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No. 152

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the fountain of all goodness, thank You that You have us in the place where You want us to be.

Teach our lawmakers to take seriously their role in solving the problems of our times, that they may fulfill Your plans for their lives. Continue to inspire them and to bless others through their work. Use Your sovereign wisdom to bring about good results from their decisions. Lord, give our Senators the courage to tell us what we need to hear so that Your truth will set us free. Make them willing to take judicious risk when it leads to justice and truth.

We pray in Your sovereign 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, September 20, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH 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.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4366, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray-Collins) amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute.

Murray amendment No. 1205 (to amendment No. 1092), to change the effective date.

Murray motion to suspend rule XVI for the consideration of Schumer (for Murray-Collins) amendment No. 1092 (listed above) to the bill.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 1230, to change the effective date.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 12:15 p.m. be for debate only. At 12:15 p.m., we have a vote on the cloture motion on moving forward on the mini-bus.

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

H.R. 4366

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, Senators from both sides of the aisle will have a chance to affirm that bipartisanship still rules the day in the Senate appropriations process.

In a few hours, we will hold a cloture vote on the suspension of rule XVI, to override the stall tactics of one Member who objected last week to waiving rule XVI. It is yet another reminder that, in both Houses, a small group of hard-right Republicans is dead set on grinding the gears of government to a halt. For MAGA Republicans, it is as if chaos is a virtue and cooperation a crime, but I do not believe that this is the view of most Members in this Chamber, Democrats or Republicans.

The appropriations process has been a true bipartisan success story to date. Our colleagues on the other side have asked for regular order, and we have worked with them to ensure we have done just that, just as we did on the NDAA bill. Our colleagues on the other side have asked for amendments, and we have worked with them to consider amendments.

We worked side by side with our Republican colleagues in the Appropriations Committee to bring these three bills to the floor: MILCON-VA, Agriculture, and Transportation-HUD. It has taken a lot of hard work. We have had plenty of disagreements, as both sides normally do, but we have worked through them. It is a reminder that,

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



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even in divided times, it is the hard work—hard work—of achieving bipartisanship that produced results.

Today, we have a chance to make sure all the good work of the appropriators is not wasted. Whether the Republicans give us cloture or not, we on this side of the aisle are going to do our best to ensure that the minibus gets done. We have come very far, and there is no good reason to turn back.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Now, Mr. President, on the CR, every day we get closer to September 30, one truth becomes clearer and clearer: There is no scenario for avoiding a government shutdown without bipartisan ship.

A government shutdown would be a terrible and unnecessary outcome for our country. Millions of Americans who count on government services would have their lives disrupted. It could impact the pay of our service members, who so bravely serve us. Air traffic controllers and TSA employees would have to work without pay. FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund—needed by so many—could dry up.

A shutdown would be disastrous. A shutdown would be unnecessary. Make no mistake, a shutdown is certainly avoidable. Yet, with each passing day, House Republicans seem less interested in avoiding a shutdown and more interested in catering to the hard, hard, unreasonable, adamant, and stubborn hard right.

A few days ago, House Republicans released what they claimed was a deal for a CR—a slapdash, reckless, and cruel bill that everyone knew had no chance—no chance—of passing in the Senate. It would have cut 8 percent to virtually all nondefense spending. It would have cut investments to the Social Security Administration. It would have meant cuts to law enforcement, to NIH funding for cancer research, to nutrition assistance, to protections for clean water, for small business loans, even for the people protecting the border. Still, it wasn't extreme enough for the hard right.

House Republicans rejected their own extremist bill, and by rejecting it, that is a dead giveaway they are not serious about avoiding a shutdown. They seem more interested in just finding the lowest common denominator—finding something, anything, that can appease the hard right no matter how extreme, no matter how unrealistic, no matter how cruel, and no matter how unseriously this would be taken by the country and by this body. This is not a serious way to solve the crisis.

Look, I sympathize with the Speaker. I know his task isn't easy, as he has a lot of very, very difficult Members to deal with. But we all have—including the Speaker—a responsibility to the American people. Real lives would be disrupted in a shutdown.

