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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, June 9, 2023, at 9 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, in spite of the dramatic decline in our air quality in so many of our cities, we continue to believe that the Heavens proclaim Your glory and the skies display Your craftsmanship. We embrace Your command in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "In everything give thanks."

We thank You today for those who positively touch our lives. Thank You for mothers and fathers who make good homes and guide us to ethical clarity. Thank You for friends who help to make life beautiful as they inspire us to show great love. Lord, thank You also for loved ones who through personal sacrifices have given us a great heritage. Thank You for our Senators who labor diligently to keep our country strong. And, Lord, we thank You for the memorable page class, the spring page class of 2023.

We praise You in Your great 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 (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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 ses-

sion to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Molly R. Silfen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as everyone knows, this week, the United States has suffered through some of the worst wildfire air pollution in the entire history of our country.

North of the border, over 400 wildfires continue blazing across Quebec and many parts of Eastern Canada, and winds are sending smoke and toxic air across the border and into our cities, into our communities, into our lungs.

To walk through New York City yesterday was to walk on another planet. The orange fog of wildfire smoke left our city unrecognizable. Sadly, New York City had the worst air quality of any major city in the world yesterday, even more than such cities as Delhi or Jakarta, which always rate at the top for the worst air quality. And even as New York City had the worst air quality, the pollution was even worse for Upstate New York. From Bayside to Brooklyn, from Buffalo to Binghamton, my home State looked like the scene of a scary movie.

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



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Across the Northeast, schools canceled outdoor activities and after-school programs. The Yankees, the Phillies, and the New York Liberty all postponed their games. People as far west as Indianapolis and as far south as South Carolina have been impacted.

I urge all people here in Washington and across the United States to listen to local health officials and take every precaution to stay safe.

The climate crisis is real, and it is here to stay. We must take action against the climate crisis, both short term and long term.

In the short term, this morning, I am calling on Secretary Tom Vilsack to double the number of Forest Service personnel deployed to fight these fires in Canada. I am calling on the Secretary of Agriculture to double the number of personnel to mitigate the risk in the air for millions of Americans. I am sending a letter to him, asking him to double the Forest Service personnel.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

DEAR SECRETARY VILSACK: I am writing to express my concern for the health and safety of New Yorkers, and all Americans, affected by the smoke resulting from the wildfires currently raging in Quebec, Canada. I urge the U.S. Forest Service (FS) to double the personnel preparing to deploy to help Canada fight these forest fires and protect the lives and health of all those impacted.

As you know, the Quebec wildfires of recent days have caused terrible air quality impacts across much of the northeastern United States, including New York. Today, the United States had the worst air quality in the world with New York City measuring particulate matter 14.5 times greater than the World Health Organization's annual air quality guideline value. Over the past two days, much of New York State has faced Hazardous air quality index (AQI) ratings of over 300, levels at which all people are likely to be affected, no matter their health. This poor air quality has caused flight cancellations, restaurant closures, and Broadway show cancellations, grinding New York City, and the rest of the state, to a halt. Rapidly returning our air quality to normal, healthy levels is of the utmost importance.

Containing these fires is the best way to prevent more smoke from drifting into the U.S. and returning air quality in New York and elsewhere to healthy levels. To assist their Canadian counterparts in their fire-fighting efforts, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has already deployed one Forest Ranger to assist with efforts to contain the raging fires. The Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (P.L. 81-129) grants the U.S. Forest Service authority to provide necessary cross-border assistance to cope with fires beyond a sole entity's capabilities. I ask that FS prepare to send additional personnel to provide the Canadian Forest Service with whatever necessary expertise and service they require to contain and end these fires as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
U.S. Senator.

Mr. SCHUMER. These unprecedented wildfires are a crisis for both Canada and the United States, so both nations must respond speedily and forcefully to contain the blazes. The best way to ensure the United States does not suffer another wave of wildfire air pollution is to contain these fires up in Canada as soon as possible. That is getting at the source, and that is what we need to do. It won't be easy, but the Federal Government—our Federal Government—must explore all options on the table to keep Americans safe.

We must send personnel. We must send equipment. We must offer any assistance that our friends north of the border need. Over the last 2 years, the Senate passed billions in funding to mitigate and respond to wildfires. We did it when we passed the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act. The American Rescue Plan also provided huge sums to help schools improve their air filtration systems. Today, these investments are paying off. Many schools are safer and cleaner because of the legislation we passed, but there is much more to do.

In the long term, there is little doubt that climate change has exacerbated both the depth and breadth of these fires in Canada. We cannot fully account for these fires without recognizing that climate change is making disasters like this far more common and far more destructive. Temperatures in May reached record levels in Canada, and warmer temperatures mean that forest fires often burn faster, burn hotter, burn bigger. We are seeing this play out in realtime. Canadian officials say their country is now on track for their worst season of wildfire destruction on record.

What we consider freak accidents today could become the norm tomorrow, and the more we ignore our obligation to lower carbon emissions, the greater the risks of these disasters. That is why Democrats passed the largest package of clean energy investments in American history last year through the Inflation Reduction Act, but both parties have an obligation to do more, both to reduce our carbon emissions and make sure we all have the resources necessary to respond to natural disasters—so many of them caused or exacerbated by climate change.

In the coming days, I will continue to reach out to the administration to ensure that we are doing everything we can to help contain the fires up north. That is the best thing we can do to keep American citizens across the country safe and healthy.

NOMINATION OF DILAWAR SYED

Now, on nominations, Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Dilawar Syed to serve as the No. 2 person at the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Syed's confirmation is great news for small businesses across the country because there is no better person to serve the interests of small busi-

ness than someone who is a successful business owner himself.

The SBA has not had a Senate-confirmed Deputy for more than 5 years, and Mr. Syed is exactly the right person for the job. His nomination is backed by more than 200 civic, government, higher education, and business groups and leaders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Roundtable.

Mr. Syed is an American success story. He came to this country from Pakistan and amassed a remarkably successful career as an executive at Yahoo!, as the president of a software company, and most recently as the CEO of a healthcare AI company. So Mr. Syed is more than qualified to assume the post of Deputy SBA Administrator, where his job will be in helping millions of small businesses get the resources they need to start, to grow, to expand.

And, once confirmed, Mr. Syed will add to the dynamism and diversity of the Biden administration as the highest ranking Muslim official in the executive branch.

This is a very good day for small business because, after today, the SBA will have an exceedingly capable, experienced, and accomplished small business champion in Dilawar Syed. So I will vote yes on his nomination, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

LGBTQI+ COMMUNITIES

Finally, Mr. President, this morning, as the Nation celebrates Pride Month, the Biden administration has announced a series of new Federal actions to protect our LGBTQI+ communities from threats to their rights and their safety.

As over a dozen States escalate their attacks against these communities, the administration has responded. Today's announcement includes new community safety partnerships, initiatives to support the LGBTQI+ children and their mental health, and a dedicated response to the truly Orwellian trend of banning books across the country.

So I commend the Biden administration for taking these actions to protect the communities and affirming that all Americans deserve equal protection under the law and in this country.

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.

FARM BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as I outlined earlier this week, the Senate has a great deal of work to do to fulfill

our most basic responsibilities: keeping America safe, keeping America fed, and keeping the lights on.

Our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee intend to fund the Federal Government through regular order. The Armed Services Committee has an urgent responsibility to set the Senate's national security priorities so we can face growing threats and fund our Armed Forces accordingly.

And also this year, the Agriculture Committee has to pass the farm bill. This legislation is the cornerstone of the government's approach to helping growers feed America. It includes essential provisions that support farmers, create good-paying jobs, and strengthen rural communities.

In my home State of Kentucky, nearly 75,000 farms help keep dinner plates full and grocery stores stocked throughout the entire country. But thanks to endless redtape from unelected bureaucrats and partisan foot-dragging here in Washington, it is more difficult than ever to be a farmer in Kentucky.

Washington Democrats' runaway inflation has bogged down small family farms. With production costs on the rise, the Department of Agriculture projects that net farm income will decline by—listen to this—20 percent in 2023.

Naturally, farm families are looking to Congress to deliver much needed help and stability. In Kentucky, farmers are stalling investments and taking on unforeseen risks as they wait for Washington to make up its mind. Farmers in Kentucky and across the country deserve certainty from Congress so they can plan for the future.

With less than 4 months to go until many current farm bill provisions expire, time is running out. That is why Congress needs to do its job and get this legislation across the finish line swiftly.

Last week, negotiations between a Democratic President and a Republican Speaker allowed the Senate to take an important step toward fiscal sanity and avert economic catastrophe. In the coming months, we will need further collaboration to produce legislation that puts farmers first and secures our food supply. Senate Republicans stand ready to do our part.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY QUINN

Now, Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, I am very sorry to have to conclude my remarks today by bidding farewell to an integral member of my staff, my chief speechwriter and strategic communications director, Andy Quinn.

Five and a half years ago, Andy arrived in my office with one of the sharpest minds and sharpest pens in town. It has been my great good fortune to have him on my team longer than anyone might reasonably hope to keep such a talent tied down.

Andy's background made him a unique candidate for the job, to say the least. He was the exceedingly rare

breed who had come out of 4 years at an elite New England liberal arts college with his conservative principles even stronger. He had experience on the campaign trail and in the cloisters of professional scholarship, but he hadn't spent a day working on Capitol Hill.

I had a hunch that Andy's evident hunger, enthusiasm, and sheer brain power would have him adapt to life in the Senate in no time. And, boy, was I right. It would be no exaggeration to say that he will depart more fluent in the workings of this institution than folks who have been around here twice as long.

Andy has proven his impressive ability to wear multiple hats. He has lent both a finely tuned instinct for political strategy and a bottomless—bottomless—appetite for nuanced policy. And, in the process, he has become a plumb line for my entire team on both long-range, big-picture ideas and pressing day-to-day decisions. This young man has an incredible ability to cut straight to the essence of the topic at hand and ask the sort of questions that help all of us approach big issues with clarity and with confidence.

When Andy is at the table, we know we will get clear, honest, unvarnished counsel. These strengths have been extraordinarily valuable over an eventful past 5 years: three Supreme Court confirmations, two Presidential impeachments, and a once-in-a-century pandemic.

During the first weeks of 2021, in particular, some of the most important conversations I had were with Andy, as I planned my response to the rioters who tried and failed to interrupt the certification of an election, and as I prepared to cast my vote as an impeachment juror. Through it all, Andy's zeal for worthy fights has helped me, his colleagues, and our entire conference meet career-defining moments with strength and grace.

He has taken 5½ years of incredibly varied, sensitive, and high-profile responsibilities in stride. He has demonstrated pitch-perfect instincts and wisdom beyond his years. And, somehow, alongside Andy's book smarts is room for a razor-sharp sense of humor and plenty of opinions on the prospects of his Chicago Cubs.

But just as noticeable as Andy's intellect is his humility. He took every step to the front office coffee pot as an opportunity to get to know his youngest colleagues and learn about their interests. For that matter, one of the only outward signs of the enormous workload Andy has shouldered has been the coffee cup he has carried, which his colleagues say has grown larger over the years.

Of course, that could just as likely be a symptom of the fact that Andy has become a proud father not once, not twice, but three times during his Senate tenure.

For all of his work as a fellow steward of this institution and a passionate

defender of right-of-center principles, we know that Andy's truest devotions are to his beloved wife Amy, to the deep faith they share, and to the wonderful family they are raising together.

It is no secret that the demands of the Senate schedule are borne not only by Senators and our staff but, in a unique way, by their families as well. As Andy prepares to write an exciting new chapter professionally, I understand that the oldest of his three sons, at the ripe old age of 4½, has expressed particular excitement at getting to see his dad a little more often. Even the world's greatest deliberative body can't compete with all that.

So I would like to leave Andy with my sincere thanks for pouring his immense talents into our shared mission for these past 5½ years and my congratulations on a job very well done.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

REMEMBERING EDWARD WRZESINSKI

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today, I want to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and Vietnam war veteran who recently passed, Edward Merle Wrzesinski.

Ed was a native son of Montana. He was born on the October 27, 1945, in Roundup. He was raised on the Wrzesinski family homestead in the Snowy Mountains, where he spent his time breaking horses, reading books, and doodling the beautiful Eastern Montana landscape around him—a landscape that would continue to shape his life forever.

