPTURE
 VICTORIA L. SELKIRK
 SAKSHI SHARMA
 KOBIE R. SMITH
 RACHEL A. SMITH
 MICHAEL A. SOKOLOWSKI
 JENNIFER M. SOLAND
 SILAS E. SPAIN
 MICHAEL T. SQUIRES
 MATTHEW M. STJOHN
 ARRON M. STOKES
 ALEX R. STULO
 KAISER SULTANI
 SEAN R. SZAD
 NABIL H. TAHAH
 RICHARD E. THATCHER
 PHONG TRAC
 GILL S. TRAINOR
 MILICENT P. TYSINGER
 ALICIA D. VALDEZ
 ELIH M. VELAZQUEZDELGADO
 JOHN A. VINGOE
 ERIC S. VORM
 JESSICA A. WALKER
 SHANEECE L. WASHINGTON
 TANNIESHA L. WATTS
 AMY S. WELKIE
 ELIZABETH K. WHIPPLE
 DARA H. WHITE
 JARRETT D. WHITE
 JANICE P. WHITTAKER
 MICHAEL A. H. WIDROFF
 CRAIG I. WILCOX
 EBONEE I. WILLIAMS
 NEVILLE S. WILLOUGHBY
 JASON K. WOOLERY
 TELIA R. WRIGHT
 JIMMY C. N. XIONG
 DAN XU
 MATTHEW W. YANS
 JAIME C. ZHUNEPLUAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

STEPHANIE O. AJUZIE
 JEFFREY S. AMOS
 CHRISTOPHER C. ANDERSEN
 ERIK L. ANDERSON
 ABIGAIL L. AXEL
 PATRICK H. BAGLEY
 REBECCA A. BAJKOWSKI
 BENJAMIN H. BAKER
 LAURA C. BARBARUZ
 BRENDAN M. BARRETT
 MATTHEW J. BAUER
 RYAN P. BAXTER
 ELISE S. BECKER
 YUSOF A. J. BECKER
 KATHERINE J. BELL
 JORDAN M. BERGMANN
 DANIEL J. BERMAN
 EUGENE J. BEVILLE
 MATTHEW R. BIGLIANO
 LORI B. BJORK

KEVIN A. BOBECK
 ANDREW M. BOHLEN
 CHRISTOPHER E. BOWMAN
 JENNIFER N. BOWMAN
 ALEXANDRA F. BRADLEY
 AUSTIN M. BROWN
 DANIELLE E. BUCCINE
 JOHN M. BUSCLAS
 KELSEY C. CAMPBELL
 LEONIE T. CAMPBELL
 DUNCAN M. CARLTON
 PHILIP A. CASTROVINCI
 MATTHEW J. CHEN
 VINCENT CHOU
 STACY G. CHOW
 KURT R. CHRISTEN
 MATTHEW P. CHRISTIAN
 KASEY J. CONKLIN
 COLLEEN M. COOK
 JULIANNE N. CORCORAN
 LILY T. CRISCIONE
 EMILY E. CROCETTI
 JOSHUA H. CROSBY
 ROBERT M. CRUTCHER
 JOHN M. CURNES
 ELIZABETH A. CUSHING
 REESE M. DARE
 JAMES M. DAY
 MICHELLE T. DENTINGER
 NELSON D. Q. DESOUZA
 SUKHMANI DHALIWAL
 MATTHEW W. EARLY
 IAN F. EISENHAUER
 GRAHAM C. ELLIS
 ALEC D. EMERLING
 ERIC W. EMERLING
 WILLIAM J. FERRIS
 BRANDON R. GARREN
 EDWARD K. GASTELWARDELL
 ELYSE M. GEIBEL
 ROBERT N. GEIS II
 CASSANDRA S. GESSLING
 HANNAH E. GEVERD
 KEEGAN J. GIES
 ADRIENNE S. GILLIS
 RYAN P. GILLIS
 AMELIA M. GOODFELLOWHYDER
 DIANA M. GOURDET
 ZACHARY J. GRICEPATIL
 ANNE M. GRIFFIOEN
 CARLA B. GUARINI
 KRISTI L. GWIDT
 CHRYSANTHY HA
 MARK J. HALL
 MEGAN H. HALLIDAY
 ZAKARY J. HAMBSCH
 GUY P. HAMILTON
 HUNTINGTON HARDISTY
 GARRETT M. HARP
 KELSIE L. HERRING
 KYLE B. HERRING
 SPENCER L. HIRT
 MICHAEL V. HUGHES
 GUENOLA M. D. HUNT
 ONDREIA J. HUNT
 SYED A. HUSSAIN
 SHAUNN P. HUSSEY
 VIET H. HUYNH
 ALEXANDER J. ITEEN
 SERGEY V. IVANOV
 JULIA F. JACOBS
 ROBERT P. JAMPLIS
 AMANDA L. JEPSEN
 KRISTOPHER P. JOHNSON
 KELLY T. JOYCE
 STEPHEN M. KALKHOFF
 AMOL D. KAMAT
 FEEL G. KANG
 DEREK S. KARR
 MARK S. KATSMA
 COLIN K. KELLY
 THOMAS J. KELSEY
 TRACEY KIM
 LANDON J. KING
 KAYLEIGH J. KIRK
 JOSHUA A. KOTLER
 PHILIP P. KRAUSE
 AUSTIN J. LABANC
 KRISTOPHER R. LANGE
 PHILLIP N. LANGFORD
 MICHAEL T. LAROY
 MITCHELL A. LASKI
 STEPHANIE E. LATHAM
 TONY D. LE
 MAUNOO LEE
 THOMAS A. LEFEBVRE
 EVAN A. LIGGETT
 BENJAMIN W. LITTLE
 MARIE N. LIVESEY
 ALEXANDER E. LUNDY
 ELIZABETH A. MALDONADO
 JOSEPH G. MARQUEZ
 JACOB M. MARSHALL
 ABEL M. MARTEN