Never one to shy away from service or sacrifice, Ed left Montana to serve his country in the Navy during the Vietnam war. During the war, he served on the USS *Ranger* aircraft carrier from 1963 to 1966, where he worked in the print shop.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Ed moved to Seattle and entered the print business. Eventually, he took his printing career to San Francisco, where he opened up his own printing company, called Barbary Coast Press, and he met his wife Debra.

After a stint in Hawaii, Ed and Debra moved back to Montana, settling in Twin Bridges, where they started their family. Here they raised their daughters Tess and Beth and founded Tobacco Root Graphics, an iconic line of western watercolor greeting cards inspired by Ed's childhood in the Snowy Mountains in Eastern Montana.

Ed also went on to drive buses for the Twin Bridges school district and later for Bozeman's Streamline city bus services after they made their move to Bozeman.

Ed loved his family. He especially liked spending time with his daughters. Together, they would work on art projects, attend sporting events, and watch movies.

Ed also loved reading good books. He liked golf. And, as all good Montanans, he liked to trout fish. On a beautiful Montana summer evening, you could find him at the river with a fishing pole and a box of fried chicken.

Ed passed away on May 4, earlier this year. He had fought a long battle with prostate cancer, a condition directly related to his exposure to Agent Orange during his service in the Vietnam war. While he fought long and hard, I am grateful he was able to get the healthcare and the benefits he needed in the last years of his life through the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which we were able to get across the finish line here in the Senate for heroes like Ed. And we did that in 2019.

Today, it is my honor to commemorate his service and life as an outstanding Montanan. His legacy will live on through his family and his daughters.

I am especially honored to have his daughter Tess working on my Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee staff, where she serves veterans in Montana and across the Nation and was awarded the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans' Unsung Hero Award for her tireless work for veterans.

Beth is also following in his footsteps at the University of Montana, where she is studying digital filming.

So on behalf of myself and a grateful Nation, I commend Mr. Ed Wrzesinski and extend our deepest appreciation to him and his family. He is a part of the fabric that makes Montana the "Last Best Place," and he will be sorely missed.

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. DURBIN. 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.

ONLINE SAFETY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this week, Apple unveiled its latest innovation, the Vision Pro. It is a mixed-reality headset that the company claims will blend together our virtual and physical worlds. Now, if you have seen this device, you might think it looks like an overpriced pair of ski goggles, but the implications for this technology are remarkable.

Think about how far we have come in a few short decades. Thirty years ago, hardly anyone owned a cell phone, and even fewer were familiar with the concept of the World Wide Web; but, since then, everything has changed. We have gone from clunky desktop computers to smart phones and smart watches and now a headset that will transform your living room into a virtual playground—a virtual playground. Think about that. You can share it with just about anyone in the world—anyone—even potential sexual predators.

And therein lies the problem. In the face of an unprecedented wave of technological innovation, one thing has remained the same: Our Nation's online safety laws are stuck in the last cen-

tury. Over the past three decades, Congress has given tech and social media companies free rein to police themselves, and they have failed. Now our children are paying the price for these failures. It is time for Congress to step up and protect them.

Today, more than one out of three teenagers say they use social media "almost constantly." That is by design. Big Tech giants and online platforms, powered by advanced algorithms, are capturing the minds and eyeballs of our kids and grandkids. And the more our children scroll, the more these platforms rake in profits.

Now, of course, social media can benefit everyone, including young people. They can learn new skills and hobbies and really connect with valuable friends. But as most parents, grandparents, and public health experts will tell you, social media has a dark side.

Last month, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued an extraordinary warning—the first of its kind—to parents across America. Dr. Murthy said that social media can "have a profound risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents." From anxiety and depression to body image issues, social media is exacerbating the youth mental health crisis in America.

But there is another far more disturbing part of this story because, when it comes to online platforms like Instagram or TikTok, only a few taps and clicks stand between our children and online predators who hope to exploit them. Just yesterday, the Wall Street Journal published a report on what they described as a "vast pedophile network" that has been thriving on Instagram for years—years. According to the report, Instagram not only hosts photos and videos of children being sexually exploited; it actively promotes the despicable content to other users.

Predators even connect with one another through a set of grotesque hash tags that I will not repeat on the Senate floor, and the worst of these predators try to target new, unsuspecting victims and persuade them to share explicit images of themselves.

Let me tell you about one of the victims. His name was James Woods. Last year James, who, at 17, was getting ready to graduate from high school, died by suicide after being targeted in a scheme known as "sextortion." In James' case, he was contacted through Instagram by a user claiming to be a young woman. The conversation quickly turned sexual, and the user asked James to share explicit images of himself. Unfortunately, he complied.

Moments later, he received another message, this time with a threat: Send me \$6,000, or else those images will be sent to everyone you know.

James was terrified. He tried to reason with this predator by sending him a \$100 gift card, but the threats continued. He received 200 messages in a single day, some threatening to hurt him

or kill his family. One message read: "You might as well end it now."

Soon after, James' father arrived home and discovered his son's lifeless body. James had his entire life ahead of him. He was a star on the school track team. He hoped to pursue a career in law enforcement. But now he is gone.

You would think that Instagram, the platform through which James was exploited, would bear some responsibility—some responsibility—for this horrifying tragedy. After all, this predator used Instagram to contact James, solicit explicit images, and then threaten his life. But you would be wrong. Under our existing laws of the United States—namely, section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, written nearly 30 years ago—platforms like Instagram have near total immunity from being held legally accountable for this type of atrocity. That has to change.

Earlier this year, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I pledged that we would take vigorous action to hold Big Tech accountable and stop the online exploitation of children. As part of this effort, I introduced a bill, the Stop CSAM Act. CSAM stands for "child sexual abuse material."

This legislation would create a civil remedy against any online platform that facilitates the exchange of child sexual abuse materials. In other words, if the Stop CSAM Act were law today, James' parents would be able to take legal action against Instagram for failing to fulfill their basic responsibility to protect their customers.

Importantly, my Stop CSAM Act is one of five pieces of legislation that has been reported out of the Judiciary Committee during this Congress to stop the exploitation of children online. Every single one of these pieces of legislation was reported from the Senate Judiciary Committee by a unanimous vote—all five.

Mr. President, you personally, and my colleagues, take a look at the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. That is the most amazing display of political extremes—right and left and center, for that matter—that you will find in Congress. All members of the committee voted in favor of these five pieces of legislation to protect our kids from what is going on on the cell phones across America.

We had testimony from parents—one sad story after another of children who, because of sextortion, bullying, harassment, goading, took their own lives. The mothers sat in the front row, each holding a color photo, a school photo, of their kids. With tears in their eyes, they begged us to do something to protect these kids and to protect America from this exploitation.

When I read about tragedies like the death of James Woods, it is clear: We shouldn't waste another minute. I believe that we should call this measure to the floor of the Senate immediately. There is no reason to wait. In fact, there is a danger if we do.

Let's see if the unanimous opinion of the Senate Judiciary Committee—Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals—can bring us to a bipartisan conclusion now. Wouldn't the American people be happy to hear that, that finally the Senate came together on a bipartisan basis to protect innocent children from sexploitation, from these child sexual abuse materials, and from the sort of situation that James Woods faced, the harassment, with no accountability for the social media platform?

We need to move quickly to do this. There is no excuse. Let's not wait on some other measure. These are five good, strong bills that will say to the social media industry once and for all: You bear responsibility for what goes on. And when you are responsible for it, you can be held accountable in a court of law.

Parents and victims can't do this on their own. They have learned that over and over. They need someone to help, and that would be the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives and the President. I hope every Member of the Senate will join us in protecting our kids from this new world of threats.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Republican whip.

ENERGY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, summer is almost here and with it, summer driving season. With gas prices up 48 percent since President Biden took office and inflation still a major problem, the cost of those family road trip miles is likely to be on the American people's minds.

It is not just the cost of gas that can be challenging in the summer; hot temperatures can bring a corresponding increase in electricity bills as families rely more on their air-conditioners. With electricity prices up 22 percent since President Biden took office and, as I said, with inflation still a major problem, those bills can be a stress.

It is not just energy prices that are of concern this summer. A recent article in the Washington Post entitled "Fresh blackout threats emerge as power grid faces a stressful summer" noted:

The nation's power grid is in precarious shape heading into what could be an especially hot summer . . . with much of the country at risk for outages if it experiences scorching weather scientists say looks increasingly likely.

Much of the country is at risk for outages.

The reliability of our Nation's electric grid is becoming a serious concern, and it is being driven in part by attempts to move our country off conventional energy before we have the necessary technology to rely mostly on renewables.

In February, the PJM Interconnection, which manages a substantial part of eastern America's electric grid, released a report warning that fossil fuel

plants are being forced to retire at a faster rate than new renewables can be brought online, at a rate of roughly two to one. As the report underscored, that situation is being driven by anti-conventional energy policies.

The Wall Street Journal, which weighed in after the PJM report was released, noted that "most projected power-plant retirements are 'policy-driven,' the report says." In other words, powerplants aren't closing because they have reached the end of their operating life; they are closing because the policy is designed to discourage conventional energy.

I am a longtime supporter of renewable energy. In fact, I come from a State where 80-plus percent of the energy that is actually produced in my State is renewable. But the fact is, technology has simply not advanced to the point where our Nation can rely solely or even mostly on renewables, and attempting to move to zero-emission energy before we have the technology and resources to get us there is going to result not only in price increases but in serious deficiencies in our Nation's energy supply.

I say "going to result in," but, as I have mentioned, premature attempts to move us to a Green New Deal future are already compromising the reliability of our electric grid, and the Biden administration has been driving the problem with its anti-conventional energy policies.

While the President has made isolated positive energy decisions—and I would note approving the sale of E15 fuel for this summer as an example—in general, his Presidency has been characterized by environmental extremism and hostility to conventional energy. This year alone, he closed off a substantial part of the Arctic to oil and gas development, and his Environmental Protection Agency has finalized a rule that threatens to close a number of fossil fuel-powered powerplants and undermine the stability of our electric grid even further.

These are policies with far-reaching negative effects. An unstable electric grid, for one, can be a very serious problem. It is not just a matter of inconvenience. Electricity blackouts threaten key systems. Soaring temperatures without the relief of air-conditioning can leave elderly Americans vulnerable. The President's anti-conventional energy policies are not victimless. They have consequences, and we are well on our way to seeing those consequences in action.

The solution here is simple. The President needs to stop undermining our Nation's energy supply with policies that attempt to prematurely push us onto renewables, and he needs to unleash American energy production, conventional as well as renewable.

We did receive some good news on the energy production front last week with the passage of the debt ceiling agreement that the President reached with Speaker MCCARTHY. Thanks to the ef-

forts of Speaker MCCARTHY, the Fiscal Responsibility Act makes a downpayment on permitting reform by placing a 2-year time limit on environmental impact statements and a 1-year time limit on environmental assessments. It also implements a "one Federal decision" framework that establishes a lead Agency and single document stream for permitting decisions. Currently, it takes an average of 4½ years—4½ years—for an environmental impact statement. These reforms will shrink that timeline and help both conventional and renewable energy projects get off the ground more quickly.

However, there is more work to be done to streamline the permitting process, and I hope we will be able to find bipartisan agreement on further reforms. Boggling projects down in environmental review for half a decade provides no meaningful environmental advantages, delays valuable energy projects, and can discourage domestic energy production.

Additional permitting reform should be a priority. Senators CAPITO and BARRASSO have put forward comprehensive contributions to the discussion, the RESTART Act and the SPUR Act respectively. The House has passed H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act. Collectively, these bills would resume Federal lease sales for oil and gas developments, set timelines against endless legal challenges, and advance an American—American—"all of the above" energy comeback.

After 2½ years of demonstrated hostility to conventional energy production, the President seems unlikely to change his ways, but he still has time to embrace a more realistic approach to American energy. I hope that the increasing fragility of our electric grid—to say nothing of higher energy prices—will encourage him to take a more "all of the above" approach to energy production. Otherwise, he may be remembered for presiding over not just an inflation crisis but an energy crisis as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, go outside. It is hard to breathe. The Sun is darkened. The air smells of ash and cinder. Children cannot go to school or even go outside. An unmasked deep breath outside is a risk. On the east coast, it is an ungodly dystopian landscape, the stuff of science fiction, movies set in Martian landscapes, except it is right now, and it is right here.

This week, other than 9/11, New York City registered the worst air quality in the world. Climate change means more heat in the atmosphere, with record high temperatures in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and even Burlington, VT. These high temperatures get locked into place by record-setting high-pressure zones—making "heat domes" of sunny, hot weather that sits

on top of the landscape, drying it out like an oven. More heat, less water—that is fuel for fire.

And we have seen it coming. Climate change has made this pattern more frequent and more intense. And if you don't believe me, if you don't think that this is a new phenomenon prompted by climate change, then ask yourself, when was the last time that New York or Philadelphia experienced something of this magnitude?

It would be disturbing enough to call this the new normal, but it is not the new normal because every year, it is going to get worse until we tackle this problem head-on.

This isn't just a forest fire. This is a climate fire because our entire climate is on fire. These wildfires are not just an occurrence. They are a condition, and the condition is only getting worse. Over the past 20 years, the area of land consumed annually by wildfires has doubled. In some parts of the West, that area is expected to grow sixfold—six times the fires, six times the smoke—which means harmful and dangerous air quality days for our youngest and our oldest, for those with asthma and respiratory disease and other health conditions.

When trees die in a wildfire, they release the carbon that is stored within them into the atmosphere. In that sense, you could look at each burning tree as being a kind of a massive exhaust pipe, spewing carbon up into the atmosphere and contributing to global warming. These fires aren't just the product of climate change; these fires are producing climate change. Additionally, once a tree fully burns, that particular tree is gone for good and can no longer reclaim atmospheric carbon and sequester it safely.

Those of us who have been fighting the climate crisis for decades take no joy in being right. None of us can take a deep breath outside on the east coast right now and not be at risk. But if we ignore this moment, if we don't take advantage of the searing example right in front of us, then we ignore a duty to act. Our public health is at risk. Our very lungs are at risk. There might be a veil of smoke outside, but let's not veil our sight to the need for climate solutions.

There is no mystery here. When you superheat the planet and create searing heat over densely wooded forests, fires are not a surprise. They are the logical outcome of your actions. The future is here right now. Today, we talk about fires. In September, we will talk about hurricanes. In the winter, we will talk about a polar vortex. And in the spring, we will talk about flood and drought before next summer, when we will talk about fires all over again, until we finally talk about the thing we should be talking about, which is how we reduce the emissions, end of this cycle of self-destruction, and secure a safe and stable planet once and for all for everyone.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 157.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Allen, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 157, Elizabeth Allen, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie K. Hirono, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Margaret Wood Hassan, Thomas R. Carper, Tammy Baldwin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Ben Ray Lujan.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Hernan D. Vera, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 25, Hernan D. Vera, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 171.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jared Bernstein, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 171, Jared Bernstein, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Charles E. Schumer, Sherrod Brown, Raphael G. Warnock, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Gary C.

Peters, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of P. Casey Pitts, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 41, P. Casey Pitts, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 8, be waived.

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

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today our democracy held firm against voter discrimination. The Supreme Court has ruled that Alabama's Republican-drawn congressional districts discriminate against Black voters, violating the Voting Rights Act and must be redrawn.

This case is a message to every American who has struggled to cast a ballot or felt like their vote does not matter. Our democracy is worth fighting for. We can make change happen, and that is what the Voting Rights Act represents.

But today's case also reminds us that Jim Crow and racial disenfranchise-

ment live on to this day in ways both subtle and explicit. Discrimination at the ballot box is very real in today's day and age.

Alabama State lawmakers intentionally tried to dilute the voices of Black voters through discriminatory districts. It is a good thing for democracy that the efforts of the Alabama lawmakers to disenfranchise Black voters have failed in this case.

So, once again, the democracy held firm, but the struggle for equal representation, of course, continues.

We must fight to make redistricting much fairer throughout the country. We must do more at the State level, and we must do more in Congress to pass legislation that will strengthen the Voting Rights Act and fight back against racial discrimination at the ballot box.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

VOTE ON DILAWAR SYED NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Syed 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 150 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Sullivan
Collins	Markley	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—42

Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Murray
Lummis	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). 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. 166, Molly R. Silfen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Martin Heinrich, Peter Welch, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Gary C. Peters.

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 Molly R. Silfen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, 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 Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 151 Ex.]

YEAS—55

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

NAYS—41

Blackburn	Fischer	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hagerty	Rounds
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hoeben	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	Moran	Vance
Cruz	Mullin	Wicker
Daines	Paul	Young
Ernst	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Murray
Lummis	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The yeas are 55, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

SPACE FORCE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, there is no better place in the entire United States than Ohio for the Space Command Headquarters and their additional units. Our State is ready to lead our military into the next frontier.

And I rise because I don't know that my colleagues think—I understand we all care about our own States, but I don't know that they think enough about how my State has been for decades—literally decades—in many ways, the premier aerospace State in this country. The Wright Brothers are from Ohio, American heroes like John Glenn, and Neil Armstrong. The story of modern aviation was written in Ohio.

Our State continues to lead the country in aerospace innovation and in military service. We have nearly a million veterans in Ohio, and I would like to call out—it is not really the purpose of the speech—but call out one veteran in particular. My mother is from Mansfield, GA; my dad is from Mansfield, OH. And my dad went off to war, and my mother came to Washington to help in the war effort.

My dad, when he came back from overseas, went to a soldiers' dance at the Mayflower Hotel, and my dad met my mom at that soldiers' dance—one from Georgia, one from Ohio.

And my daughter, who runs the YWCA in Columbus, was in town last night, and we decided to have dinner at the Mayflower Hotel. I am sure it looks

very different. It wasn't a soldiers' dance, but it was fun to celebrate my parents and her grandparents.

Back to the subject directly on aerospace, on Space Command, think about the military installations we have across my State. We have Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, of course, but the Air Force Research Lab and the National Air and Space Intelligence Center and the Space Force's National Space Intelligence Center.

We are home to the 88th Air Base Wing of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, where they support our military aircraft, engines, munitions, electronics, and cyber weapon systems. We have the Air Force Materiel Command that keeps Air Force weapons systems ready for war.

Wright-Patterson has been a leader in military aviation development since the time of airplane inventors like the Wright brothers. It is positioned to lead us into the future.

Just 150 miles away is NASA Glenn Research Center—one of only 10 in the country—at Lewis Field in Cleveland, and a few miles west in Sandusky, near Lake Erie, is the NASA Armstrong Test Facility. These are facilities researching and developing and testing innovative technologies, taking us to the next frontier.

We have the 178th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group at the Springfield Air National Guard Base. We have our Air Guard and Reserve bases—Toledo, Springfield, my hometown of Mansfield.

It makes sense to base our country's space military leadership near these important assets that make Ohio the right location for both the U.S. Space Command headquarters and additional Space Force units.

Think about the opportunity for collaboration here. Having Space Command located alongside the Air Force Research Lab will assist in the creation of new space technologies and capabilities. The NASIC at Wright-Patt is already the Space Force's intelligence center.

Close proximity to NASA Glenn and Armstrong Testing Facility in northern Ohio will allow Space Command and Space Force to benefit from their unmatched experience and expertise in space missions. The Armstrong Testing Facility performs specialized research and testing that can't be done—that can't be done anywhere else in the world.

Locating Space Command and additional Space Force assets in Ohio also means that the world's leading trade schools, research universities, Federal laboratories in Ohio, to our east Pennsylvania, to our north Michigan, to our west Indiana, to our south Kentucky and Tennessee, and Illinois are nearby, ready to work together to provide a pipeline of workers to be on the front-line of the next frontier of modern warfare. This proximity is, pure and simple, Mr. President, unmatched.

Ohio alone has a network of world-class research universities and commu-

nity colleges—14 4-year public universities and their 24 branch campuses, 23 2-year community and technical colleges, nearly 60 4-year private universities.

Moving Space Command and Space Force units here would be good for the military, good for Ohio, good for our national economy.

Ohioans know how important aerospace sector jobs are to our State. There is a direct line that runs from GE Aviation in Cincinnati through the base and aerospace companies in Dayton and around Columbus and up to NASA in Cleveland, touching thousands of Ohioans, reaching every region of our great State.

With the CHIPS Act, we are bringing 10,000 good-paying, high-tech jobs to central Ohio making semiconductors. If you don't think this plays a role in our national security, ask the Chinese Communist Party if they would rather the chips for our cars, phones, missiles, planes, and satellites be made overseas. We are finally correcting that. We finally understood as a nation that we can't continue to outsource manual labor. We finally understand that chips should be made here—they were invented here and should be made here; that light bulbs invented here should be made here; that steel, where we led the world, is coming back and building our bridges and all that we should be doing.

We are already the center of the country for aerospace jobs. We are going to be a major hub for semiconductors and manufacturing. Locating our space military leadership near the domestic hub of both semiconductors and aerospace innovation is good for Ohio's economy, and it makes sense for our military. The military challenges of the future demand that our servicemembers have the most innovative, cutting-edge technology. Ohio and the entire Midwest make that technology.

It is not a partisan issue, Mr. President. It is not ideological either. We have always worked together to support and grow these jobs and to invest in Ohio's military installations. This is no different.

Ohio representatives from both sides of the aisle support this effort. This letter is led on the Senate side by me and on the House side by Republican DAVID JOYCE from northern Ohio. Together we call on the President to bring new space missions to Ohio.

It is simple: Ohio stands ready to meet the space-related national security challenges the United States faces now and in the future. It is how you bury the term "Rust Belt." We bury it with the Air Force Research Laboratory. We bury it with the National Air and Space Intelligence Center. We bury it with the National Space Intelligence Center. We are burying it with NASA. We are going to bury it with U.S. Space Command and U.S. Space Force coming to Ohio.

NOMINATION OF MOLLY R. SILFEN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will vote to confirm Molly Silfen to the Court of Federal Claims. Ms. Silfen is an experienced litigator and public servant who is highly qualified to serve as a judge on the Court of Federal Claims. She earned her B.S. from Yale College and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. After beginning her legal career in 2006 as an associate attorney at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett, and Dunner, she clerked for Judge Alan D. Lourie on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit from 2008 to 2010.

During her time in private practice, Ms. Silfen handled patent and trademark issues for both individual patent owners and major companies. She performed a significant amount of pro bono work as well, including representing a veteran seeking benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ms. Silfen joined the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as an associate solicitor in 2013 and remains there today. In her work with the USPTO, she regularly briefs and argues appeals before the Federal Circuit and other Federal courts of appeals. She has argued 23 appeals before Federal courts of appeals and has served as counsel of record in five merits cases before the Supreme Court.

While with the USPTO, Ms. Silfen has also been detailed to the Civil Division of the Department of Justice and to the Senate Judiciary Committee as part of former Senator Leahy's staff on the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property.

Ms. Silfen's extensive experience at all levels of the Federal judicial system, along with her commitment to public service, will make her an exceptional addition to the Court of Federal Claims. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for her confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask that the rollcall vote begin now, immediately.

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

VOTE ON SILFEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Silfen nomination?

Mrs. CAPITO. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK-

BURN), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 152 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Cooms	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Fetterman	Murphy	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—39

Boozman	Fischer	Ricketts
Braun	Grassley	Risch
Britt	Hagerty	Romney
Budd	Hawley	Rounds
Capito	Hoeven	Rubio
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Blackburn	Murray	Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Virginia.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a tragedy that happened in Richmond a couple of days ago at the Altria center, in the heart of our city, when gun violence erupted right at the end of the graduation ceremony for the 2023 graduating class of Huguenot High School.

Two people were killed: a Huguenot High School graduate, Shawn Jackson, and his stepfather, Renzo Smith. It is a tragedy that is really having a deep, deep impact in my community.

I wanted to rise to speak about those who were killed and those who were injured, trampled in the pandemonium, the Huguenot High School community, the Richmond Public Schools community. The Altria center is a beautiful entertainment and event venue on Monroe Park in downtown Richmond. It was built in the 1920s and was built in the Moorish architectural style and was given the name of the "Mosque," and it was called the Mosque for a very long time.