AMANDA N. MARTIN
 CLYDE D. MARTIN III
 MARCO A. MARTINEZ
 ALEXANDRA P. B. MAURO
 AUSTIN B. MAY
 JAMES D. J. MAY
 KELLI A. MCCOY
 MICHAEL J. MCDONALD
 BENJAMIN J. MCDOWELL
 RACHEL A. MCWHIRTER
 ANASTASIA A. MERCER
 ATHENA A. MIKROS
 CHARLES E. MITSCHOW
 CAROLINE E. MOORE
 LAURA M. MOURAFETIS
 JEFFREY M. MOY
 ELIZABETH J. MRAMOR
 KELLY A. MURPHY
 SARAH Y. NELSON
 MATTHEW T. NELSON
 JUSTIN D. NORVELL
 BRITTANY A. OCKENFELS
 AUSTIN M. PARK
 BRIAN PARK
 KRISTINE T. PARRA
 ROBERT M. PASTULA
 UTSAV M. PATWARDHAN
 MIKELL R. PEARCE, JR.
 HOLY B. PERKINS
 SIDNEY E. PERLES
 KIMBERLY PISTELL
 ANGELA M. PRONGER
 DAWN L. QUIGLEY
 WILLIAM E. RALLYA
 SAMUEL H. RENFRO
 ELIZABETH A. RETTIE
 CORY A. RICCIO
 BRADFORD T. RILEY
 FERNANDO D. RIOS
 NICHOLAS A. ROBERTS
 JORDAN N. ROBINSON
 GREG A. ROGERS
 FREDERICK W. ROHLFING
 MICHAEL J. ROTH
 JOSEPH A. RUFFO
 KEITH E. RYAN
 ASHLEY P. SCHEMEL
 GREGORY S. SCHMIDT
 WILLIAM R. SHANNON
 YARROW SHELDON
 WILLIAM B. SISSON
 RYAN D. SLABAUGH
 ALICIA C. SMITH
 JOSHUA D. H. SOHN
 ALLISON A. SPIES
 JESSICA R. STAMBAUGH
 MARSHALL L. STEELE
 MITCHELL T. STORAR
 JAIME K. STULL
 THOMAS M. SUBLETT
 CHRISTOPHER K. SULLIVAN
 GRAHAM E. SULLIVAN
 KEVIN B. SULLIVAN
 MICHAEL A. SUMNER
 KEVIN T. H. THAI
 ROBERT G. THOMPSON
 LINDSEY A. THORNER
 WILLIAM G. TILBURY
 GIACOMO A. TOMASELLO
 ANNE M. TRAGER
 LANANH T. TRAN
 THONG X. TRAN
 DAVID J. ULERY
 BRADLEY A. ULLMAN
 KELSEY C. VANBOKKEM
 JONATHAN R. WALSH
 SAMANTHA M. WARD
 SAMUEL D. WARD
 KEENAN H. WHEELER
 DANIELLE A. WICKMAN
 JARED R. WIDDER
 DANIEL M. WIDO
 ADAM J. WILL
 ANDREW R. WILSNACK
 AMANDA L. WOJAHN
 SAVANNAH L. WOODWARD
 EDGAR F. ZAMORA
 KATHERINE H. ZEIGLER
 SERENA X. ZHANG
 ZOE C. ZIMMER
 DANIEL M. ZINK

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by
 the Senate September 7, 2022:

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN Z. LEE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIR-
 CUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.