I was elected to the Richmond City Council in 1994, and members of our Muslim community came to the Richmond City Council and said: We understand that this building has a particular architectural style. And we understand it may even be sort of a trib-

ute to us to call this building a mosque, but it is not a mosque; it is an entertainment venue. There is alcohol served. There is dancing and other things that wouldn't be appropriate. And our Muslim community asked, in a very respectful way: Can you come up with a different name for this facility? It was in my city council district, and we acted to change the name of this facility to the Landmark. And then a number of years later, Altria, a company headquartered in Richmond, agreed to help renovate the facility, after nearly 100 years, and bring it to more 21st century use, and the name is now the Altria Theater.

I spend some time talking about this place because, Mr. President, I imagine you have places like this in Hawaii. These are places where everybody has gone for their entire lives for events like high school graduation. Virtually every public high school in Richmond and many of the private high schools in Richmond and the surrounding community, you go to a graduation, and it is at the Altria Theater.

Of my three children, two of them graduated and walked across that stage at the Altria Theater. As a mayor and then-Governor and now Senator, I have spoken at many graduations right there on that stage at the Altria Theater. My wife, a graduate of Richmond Public Schools, who was the Secretary of Education in Virginia and First Lady of Virginia, has also delivered graduation speeches right there. We have been to concerts there and theatrical performances there. We know this building in every last square centimeter, and we know what it is like when the Altria Theater is filled with a crowd of people.

High school graduation. I mean, think about it. I am 65 years old. Think about, over the course of a life, the happiest days of your life: high school graduation, college graduation, your wedding day, births of your children. I mean, over the course of a life, there are maybe 5 to 10 days that are universal experiences for American people where it will be in the top 5 to 10 happiest days of your life. High school graduation is that.

For Richmonders and people in the surrounding communities, you think high school graduation, the odds are, you are walking across the stage at that theater. These Huguenot High School graduates had walked across the stage. The young man, Mr. Jackson, had shaken the hand of Jason Kamras, the Richmond Public Schools principal, had received his congratulations. He was a young man who had done well in the classroom and had a lot of challenges—a lot of challenges—to get to that day.

Often a graduation is that. It is an opportunity to thank everybody who helped you, but it is also an opportunity to reflect upon the challenges that people have to get to that day.

Back in the day, the grandparents would tell us how they used to have to walk 5 miles through the snow to get to school. That may not be the case anymore, but an awful lot of our kids have to do the equivalent—the kind of psychic equivalent—of a 5-mile walk through the snow because they have to go through challenges. Whether they were homeless, whether they got a cancer diagnosis through school, they faced adversity and challenges.

Then they get to this day, and they are entitled—they are entitled—to celebrate. That is what they were doing. Then, as they are exiting the Altria Theater, which is right near the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University, and crossing the street to a beautiful park, Monroe Park, directly across, these gunshots break out, 20 shots in succession: families scrambling, knocking over people; vendors who were there, knocking over citizens; people scrambling in every direction. A young kid got pushed out onto the street and got hit by a vehicle. Thank goodness, she is going to be OK. Others sustained all kinds of minor injuries. Even those who were not injured, they will remember this and be scarred by it for the rest of their life because one of these four or five or six pivotal days in your life—the happiest days of your life—for them, will always be connected to seeing a classmate killed and seeing this happy day turned into an unspeakable tragedy.

I know how I think about my high school graduation. It was one of the happiest days of my life. Having been in that building, I know how the Huguenot community for the class of 2023 will remember their high school graduation day, and it is a tragedy that the memory is so polluted by this epidemic of gun violence.

Mr. President, I had the opportunity earlier this year—and I have spoken about it on the floor—to attend another school in Virginia, Richneck Elementary School in Newport News. On January 6, a 6-year-old brought a gun to school in a backpack. It was a student who had all kinds of difficult, difficult challenges. As his compassionate and brave teacher, Abby Zwerner, tried to deal with the situation, the student shot her. Thank God, she is recovering. Thank God, no one was killed that day.

But I had the opportunity to go down about 2 weeks after that to have an off-the-record, no press, no administrators discussion with parents and teachers at the school. The degree of trauma—the degree of trauma—of this happening and the degree of fear: “Every day I go to work now, every day I go to work now, I am afraid this might happen.” “Every day I drop my child off in the morning, I drive away wondering whether I am going to get a call” or “I am going to get an emergency alert on my phone or if I pull up at the end of the day, am I going to be able to pick up my child and will my child be safe?”

My kids all went to the Richmond Public schools, the same schools that

include Huguenot High School, and my youngest only graduated 10 years ago. But I will say, my wife and I, from pre-K to 12, in that 13 years for each of my three kids, never one day—never one day—never one day did we drop our kid off at school and worry about whether they would be safe at the end of the day.

The shooting at Sandy Hook happened right after my youngest child graduated from high school. There had been shootings at Columbine High School years and years ago. But the reality of my own children's public education in an urban school setting was we weren't worried about them.

But just 10 years later, what parent in this country who takes a child to school does not have a voice in their head with some worry about what might happen to them when they are there? Even if you live in a community where there has never been a school shooting, that fear is not absent from your mind because you have seen it happen in every region of the country. You have seen it happen in public schools. You have seen it happen in the Covenant Christian School in Nashville, in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges.

Maybe I am naive, but gun violence has been a reality of American life for a very long time. To me, it seemed, as a 65-year-old, that there have been some safe spaces. There have been some safe havens. There have been some refugees. There are none anymore. A church is not a refuge. A synagogue is not a refuge. A mosque is not a refuge. A school is not a refuge. An event space that is beloved by the entire community because everybody graduated from high school there for the last 100 years is not a refuge. A public park where you can gather to recreate with your family and friends is not a refuge. There is no refuge from this epidemic.

We talk about American exceptionalism. Often, when we do, we are talking about the things where we are exceptional in a positive way. It is important to acknowledge those things and be proud of them.

But there is an American exceptionalism to this, the degree of these mass shootings and the absence of any place—any place—that is a refuge is something that is exceptional about us in a way that is very, very painful.

As you know, because of my time in Central America, I have a particular connection with a lot of folks from the Americas who work here in the Capitol, and they often come up to me and we shoot the breeze and we talk in my somewhat limited Spanish about what is going on. And I had somebody, earlier in the year, after the shooting at the Richneck Elementary School in Newport News, come up to me and say: You know what—in Spanish—you know, El Salvador is one of the most dangerous countries in the world, but there aren't shootings in the schools.

The homicide rate may be higher than here, but there is a refuge. There is an understanding that you do not strip young people of their innocence and subject students and their families to the threat of gun violence every day.

We live in a country of no refuge, and I just wanted to take the floor to say to the family of Shawn Jackson and Lorenzo Smith, his stepfather—Shawn's mother has had to deal with both her husband and her son not just being taken away but taken away on the same day, on what was supposed to be the happiest day of their life. And she has been interviewed and talked about how hard it was for her son to get to this graduation and what a meaningful milestone in his life it was to be there on that day.

But the last thing that I would like to say is, it is easy to give up and be hopeless. I mean, I find, having been a mayor in Richmond when the homicide rate was the second highest in the United States and having been the Governor when the worst shooting in the United States happened at Virginia Tech, and how sad it is that I wish that would always be the worst shooting—it is a weird thing to say about your own State. But I hope there never would have been a tragedy that would have eclipsed 32 people being killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, and yet there have now been many tragedies that have claimed more victims than that, what had seemed like an unprecedented one.

It can seem hopeless. It can seem hopeless. I just want to say to students and families, especially to young people who are kind of trying to grapple with the reality of life in America circa 2023, and they are seeing skies that look apocalyptic outside because of climate issues, and they are reading stories about gun violence, and they are worried about a whole variety of things that maybe I didn't have to worry about when I was their age: We can't be hopeless because we can make progress.

Last year, for the first time in 20 years, here in the Senate, we passed a bipartisan gun safety bill. It didn't do everything that needs to be done, but we showed—not easily, but we showed—that we could act.

During my time as a public official in Virginia, we have finally worked our way into the ranks of one of the 10 safest States in terms of major and violent crime. We were never in the 10 safest for a very long time, but, sort of toward the end of my time as Governor, we got there, and we maintained that position. The Virginia General Assembly, which had long, frankly, been enthralled to the National Rifle Association, whose headquarters is in Virginia, in 2019 and 2020 finally embraced a set of gun safety measures that haven't eliminated gun violence, just like seatbelts don't eliminate all traffic accident death, but have helped make us safer. And if we can do it in Virginia, though we have so much

more to do, we can do it here in the U.S. Congress.

Thank you for indulging me and letting me just share the personal nature of this reflection in my hometown, in this place where we have spent so much time and that Richmonders know in such an intimate way.

And this beautiful building, now 100 years old, where we have gone for generations to celebrate, it has a bloodstain on it now. And I am sure that stain is cleaned away, but we all will see it, and we all will feel it forever—forever.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Utah.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRYCE CANYON
NATIONAL PARK

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, today we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the attraction now known as Bryce Canyon National Park. This occasion allows us to reflect on the importance of Bryce Canyon and pay tribute to the pioneers who have helped make it such a great place and have shaped its history over the years and those pioneers who are still shaping its contribution to the world today.

Bryce Canyon holds a special place in the hearts of Utahans and of visitors from across the United States and really throughout the world. Its towering rock formations, which are known as hoodoos, are a testament to the unparalleled beauty found in nature. The vibrant colors that paint the canyon's walls at sunrise and sunset create a truly mesmerizing spectacle. And if you haven't been there, you need to visit Bryce Canyon.

In 1874, Scottish immigrant Ebenezer Bryce settled with his wife Mary on the land just below these stunning reddish-hued cliffs. The settlers in the area began calling it Bryce's Canyon after Ebenezer Bryce, who humorously remarked that it was "a helluva place to lose a cow."

The charm and allure of the canyon were evident even in those early days, long before millions of visitors from around the world had come to see it.

Fast-forward to 1915, when J.W. Humphrey, a U.S. Forest Service supervisor, first set foot on the rim above the location we refer to today as the Bryce amphitheater. Overwhelmed by the indescribable beauty, Mr. Humphrey shared his enchantment with the world, sending photographs and films to newspapers, magazines, and TV stations far and wide. He built roads, constructed trails, and established a campground, charging campers a \$1 fee.

And this fee had a guarantee attached to it. He made the \$1 fee fully refundable if any visitor didn't find the view completely worth it.

Well, Mr. Humphrey proudly boasted that he never once had to return a single dollar, not from a single visitor who received that guarantee.

Year after year, the allure of Bryce Canyon has continued to grow. In fact, it has grown exponentially. What start-

ed with around 20,000 annual visits in its early years had escalated to over 500,000 by 1975, over 1 million by 2002, and over 2 million in 2016. Last year alone, the park welcomed an astonishing 2.4 million visitors.

What is it then about Bryce Canyon that draws people in like this? I think it is the "Bryce moment," that magical instant when the park's magnificent panorama suddenly comes into focus. It is especially magical if you see it either at sunrise or sunset. Either way, you are going to be amazed by what you see. It is that breathtaking experience that is sort of akin to looking up at the Empire State Building or at the Taj Mahal, where you can't quite believe what you are seeing.

A few years ago, I was thinking about my many visits to Bryce Canyon over the years, and I have visited Bryce Canyon as a child and as an adult. I visited Bryce Canyon first with family members, and I have also visited with friends, with work colleagues, and in all kinds of different situations.

I still remember the first time I brought my three children to Bryce Canyon, when they were young, and how proud I was to show them this beautiful feature within our State, and how much I enjoyed it.

I remember another time, when I was right out of law school, clerking for a Federal district judge, the honorable Dee Benson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah. We had been working hard, and one day Judge Benson decided he was going to schedule a brief weekend visit for us, just voluntarily, just for fun, to go down and visit Bryce Canyon. The law clerks and the other court personnel who worked in his chambers went down and visited Bryce Canyon. It was so much fun.

During one of my more recent visits to Bryce Canyon, a few years ago—not my last one but one of the more recent visits—I went down there and met with one of our county associations of governments, where State, local, and Federal elected officials came together to talk about lands issues. And I happened to have brought my daughter Eliza with me on that trip. It had been a few years since I had brought Eliza to Bryce Canyon, but we got there. We looked over the hoodoos and looked through those canyons right at sunset. It was yet another magical moment.

So these things become a tradition and certainly become a tradition with me and my family and my friends. It is a cherished tradition that brings people together. In rural communities and in this particular rural community, it brings tourist visitors to an otherwise sparsely visited region of our State, and it exemplifies the spirit of adventure and of camaraderie.

On that particular trip, when I brought my daughter Eliza to meet with these State, local, and Federal Government officials, we went on an ATV ride around some of the areas surrounding the park, and it took us just outside of the park to the north.

The night before, we had had the opportunity to meet with these incredible individuals who call the region home, and at Ruby's Inn, we had gotten together for dinner and shared stories and laughter at the deep appreciation for this unique landscape and for the people who lived there. The sense of community and shared experiences was palpable.

We ventured into Bryce Canyon National Park for an evening hike, and, as the sun began to set, casting a warm glow upon those structures known as hoodoos, we were enveloped in a world of natural wonder. The majesty of Bryce Canyon revealed itself in all its glory. It was a transformative experience, just one of many that reminded me yet again of the enduring power of nature to uplift and to inspire.

So, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Bryce Canyon, let us honor the pioneers who recognized the unique beauty of the land and its potential to inspire and to attract people from all across the United States and throughout the world. Let us embrace the spirit of adventure and exploration that defines Bryce Canyon and all of our national parks, but especially that one. And may we continue to cherish the memories and experiences these natural wonders provide, ensuring that future generations can forge connections with the breathtaking landscapes of Bryce Canyon.

Thank you, Mr. President, and may Bryce Canyon forever hold a special place in our hearts.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION SHORTAGES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, our country is facing a medication shortage crisis. Americans can no longer count on their medicines being available at the pharmacy counter when they need them.

Unfortunately, it is actually worse than a simple shortage. It is, in particular, that America doesn't have access to an adequate supply of generic drugs that can be stocked by our pharmacies.

I have heard from parents throughout my State whose kids are sick with a strep throat, and they are out there scrambling from pharmacy to pharmacy trying to track down a basic antibiotic. These concerns are especially serious in rural parts of my State—I think this is true in a lot of parts of this country—because of the long distances families have to drive if their community pharmacy in a rural area can't meet their needs. This, in my view, is an enormous and urgent national challenge.

There are, for example, cancer patients who can't get treatment because

the medication they need is in low supply. With cancer, we know every single second counts. In many cases, people die if they are not treated. This makes the crisis not abstract, but it is a real life-or-death crisis. There are Americans suffering from ADHD who can't get their hands on the medications they rely on that their doctor prescribed to them to help so they can function at school, at work, and at home.

A pharmacist in southern Oregon told me that one of their patients went without their medication for almost 2 months, and it undercuts their ability to complete daily tasks. Derailing these lives—young and old—due to a generic drug shortage just has got to be unacceptable—unacceptable—to the richest country in the world.

Now, the crisis is hurting Americans in many places; but as I have indicated, it is especially stark in rural America. Independent pharmacies have been essential in rural communities in my State. These pharmacies can't always afford to keep brand-name drugs stocked, especially during a shortage. They rely, as do so many of these pharmacies across the land, on available generic medicines so they can serve their customers and stay in business.

And the travel I mentioned from pharmacy to pharmacy to get needed medications is no simple challenge. I'm having a whole group of town halls in eastern Oregon at the end of this month. I made a commitment to have an open-to-all town meeting in every county that I have the honor to represent. I've had 1,050 of them, and I can tell you the distance between small towns in eastern Oregon is often measured in hours, not miles or minutes. So if you live in rural Oregon and your local pharmacy lacks your medication, you have got to find the time and the gas money to travel anywhere from 60 to 90 minutes to the next closest pharmacy and hope and pray that the medication hasn't just been sold before you got there. These commute times are even longer in the winter months when the weather conditions are especially serious.

I heard recently about an Oregonian who went to the pharmacy every day for 2 weeks—2 weeks—to get that day's shipment of the prescription they needed. Every single day, they went to the pharmacy. That is a lot of time spent on top of working, taking care of a family, and trying to get your basic needs met. This is going to get worse in pharmacies across Oregon and the Nation without this Congress and our country acting.

Shortages of these generics has generated a domino effect. It's caused shortages of alternative medications to treat ADHD. And so many Americans—millions and millions—have looked for this drug, and they are looking for alternatives. And some of these other medicines may be less effective. We ought to be clear, in some cases there is no domino effect because some

generics don't have any alternatives at all.

I asked a pharmacist in eastern Oregon to share with me how this has affected the people she and her family serve. She told me that many customers who took medication that were working very well are now bumping up against this shortage. So now a patient's doctor, according to this pharmacist, will write a prescription for another medication and then change the patient back to the original preferred medication—the one that has been working for them—if and when it is available. In essence, the doctors are forced to lurch as their patients go back and forth from one medicine to another—medicines that can have a different effect—if they can get them.

Another patient in rural Oregon was receiving the generic for Adderall at a 30-milligram dose, which suddenly became unavailable. Their insurance wouldn't pay for the brand-name drug, so the patient was forced to take a lower dose version of the generic. This patient has to change the medication every month, not based on their medical needs, but trying to figure out what their rural pharmacy is going to be able to provide.

Then, because ADHD medicines are Schedule II drugs, the prescriptions can't be transferred between pharmacies. If a person's medication isn't available at their local pharmacy but is available at a pharmacy 90 minutes away, patients in this situation have to double back to their doctor to get a new prescription before they can even start the trek to the distant pharmacy. So sometimes this means the patient has to physically drive to the doctor's office and pick up a hard copy of the prescription if the doctor isn't registered with the Drug Enforcement Agency, the DEA.

Just picture this kind of bureaucratic nightmare for people who are just hoping—hoping—in small towns that somebody is thinking about their needs. But the idea of physically driving to a doctor's office, getting a hard copy of the prescription when the doctor, as I said, isn't registered with the DEA to prescribe the drugs electronically is just a microcosm of what these patients in rural Oregon and rural America are telling us.

A rural pharmacist told me that what I just described happened this week with a patient who was forced to drive from Heppner to Pendleton, an hour and a half away, to pick up their physical, paper prescription, and then off they went to their pharmacy.

Now, there are a variety of reasons of why we have these shortages; but when it comes to the ADHD medication, specifically, part of the problem may be that the generic drug manufacturers are not communicating with the government Agencies who regulate the manufacturing of these drugs. And neither the generic manufacturers nor these Agencies are communicating effectively with the public, which is why

so many Members of Congress are getting these calls asking them to step in and help.

Now, the DEA is in charge of how much of this ADHD medication can be produced and dispersed. Okay? This is the Agency that tells you how much of this medication is going to be available. They are telling me drug companies can make more medication any time they want to. The companies say, not so. They are saying what the DEA says isn't true. The companies claim that the DEA is denying their applications to make more medicine during the shortage. Now, add to this the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA, saying they don't know of any denials to make more drugs handed down by the Drug Enforcement Agency to the drug manufacturers and that the DEA has approved applications that the FDA has weighed in on.

So if your head is now spinning as you try to sort through the word salad, as I call it, of American healthcare, it is understandable, because at every level, there are new requirements that you try to reconcile with what I have already described.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is required by law to post justifications when the DEA denies these kinds of applications on the FDA's website, but none have been posted. So if you are a patient who is hurting or a family who is trying to treat a sick child or an elder, you deserve something better—something better—than the chaos I have just described. Again, companies are saying their applications to make more medicine have been denied.

So I have just given you the conflict between these Agencies that, heaven forbid—quaint idea—would actually talk to each other. Something doesn't add up, so the Senate is going to have to step in and sort this out so that the citizens of this country get straight answers. And this bureaucratic doublespeak is particularly hard on Oregonians who come to me and ask why they are suffering from a crisis that is not of their making.

Now, I recently spoke to the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency. She was aware I had an interest in this as I serve as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and she agreed that greater transparency in the process is going to help the ongoing work of the Agency to reform the system.

Well, we are sure going to hold them to that. Certainly some clear, at least coherent language is desperately needed and better communication for the patients. That is what I am insisting on from the Drug Enforcement Agency and the FDA because they have a responsibility to reach out to these companies of these essential medicines to sort these out and make these medicines accessible to the American people, and the Agencies ought to give the manufacturers clear guidance on how to navigate the bureaucratic fiefdoms that exist here in Washington.

I will also say that I am concerned that despite this heightened attention to medication shortages, these Agencies appear to be solely focused on production at the national level, and there is no real connection to the local pharmacy window. We know that when we finally took away the grail—the Holy Grail—from the pharmaceutical companies and that Medicare could negotiate to hold down, you know, prices, one of the reasons we did is that we knew this issue really mattered at the pharmacy window. That is when people in New Jersey and Oregon and everywhere else want to have available drugs and have them made affordable. It has to become local.

Further, it is important not just to focus on the production and availability of these drugs like Adderall but to ensure that the generic equivalents are broadly available and recognized as a part of access for patients. For instance, a copay for the generic medicine could be \$10. If it is not available, and after the pharmacy spends 45 minutes on the phone with the patient's insurance company and the patient, the name brand Adderall could be approved, but even with insurance, the patient could face a copay of anywhere from \$75 to \$200.

For all of those families in America who are walking an economic tightrope in balancing their food bill against their fuel bill and their fuel bill against their rent bill, they are not going to be in a position to pay these constantly escalating prices, and, you know, when you are trying to feed your family, you might make your own health your lowest priority.

So the Federal Agencies need to help manufacturers get better at reporting spikes in consumer demand for important medicines that they are going to have a hard time meeting, and Congress has to work on making it a requirement—a requirement—for the manufacturers to report this information.

I am going to close by offering a really radical idea: that the Food and Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Administration get together and work this out, because it is not about Democrats and Republicans. I am a Democrat, and the Republicans sit over there. This has nothing to do with that—nothing—but it has everything to do with the proposition that Americans deserve better. These Agencies that I have cited ought to give a full explanation to the American people about what they are doing now, what they are doing a month from now, and what they are going to be doing until they get this fixed.

In my call to these two Agencies, I believe—and I know the Presiding Officer does—that Americans ought to be able to get the healthcare they need when they need it, and right now, too many Americans are suffering because they can't, particularly with respect to those who need medicines to deal with ADHD.

We are hurting people's lives. In the worst case, I believe Americans may be using drugs not prescribed by their doctors as a result of all of this bedlam I have described.

I will tell the Presiding Officer, in wrapping up, you know—and he and I have talked about this—that I was the co-director for the Oregon Gray Panthers for many years, and this has been the area of healthcare I have really tried to specialize in because I have always felt that if you and your loved ones don't have your healthcare, everything else goes by the board. I don't recall very many examples of this kind of dysfunction. I don't know any other way to sum it up. This kind of dysfunction is unacceptable to the millions of Americans who need this medicine.

So I am going to stay at it. I know the Presiding Officer well enough to know that he feels strongly about helping exactly these kinds of people. It is a problem that is hammering families from one end of the country to another. It is particularly hard right now as we speak on the folks I represent in rural Oregon, the folks I am going to see at the townhall meetings here in a few days. We are going to stay at it until we get it fixed.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Calendar No. 167, Eric G. Olshan to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric G. Olshan, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Olshan nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, it is my privilege to recognize the patriots and healers that work at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System's Russellville Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Those exceptional men and women have honored President Lincoln's famous admonition: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."

The clinic's nurses and doctors care for over 2,300 veterans in the area and facilitate 14,000 appointments each year. Since it opened 13 years ago, this place of healing has treated and restored the health of tens of thousands of veterans and their family members. As important as the quantity of patients they serve is the quality of the service these caregivers provide. And the Russellville clinic is renowned for showing their patients the respect and attention that veterans deserve.

One patient, 98-year-old World War II veteran Jock Davis, was so grateful for the Russellville clinic's professional and diligent care, that he is helping organize a June 23 ceremony thanking the employees. I join my fellow Arkansans in gratitude for this clinic and its selfless public servants.

The employees at the Russellville clinic are fulfilling a sacred covenant between the Nation and its veterans. Every man and woman in uniform who serves our country should know that when they return to civilian life, they will be cared for and honored by the Nation they sacrificed to defend.

The doctors and nurses of Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System's Russellville Community Based Outpatient Clinic are making our State and country proud. God bless them, God bless our veterans, and God bless the United States of America.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DWORSHAK DAM

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representative RUSS FULCHER, we congratulate Dworshak staff on the dam's 50-year anniversary.

Dedicated on June 15, 1973, the Dworshak Dam, located on the North Fork Clearwater River, has been an important flood control and power generator for 50 years. Following its congressional authorization in 1962 and construction that began in 1966, the dam's flood damage reduction became operational in June 1972, with power generation coming online in March 1973. In addition to the dam, the project also includes Dworshak Reservoir lands, powerhouse, recreation facilities, wildlife mitigation and Dworshak National Fish Hatchery, which is considered to be the world's largest steelhead hatchery.

The USACE Walla Walla District notes the dam is the highest straight-axis concrete dam in the Western Hemisphere, with only two other dams in the U.S. exceeding its height. USACE credits the project with preventing millions of dollars in flood damage since the project became operational, while generating 1.35 billion kilowatt hours of electricity in fiscal year 2017 alone, and providing substantial recreational and wildlife benefits.

Dworshak staff are recognizing the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the dam with a celebration and public tours. We join in commending the hard work of both current and past Dworshak staff in operating this remarkable part of our great State and country's infrastructure. Congratulations to all Dworshak staff and surrounding communities on this outstanding milestone.●

RECOGNIZING THE VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY BOWLING TEAM

● Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator BLACKBURN and myself, a Vanderbilt alumnus, we would like to congratulate the Vanderbilt University bowling team on winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association—NCAA—championship, the third national championship for the women's bowling program and the sixth national championship in Commodore athletic history.

The Commodores were a dominating force during the 2022–2023 season, compiling a 98–29 record and winning four tournament championships including a regional NCAA crown. Five team members earned All-America honors with Mabel Cummins, a neuroscience senior, being named the national player of the year. The team earned an outstanding 3.559 GPA and placed seven members on the Dean's List.

This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work, talent, and teamwork of the following outstanding student athletes: Alyssa Ballard, Kailee Channell, Mabel Cummins, Kaylee Hitt, Amelia Kiefer, Jennifer Loreda, Amanda Naujokas, Paige Peters, Caroline Thesier, and Victoria Varano.

John Williamson, the head coach of the Vanderbilt bowling team, was named the national coach of the year for the fourth time and has led the program since its inception in 2004. Over the past 19 years, Coach Williamson has transformed Commodore bowling into one of the Nation's finest, winning both on the lanes and in the classroom. Coach Williamson should also be commended for combining athletic excellence with academics as well as international service experiences.

These student athletes were coached and mentored by a dedicated team of coaches and athletic department staff, including: head coach John Williamson, associate head coach Josie Barnes, deputy athletic director Dr. Kristene Kelly, associate athletic

trainer Alda Burston, associate director of strength and conditioning Darren Edginton, assistant director of event management Renee Mackin, assistant director of student services Max Martin, sports dietitian Jasmine Gilbert, and head of athletic communications Rod Williamson.

We would also like to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Vanderbilt University athletic director Candice Storey Lee, an alumna and former Vanderbilt women's basketball player.

Congratulations, Commodores. We are proud of you.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, 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 appropriate committees.

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

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1453. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to amend the utility incentive program authority to clarify the authorized duration of utility incentive programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1454. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to amend Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to authorize the borrower to pay in full or in part the cost of any modification to a direct loan under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1455. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to amend the Federal Energy Efficiency Fund Grant Authority to Assist Agencies in Decarbonizing Federal Fleets and Associated Infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1456. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1457. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enhanced Weapons, Firearms Background Checks, and Security Event Notifications" (RIN3150-A149) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1458. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Capital Region; Change of Address" (RIN1024-AE84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1459. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for Wright's Mash Thistle With a Section 4(d) Rule and Designation of Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-BC34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1460. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Big Creek Crayfish and St. Francis River Crayfish and Designation of Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-BD98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1461. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for South Llano Springs Moss" (RIN1018-BD20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1462. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 10217-03-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1463. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Testing Provisions for Air Emission Sources; Correction" (FRL No. 8335-05-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1464. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; ID; State Board Composition" (FRL No. 10190-02-R10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1465. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Air Plans; 2015 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements; Clean Fuels for Fleets; California" (FRL No. 10470-

02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1466. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Sulfur Dioxide Regulations" (FRL No. 10516-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1467. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Second Maintenance Plan for 1997 Ozone NAAQS; Jersey County Portion of St. Louis Missouri-Illinois Area" (FRL No. 10682-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1468. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Submissions for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards; California; Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin" (FRL No. 8335-05-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1469. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Redesignation of the Detroit, MI Area to Attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standards" (FRL No. 9626-04-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1470. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Approval, Conditional Approval, and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Nevada; Infrastructure Requirements for Ozone" (FRL No. 10543-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1471. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Clean Data Determination for the Detroit area for the 2015 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 10634-05-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1472. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Non-attainment Area" (FRL No. 10965-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1473. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Natural Gas Transmission and Distribution Property Safe Harbor Method of Accounting" (Rev. Proc. 2023-15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1474. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Ruling to Obsolete Revenue Ruling 58-74" (Rev. Proc. 2023-8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1475. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 7070 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2022 (Div. K, P.L. 117-328) with Respect to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1308. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to extend the deadline for the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations implementing title IV of that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-38).

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

S. 546. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes.

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 994. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1387. A bill to reauthorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018, and for other purposes.

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1530. A bill to permit COPS grants to be used for the purpose of increasing the compensation and hiring of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Jennifer M. Adams, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class

of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cabo Verde.

Nominee: Jennifer Adams.

Post: Cabo Verde.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Jennifer Adams, None.

Wayne Quillin, None.

Matthew D. Murray, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Nominee: Matthew David Murray.

Post: Rank of Ambassador during tenure of service as United States Senior Official for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: None.

Jennifer L. Johnson, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Nominee: Jennifer L. Johnson.

Post: Micronesia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse (Patrick Ryan): None.

Heather Roach Variava, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Nominee: Heather Roach Variava.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None, None, None.

2. Spouse: None, None, None.

Bryan David Hunt, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Nominee: Bryan David Hunt.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Sierra Leone.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee: None.

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nomination of Ali Abdi.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Mark Petry and ending with Kimberly Sawatzki, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 30, 2023.

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. PETERS (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1871. A bill to create intergovernmental coordination between State, local, Tribal, and territorial jurisdictions, and the Federal Government to combat United States reliance on the People's Republic of China and other covered countries for critical minerals and rare earth metals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. VANCE):

S. 1872. A bill to repeal the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1873. A bill to establish the Office of Global Competition Analysis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RISCH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 1874. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1875. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 1876. A bill to support research about the impact of digital communication platforms on society by providing privacy-protected,

secure pathways for independent research on data held by large internet companies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1877. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program under which the Secretary provides certain individuals with the opportunity to enroll in high technology programs of education that the Secretary determines provide training or skills sought by employers in a relevant field or industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1878. A bill to increase the number of judgeships for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and certain district courts of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1879. A bill to establish a Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 1880. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to expand eligibility for reimbursement of qualified licensure, certification, and business relocation costs incurred by military spouses; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1881. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2018 and the Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1882. A bill to amend chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, to provide procedures for congressional disapproval of the issuance of additional debt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1883. A bill to increase funding for aviation workforce development grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1884. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 1885. A bill to eliminate employment-based visa caps on abused, abandoned, and neglected children eligible for humanitarian status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1886. A bill to establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1887. A bill to provide visa availability for the Government Employee Immigrant Visa program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1888. A bill to provide for the safe and timely integration of advanced aviation technologies into the national airspace system by the Federal Aviation Administration and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 1889. A bill to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1890. A bill to provide for the establishment of a grazing management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 1891. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit qualified professional asset managers from exercising voting rights associated with the ownership of securities by the Thrift Savings Fund; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1892. A bill to provide for the closure and disposal of the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Pueblo County, Colorado; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1893. A bill to establish a Federal Advisory Council to Support Victims of Gun Violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1894. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the coinsurance requirement for certain colorectal cancer screening tests furnished under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 1895. A bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue a final rule removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 1896. A bill to reauthorize the SCORE program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1897. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1898. A bill to amend the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1899. A bill to encourage the use of hydrogen in the aviation sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1900. A bill to require Federal financial regulators to create a publicly available database for certain bad actors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 1901. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules requiring enhanced disclosures for blank check companies during initial public offering and pre-merger stages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1902. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of Energy to exercise leadership in the creation of Federal and international policies relating to the safe and efficient use of hydrogen to increase aviation decarbonization and reduce air and noise pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1903. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to conduct an assessment of the threat posed to United States ports by cranes manufactured by countries of concern, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THUNE, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1904. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping duties and countervailing duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1905. A bill to expand the categories of forfeited property available to remediate harms to Ukraine from Russian aggression, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1906. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 1907. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to enhance penalties for theft of a firearm from a Federal firearms licensee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1908. A bill to establish judicial ethics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1909. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the illegal modification of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1910. A bill to expand the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1911. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the accessibility of airline information and entertainment programming provided by air carriers on passenger flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1912. A bill to provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1913. A bill to expand access to health care for veterans in the Freely Associated States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1914. A bill to amend the air traffic controller staffing report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. VANCE, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1915. A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to provide for the establishment of a Critical Supply Chain Site Development grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1916. A bill to establish in the Department of State the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1917. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for the establishment of standards to limit the carbon intensity of the fuel used by certain vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1918. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to facilitate the training and employment of veterans for certain conservation activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1919. A bill to require the United States Governor of, and the United States Execu-

tive Director at, the International Monetary Fund to oppose an increase in the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1920. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to assess certain fees on shipping and other vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COTTON, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S.J. Res. 31. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Federal 'Good Neighbor Plan' for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 243. A resolution recognizing the month of June 2023 as "Immigrant Heritage Month", a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions of immigrants and their children in making the United States a healthier, safer, more diverse, prosperous country, and acknowledging the importance of immigrants and their children to the future successes of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 244. A resolution condemning Azerbaijan's blockade of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh and ongoing human rights violations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 245. A resolution honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend title

38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 173

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 173, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 184, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 228

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes.

S. 307

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 307, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish certain rules relating to unmanned aircraft systems and operations, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 462

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the loan repayment program for the substance use disorder treatment workforce to relieve workforce shortages.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 546, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

CRAPO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to enhance mental health and psychosocial support within United States development and humanitarian assistance programs.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect and disseminate information on concussion and traumatic brain injury among public safety officers.

S. 920

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 920, a bill to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration project to improve outpatient clinical care for individuals with sickle cell disease.

S. 1004

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1004, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate origination fees on Federal Direct loans.

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1111

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1111, a bill to enhance United States civil nuclear leadership, support

the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, strengthen the domestic nuclear energy fuel cycle and supply chain, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to prohibit firearms dealers from selling a firearm prior to the completion of a background check.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1119, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 1122

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1122, a bill to improve the program to provide for priority review of human drug applications to encourage treatment for agents that present national security threats.

S. 1190

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to repeal the debt ceiling, and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1253

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1253, a bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Customs and Border Protection officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry.

S. 1390

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S.

1390, a bill to repeal the sunset provision of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

S. 1449

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1449, a bill to improve the environmental review process, and for other purposes.

S. 1557

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 1640

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1640, a bill to provide for enhanced Federal enforcement of, and State and local assistance in the enforcement of, the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1679

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1679, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States nationals who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 1680

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1680, a bill to prohibit Federal funding of State firearm ownership databases, and for other purposes.

S. 1736

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1736, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

S. 1802

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1802, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a fund for the conduct of collaborative defense projects between the United States and Israel in

emerging technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1811

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1811, a bill to ensure treatment in the military based on merit and performance, and for other purposes.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 72

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 72, a resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide.

S. RES. 158

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 158, a resolution condemning the deportation of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation and the forcible transfer of children within territories of Ukraine that are temporarily occupied by Russian forces.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 188, a resolution celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1882. A bill to amend chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, to provide procedures for congressional disapproval of the issuance of additional debt; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam 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. 1882

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 "Debt Ceiling Reform Act".

SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL DEBT.

Section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 3101. Public debt limit

"(a) DEFINITION OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—In this section, the term 'joint resolution' means a joint resolution—

"(1) that is introduced during the period—
"(A) beginning on the date on which a certification under subsection (b)(1) is received; and

"(B) ending on the date that is 3 calendar days after the date described in subparagraph (A) (or, if a House was not in session, the next calendar day on which that House is in session);

"(2) which does not have a preamble;

"(3) the title of which is only as follows: 'Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the Secretary of the Treasury's exercise of authority to issue additional debt, as submitted under section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, on _____' (with the blank space being filled in with the date on which the applicable certification under subsection (b)(1) was received); and

"(4) the matter after the resolving clause of which is only as follows: 'That Congress disapproves of the Secretary of the Treasury's exercise of the authority to issue additional debt, as exercised pursuant to the certification under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code.'"

"(b) CERTIFICATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a written certification whenever the Secretary of the Treasury determines that the debt is within \$100,000,000,000 of a \$1,000,000,000,000 increment and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments.

"(2) AUTHORITY TO ISSUE DEBT AFTER CERTIFICATION.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the United States may issue additional debt as necessary to meet existing commitments on and after the date on which the Secretary of the Treasury submits a written certification to Congress under paragraph (1).

"(3) RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Congress may consider a joint resolution relating to each certification submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury under paragraph (1).

"(c) ENACTMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—The United States may not issue additional debt if, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which Congress receives a certification submitted under subsection (b)(1) (regardless of whether Congress is in session), there is enacted into law a joint resolution disapproving the Secretary of the Treasury's exercise of authority to issue additional debt.

"(d) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

"(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification submitted under subsection (b)(1), the Speaker, if the House of Representatives would otherwise be adjourned, shall notify the Members of the House of Representatives that, pursuant to this section, the House of Representatives shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such certification.

"(2) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which a joint resolution is referred shall report it to the House of Representatives without amendment not later than 5 calendar days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution. If a committee fails to report the joint resolution within that period, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate calendar.

"(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After each committee authorized to consider a joint resolution reports it to the House of Representatives or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order, not later than the sixth day after introduction of the joint resolution, to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House of

Representatives. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order with respect to a joint resolution relating to a certification after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed that joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(4) CONSIDERATION.—A joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against a joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. An amendment to a joint resolution is not in order. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on a joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of a joint resolution shall not be in order.

“(e) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—

“(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification under subsection (b)(1), if the Senate has adjourned or recessed for more than 2 days, the majority leader of the Senate, after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate that, pursuant to this section, the Senate shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such message.

“(2) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon introduction in the Senate, a joint resolution shall be immediately placed on the calendar.

“(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time during the period beginning on the day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (b)(1) and ending on the 6th day after the date on which Congress receives the certification (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of a joint resolution relating to the certification, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of a joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(B) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of a joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to a joint resolution, a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit a joint resolution is not in order.

“(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall occur immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(f) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing a joint resolution relating to a certification under subsection (b)(1), one House receives from the other a joint resolution relating to the same certification—

“(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

“(2) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint resolution under this section relating to a certification under subsection (b)(1), the joint resolution of the House relating to the same certification shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(3) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of a joint resolution in the Senate, the Senate receives the companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(4) CONSIDERATION AFTER PASSAGE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If Congress passes a joint resolution, the period beginning on the date the President is presented with the joint resolution and ending on the date the President signs, allows to become law without his signature, or vetoes and returns the joint resolution (but excluding days when either House is not in session) shall be disregarded in computing the calendar day period described in subsection (c).

“(B) VETO MESSAGE.—Debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

“(5) VETO OVERRIDE.—If, within the calendar day period described in subsection (c), Congress overrides a veto of a joint resolution relating to a certification submitted under subsection (b)(1), the United States may not issue any additional debt under this chapter.

“(g) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This subsection and subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) are enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution, and they supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

“(h) DEBT DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘debt’ means the face amount of obligations issued under this chapter and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury).

“(2) DETERMINATION OF FACE AMOUNT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the current redemption value of an obligation issued on a discount basis and redeemable before maturity at the option of its

holder is deemed to be the face amount of the obligation.

“(B) CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS NOT REDEEMABLE BEFORE MATURITY.—For purposes of this section, the face amount, for any month, of any obligation issued on a discount basis that is not redeemable before maturity at the option of the holder of the obligation is an amount equal to the sum of—

“(i) the original issue price of the obligation, plus

“(ii) the portion of the discount on the obligation attributable to periods before the beginning of such month (as determined under the principles of section 1272(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 without regard to any exceptions contained in paragraph (2) of such section).”

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF EXPIRED PROVISION.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3101A.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Section 8348 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsections (j), (k), and (l).

(2) Section 8438 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsections (g) and (h).

(3) Section 14(d)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1824(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) by striking “in section 3101(b)” and inserting “under section 3101”; and

(B) by striking “an obligation to which such limit applies” and inserting “debt, as defined in subsection (h) of such section”.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Notwithstanding the amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)—

(1) paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (j) and subsection (1)(1) of section 8348 of title 5, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply to any debt issuance suspension period (as defined under section 8348(j)(5) of such title) that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (g) and subsection (h)(1) of section 8438 of title 5, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply to any debt issuance suspension period (as defined under section 8438(g)(6) of such title) that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself,
Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE,
Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. FEIN-
STEIN):

S. 1917. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for the establishment of standards to limit the carbon intensity of the fuel used by certain vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Clean Shipping Act of 2023. This legislation aims to reduce harmful emissions from ocean going vessels and improve air quality for the nearly 40 percent of Americans who live within 3 miles of a port.

Globally, maritime shipping is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, emitting an estimated 1 billion tons of GHG emissions per year and roughly 3 percent of total anthropogenic global-warming carbon-dioxide

emissions. According to the International Maritime Organization, global shipping emissions could more than double between 2018 and 2050.

That is why the United States signed two shipping declarations at COP26 to call for zero-emission fuels on international commercial vessels by 2030 and the establishment of zero-emission shipping routes by the middle of the 2020 decade.

This legislation would set a path to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from all oceangoing vessels that do business with the United States.

The Clean Shipping Act will help reduce emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement and keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, protect air quality and public health for near-port communities, reduce climate pollution emissions from large marine vessels that call on U.S. ports, and ensure that the global maritime sector reduces, while providing the EPA with the flexibility needed to ensure smooth implementation.

The bill would direct the EPA to set progressively tighter carbon intensity standards for fuels used by ships consistent with a 1.5°C decarbonization pathway, and to eliminate in-port ship emissions by 2030 for all ships at-berth or at-anchor in U.S. ports.

Importantly, this legislation is supported by global industry leaders and environmental advocates and will ensure that the global maritime sector reduces emissions consistent with the Paris Agreement, while providing the EPA with the flexibility needed to ensure smooth implementation.

More than 90 percent of global trade is transported by oceangoing vessels, which produce an estimated 3 percent of global anthropogenic emissions, yet these emissions are unregulated in the United States.

The International Maritime Organization's Intersessional Working Group on the Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships plans to meet at the end of the month.

This bill would send a strong signal of our commitment to our international partners, empower the EPA to set standards to reduce harmful pollution in accordance with our national and international climate goals, provide certainty to the global shipping industry, and catalyze research and development to transition oceangoing vessels that rely on diesel engines.

This bill enjoys the support of environmentalists and industry stakeholders alike who recognize the urgent need to reduce emissions from the shipping sector.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives ROBERT GARCIA and NANETTE BARRAGÁN for championing this bill in the House.

I Look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Clean Shipping Act as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 243—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023 AS “IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH”. A CELEBRATION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN IN MAKING THE UNITED STATES A HEALTHIER, SAFER, MORE DIVERSE, PROSPEROUS COUNTRY, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN TO THE FUTURE SUCCESSES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 243

Whereas the United States is stronger if all individuals have the opportunity to live up to their full potential;

Whereas about 18 percent of health care workers in the United States are immigrants, including (in order of highest percentage of health care workers who are foreign-born)—

- (1) 27 percent of physicians;
- (2) 26 percent of dentists;
- (3) 20 percent of pharmacists;
- (4) 18 percent of dental assistants;
- (5) 15 percent of medical assistants;
- (6) 16 percent of registered nurses;
- (7) 15 percent of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses;
- (8) 13 percent of dietitians and nutritionists; and
- (9) 13 percent of optometrists;

Whereas the Association of American Medical Colleges attested to the Supreme Court of the United States that the health care system of the United States relies on immigrant health care providers in their current roles;

Whereas immigrants working in health care professions serve throughout the United States and often in rural or underserved communities;

Whereas immigrants fill approximately ¼ of physician roles in the United States;

Whereas immigrants working in a health care occupation range from those granted temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) or deferred action pursuant to the final rule submitted by the Department of Homeland Security entitled “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (87 Fed. Reg. 53152 (August 30, 2022)) (referred to in this preamble as “DACA”), to naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas more than 12 percent of the immigrants working in health care occupations (310,000 individuals) are humanitarian migrants, including refugees, asylees, special immigrant visa holders, and parole entrants;

Whereas 60,000 DACA recipients perform critical roles in the health care industry;

Whereas medical students, residents, and physicians rely on DACA for their ability to practice medicine and provide medical care to approximately 4,600 patients per year;

Whereas, in response to COVID-19, immigrants put their own lives on the line to save lives every day, working as diagnostic and treatment practitioners, physician assistants, physicians, nurses, health aides, nursing assistants and orderlies, health care support workers, medical students and residents, and health technologists and technicians;

Whereas more than 5,200,000 undocumented immigrants, including more than ½ of all DACA recipients (400,000 individuals) and the majority of Temporary Protected Status holders (more than 220,000 individuals) are considered essential critical infrastructure workers;

Whereas immigrant essential workers, including first responders, health care workers, agricultural workers and meat packers, child care providers, and hospitality and transportation workers, have heroically helped provide medical care, food, shelter, and comfort to the individuals of the United States impacted by COVID-19;

Whereas undocumented immigrants alone contribute an estimated \$227,000,000,000 of spending power annually to the United States economy, after the payment of \$49,000,000,000 of combined Federal, State, and local taxes each year;

Whereas the majority of farm workers in the United States are immigrants, and regardless of politics, have been deemed “essential workers” to maintaining a safe food supply for the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas immigrants have served in the Armed Forces since the founding of the United States and have fought in every major conflict in United States history, including the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the conflicts in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas immigrants have put their lives on the line to protect the ideals of the United States and democracy, as well as to protect the lives of the people of the United States, by serving as translators and interpreters for the Armed Forces, including in Afghanistan and Iraq, and performing sensitive and trusted activities for United States military personnel stationed with the International Security Assistance Force;

Whereas immigrants who serve in emerging industries with pronounced labor shortages in the United States, such as artificial intelligence, that rely on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this preamble as “STEM”) skills, not only bolster the economy but also enhance national security and global leadership;

Whereas, when immigrants have a trusting relationship with local law enforcement agencies, immigrants report crime and work with law enforcement agencies on neighborhood crime reduction strategies;

Whereas the United States has the largest number of immigrants in the world and those immigrants represent almost every country in the world, contributing to the rich diversity of people, cultures, cuisine, literature, art, language, academia, music, media, fashion, and customs;

Whereas the United States is more diverse than ever before in its history, with greater shares than ever before of immigrants from India, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, El Salvador, Vietnam, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, South Korea, and Guatemala, and, since 2000, an increase of more than 90 percent of Black immigrants from across the African continent, the Caribbean, Jamaica, and Haiti;

Whereas Black immigrants and their children make up roughly ⅓ of the overall Black population in the United States (21 percent);

Whereas, in response to recent civil unrest in the United States, immigrants of all backgrounds have pledged their support to fight racial injustice, hand-in-hand with Black immigrants, to fight for accountability from law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and to demand that law enforcement protect all individuals, regardless of their skin color;

Whereas celebrating the racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences of immigrants has resulted in a unified, patriotic, and prosperous United States;

Whereas immigration has long been one of the greatest competitive advantages of the United States;

Whereas immigrants of all skill levels have helped make the economy of the United States the strongest in the world, complementing existing businesses in the United States in times of need and founding successful businesses of their own;

Whereas more than 44 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, which generate \$7,000,000,000 in annual revenue and employ millions of individuals in the United States;

Whereas, although approximately 14 percent of the population of the United States is immigrants, a considerably larger share of the labor force (18 percent) is immigrants;

Whereas immigrants are entrepreneurial self-starters who create their own opportunity and employment opportunities for others, with 13 percent of employed immigrants being self-employed compared to 9 percent of employed, native-born individuals of the United States;

Whereas immigrant-owned businesses provide jobs across the United States, supporting the creation of additional jobs through entrepreneurial activity in addition to the jobs they fill within their business;

Whereas immigrants are more likely to have advanced degrees than native-born people of the United States;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 international students are enrolled in colleges and universities across the United States, comprising about 5 percent of the total higher education population and helping make the United States the global leader in higher education;

Whereas approximately 100,000 international students each year would hope to stay and work in the United States, if an immigration option were available to them;

Whereas the immigration system of the United States has not been meaningfully updated in more than 30 years and is now outdated and overburdened, turning away highly skilled workers and international student graduates and putting the global leadership of the United States at risk;

Whereas allowing international student graduates interested in remaining in the United States to secure a permanent immigration status would expand the economy by \$233,000,000,000 during the next decade and would help reduce STEM-related talent shortages by 25 percent;

Whereas national security experts agree that it is essential for the United States to maintain its military exceptionalism by being the leader in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, cyber, quantum, robotics, directed energy, and hypersonic weapons, which are all STEM fields where immigrants fill dangerous labor shortages in the United States;

Whereas, due to population aging and longer life expectancy of the population in the United States requiring an increase in health care workers, immigrants are expected to fill a crucial need in the future health care system of the United States essential to keeping the people of the United States healthy;

Whereas, if undocumented individuals who came to the United States as children (commonly referred to as “Dreamers”) alone were provided a pathway to citizenship, they would contribute approximately \$799,000,000,000 to the economy of the United States during the next 10 years;

Whereas future population growth in the United States will require increased immigration, and by increasing immigration substantially, will keep the United States economically competitive with China and other global economies and reduce future fiscal imbalances for popular programs like programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

Whereas, without immigration, the working-age population of the United States will not grow and increasing immigration will help alleviate labor shortages, easing inflation;

Whereas significantly increasing annual immigration levels would double the size of the United States economy by 2050, dramatically lower the ratio of working-age individuals to senior-age individuals, and increase the average income for workers in the United States;

Whereas President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., most recently honored the accomplishments, contributions, and sacrifices of immigrants by proclaiming June 2023 to be “Immigrant Heritage Month” and by asking all people of the United States to observe June 2023 with appropriate programming and activities to remind individuals of the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

Whereas continued integration of immigrants from around the world in a manner that encourages and facilitates a pathway to citizenship, economic and social mobility, and civic engagement will perpetuate the prosperity of the United States and reinforce the patriotism all people of the United States feel for the United States, no matter the color of skin, country of origin, or religious background of the individual: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes June 2023 as “Immigrant Heritage Month” in honor of the contributions immigrants and their children have made to the United States throughout its history;

(2) pledges to celebrate immigrant contributions to, and immigrant heritages in, each State;

(3) welcomes immigrants presently in the United States and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States to contribute to the health, safety, diversity, and prosperity of the United States by finding their place in the vibrant, multiethnic, and integrated society of the United States;

(4) encourages the people of the United States to work with their immigrant neighbors and colleagues to advance the current and future well-being of the United States; and

(5) commits to working with fellow Members of Congress, the executive agencies that administer immigration laws and policies, and the President to promote smart and just immigration policy for immigrants presently in the United States, their families, and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States in the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 244—CON- DEMNING AZERBAIJAN'S BLOCK- ADE OF THE ARMENIANS OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH AND ONGO- ING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted

the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 244

Whereas Azerbaijani forces, in violation of international obligations to resolve disputes with Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh peacefully, conducted a large-scale, unprovoked invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh in October 2020;

Whereas President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan has used vitriolic rhetoric to call for the ethnic cleansing of indigenous Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and his regime has consistently violated important international humanitarian legal agreements during the 2020 war and up until the present date, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Charter, and the Geneva Convention;

Whereas evidence of Azerbaijani violations of international humanitarian law during the 2020 war are well-documented by reputable nongovernmental organizations, such as Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

Whereas mass human rights violations committed by Azerbaijani forces in the 2020 war included rocket strikes on civilian infrastructure like medical facilities and schools, the decapitation of civilians, the use of white phosphorus munitions, the torture and extrajudicial killing of Armenian prisoners of war, the hiring of foreign mercenaries, and the targeting of historic monuments, works of art, and places of worship with great cultural and spiritual significance to Armenians;

Whereas, on September 13, 2022, Azerbaijani forces mounted an illegal and unprovoked assault on Armenian territory, including the cities of Vardenis, Sotk, Artanish, Ishkhanasar, Goris, and Kapan;

Whereas Azerbaijan's attack on Armenia, which was launched on September 13, 2022, is a flagrant violation of Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a violation of international law;

Whereas the November 9, 2020, ceasefire statement ending the 2020 war signed by Azerbaijan clearly states in Article 6, “The Lachin Corridor (5 km wide), which will provide a connection between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia while not passing through the territory of Shusha, shall remain under the control of the Russian Federation peacemaking forces . . . The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the security of persons, vehicles, and cargo moving along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.”;

Whereas Armenia has made progress towards unblocking regional rail connections, including rail lines connecting Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan, in accordance with the terms of the 2020 ceasefire statement;

Whereas, on December 12, 2022, Azerbaijan created a man-made humanitarian crisis by implementing an extended blockade of the Lachin Corridor under the guise of a civilian protest;

Whereas the Lachin Corridor serves as a vital lifeline between Nagorno-Karabakh and the Republic of Armenia, and its blockade prevents food, critical medical supplies, and other essentials from reaching 120,000 people;

Whereas Azerbaijan has taken dangerous, escalatory steps that have severely worsened the quality of life for the people living in Nagorno-Karabakh, including 30,000 children, 20,000 elderly individuals, and 9,000 people with disabilities, through the sabotage of civilian infrastructure such as a critical natural gas pipeline, power transmission lines, and a fixed-line internet;

Whereas the Russian peacekeeping forces deployed in the region have not lived up to their role as defined by the November 9, 2020, statement, doing little to disperse Azerbaijanis blocking the Lachin Corridor, deescalate the situation, or prevent other Azerbaijani aggressions against the Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh;

Whereas the Department of State has warned, “Closure of the Lachin Corridor has severe humanitarian implications and sets back the peace process” and has publicly called on the Government of Azerbaijan “to restore free movement through the corridor”;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev on January 23, 2023, “to urge an immediate reopening of the Lachin corridor to commercial traffic” and “underscored that the risk of a humanitarian crisis in the Lachin corridor undermined prospects for peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan”;

Whereas on February 18, 2023, the International Court of Justice ordered Azerbaijan “to ensure the unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles, and cargo along the Lachin Corridor”;

Whereas the United States serves as a co-chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s Minsk Group, along with France and the Russian Federation, and is committed to sustainable, long-term peace in the region; and

Whereas the United States and the international community have not been able to undertake any direct humanitarian support or relief efforts to address the needs of Armenian victims in Nagorno-Karabakh since the deadly invasion by Azerbaijani forces in October 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Azerbaijan’s blockade of the Lachin Corridor to Nagorno Karabakh;

(2) encourages the United States Government and international community to petition the United Nations Security Council, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and other appropriate international bodies to investigate any and all war crimes committed by Azerbaijani forces against Armenian civilians;

(3) calls on the United States Government to work swiftly with international partners, including civil society organizations, regarding the deployment of international observers to the Lachin Corridor and Nagorno-Karabakh to explore opportunities for more effective and sustainable guarantees of security and peaceful development;

(4) calls on the President to immediately suspend any United States new, current, or pending military or security assistance to Azerbaijan, and to fully enforce section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5812);

(5) supports United States sanctions under existing statutory authority against Azerbaijani officials responsible for the blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh and other well-documented human rights violations committed against Armenians in the region, such as the targeting of civilian infrastructure and the destruction of historic, cultural, and places of worship of great significance to Armenians; and

(6) supports efforts by the United States, the European Union, and the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of Azerbaijani aggression in Nagorno-Karabakh.

SENATE RESOLUTION 245—HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 245

Whereas, on June 12, 2016, a gunman inspired by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria targeted the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where he killed 49 innocent victims and wounded dozens more in a despicable attack;

Whereas the attack at the Pulse nightclub was an attack on the LGBTQ community, the Hispanic community, the City of Orlando, the State of Florida, and the United States;

Whereas the Orlando community continues to mourn the tragic loss of life but has demonstrated remarkable strength, unity, and resilience in the aftermath of the horrendous event;

Whereas June 12 is designated as “Pulse Remembrance Day” in the State of Florida to honor the victims and survivors of the senseless attack;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for those affected by the tragedy; and

Whereas June 12, 2023, marks 7 years since the lives of the 49 innocent victims were tragically cut short by this senseless act of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 49 innocent victims killed in the attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, and offers heartfelt condolences to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(2) honors the dozens of survivors of the attack and pledges continued resolve to stand against terrorism and hate; and

(3) expresses gratitude to the brave law enforcement and emergency medical personnel who responded to the attack.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I have seven 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2023, 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 Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–93, as amended by Public Law 99–151, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: the Honorable CHARLES GRASSLEY of Iowa (Vice Chairman), the Honorable JOHN CORNYN of Texas, and the Honorable JAMES RISCH of Idaho.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 245, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 245) honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WYDEN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 245) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 12; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Allen nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BOOKER.

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

SENATE PAGES

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am grateful for the respect with which you said those two words, "New Jersey." It is an extraordinary State, and I know you recognize and respect it, sir.

I want to stand at this moment, as we are about to close out the Senate, to recognize perhaps one of the most unrecognized elements of the functioning of the U.S. Senate. There are extraordinary people who work in this institution—people who have dedicated their careers to it and support not just Senators but really this incredible, august body. But, today, I want to mark that this is the last day of a class of pages that is serving today. They are the youngest people on the Senate floor—15, 16 years old—but they have served on the frontlines of history over the last months.

I have seen a lot of young people pass through here, and this class of pages is the least funny pages I have seen.

(Laughter.)

I have asked them for jokes. They have given me things that could be

called a joke, but they did not have their intended purpose. I am disappointed. I stand in judgment of them.

(Laughter.)

But despite their lack of humor, what they did show was an abundance of commitment to country, to service, to patriotism.

Most of America doesn't realize what these pages go through to be here. They have an extraordinary challenging time. They actually wake up at 4 or 5 in the morning. They do their homework, they do their class work, and then they come and work a full-time job, often into the evening when the Senate goes on to 8 and 9, getting closer to 10. Ten is a wonderful, wonderful time because if they get past 10, they don't have to go to class in the morning. Is that it? They have no class. Now, I am not saying that they are classless people. I am not saying that if they go past 10 p.m., they have no class.

(Laughter.)

But think about this: They are waking up at 5 in the morning, they are going until 8 or 9, and they start it all over again. It is a difficult job, it is demanding, but yet they have done it with distinction.

Tomorrow, they will graduate, and they will go back to their lives all across the country. It is extraordinary. These young folks come from the North, the South, the East, the West, and they will go back, having had a unique experience. But although they leave this institution, they also leave their spirit, their energy, and their contributions.

I want to say to all of the pages—because I won't have a chance to say goodbye to them at the graduation—I want to say, on behalf of myself and also 99 others, it was an honor to serve with you in the U.S. Senate.

I hope as you continue your careers of service to country, of being the calling of a nation that needs its young people more than ever—people full of hope, people full of dreams, people full of commitment—that you consider coming back to this body. There are extraordinary people who serve here who were former pages, everyone from Parliamentarians, all the way to Senators themselves.

But on this day, on behalf of this body, I want to conclude by simply saying thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WYDEN). I say to my colleague, you speak for all of us.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2023.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:44 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 12, 2023, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

KENECHUKWU ONYEMAECHE OKOCHA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE WILLIAM WARD NOOTER, RETIRED.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

MICHAEL COLIN CASEY, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER, VICE WILLIAM R. EVANINA.

THE JUDICIARY

JERRY EDWARDS, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, VICE MICHAEL JOSEPH JUNEAU, RETIRED.

PHILIP S. HADJI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY, ELEVATED.

BRANDON S. LONG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, VICE MARTIN L. C. FELDMAN, DECEASED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

REBECCA C. LUTZKO, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JUSTIN E. HERDMAN, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 8, 2023:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DILAWAR SYED, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

THE JUDICIARY

MOLLY R. SILFEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ERIC G. OLSHAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.