The answer to avoiding a shutdown is right in front of Speaker MCCARTHY, and he knows it: bipartisanship. Speaker MCCARTHY says he wants to avoid a

shutdown. He says nobody wins in a shutdown. Well then, he should reach across the aisle to find an agreement that actually has the votes to pass both Chambers. That is the only way—the only way—this crisis gets resolved.

When Members of your own side operate in bad faith, when has appeasement ever worked? If he gives in to them now, they will want something more tomorrow and the next day and the next day. Some of them have stated boldly that they want a shutdown. The Speaker has an obligation not to let those people who want a shutdown have their way.

Chasing the lowest common denominator won't ever solve the Speaker's problems. The hard right will just keep demanding more extreme things. It is the pattern we have seen play out all year long, and that approach will only lead to one outcome: a MAGA government shutdown. This has been the problem with MAGA extremism from the start. It is not serious about governing. It hates governing. "Chaos" is the only word in their playbook.

We have Members of the hard right who openly say—bragging—they want a shutdown. Well, it doesn't have to be this way, and it shouldn't be this way. Those few who want a shutdown should not control the House. Speaker MCCARTHY doesn't have to pretend like a MAGA bill is the only option. Again, there are real people who will be hurt if the government is shut down. They like to see us work together so their lives don't get disrupted.

Today is September 20. House Republicans have less than 10 days to figure this out. If Republican leadership chooses to work with Democrats, we can avoid a shutdown very quickly, but if they continue to appease the MAGA hard right, we all know exactly how this is going to end.

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.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, next week, America's world-leading medical innovation sector will face their first deadline in the Biden administration's push for prescription drug socialism.

Under Washington Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act, the companies behind certain major treatments for seniors, for everything from arthritis to diabetes, to cancer, will have to choose, by the end of next week, whether to enter into a so-called "negotiation program" run by Federal bureaucrats, pay an excessive fine, or take their drugs off the market.

Well, the devil is in the details. Unsurprisingly, Democrats intend for this "negotiation" to be anything but. It turns out, the IRA empowers the Biden administration to reject any counteroffer during the process and, thus, arbitrarily set the maximum price to whatever number the bureaucrats choose.

Now, the Biden administration claims that this policy will save consumers money and lead to cheaper treatments, but this couldn't be further from the truth. In reality, this so-called "negotiation" with unelected bureaucrats will ensure that fewer lifesaving treatments make it to the markets in the first place.

I was very proud to have worked alongside then-Vice President Biden on his Cancer Moonshot Initiative and the 21st Century Cures Act back in 2016. Unfortunately, by one estimate, the Biden administration's own price-fixing scheme would destroy nearly nine times as much funding for cancer research as that legislation, back in 2016, provided by eliminating incentives for drug companies to invest in R&D. Already, several companies announced last year that they were discontinuing research into treatments for cancer and other diseases due to concerns about the impact of Washington Democrats' regulations.

The Biden administration wants to dry up the world's most prolific pipeline of lifesaving cures. The American people deserve better than prescription drug socialism.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. President, now, on another matter, yesterday, President Biden told the world we would support Ukraine's fight "as long as it takes." Unfortunately, for all of his lofty rhetoric about Ukraine, the President's actual approach to Russia's escalation—his passive, indecisive leadership—has risked prolonging the war and jeopardizing public support for our efforts. In some cases, his open fretting about escalation and "World War Three" has contributed to the hesitation of allies like Germany.

Like most Republicans, I have been clear-eyed about the threat of Russian aggression since long before Putin's so-called "little green men" seized Ukrainian territory back in 2014, long before the last Democratic President mocked realism about Russia to score points in a political debate. And I have urged the administrations of both parties to take steps to help Ukraine deter Russian aggression before it escalated—like the previous administration's decision to send the lethal weapons that President Obama had found too provocative.

When President Biden took office, he focused on lowering tensions with Moscow with giveaways like the 5-year extension of the New START Treaty, rather than shipping lethal weapons to Ukraine to help shore up their defenses. As Vladimir Putin massed forces on Ukraine's border over the

winter of 2021, I urged the President to move quickly to provide critical military capabilities like Stingers and Javelins and to build the logistical infrastructure needed to support Ukraine should Russia escalate. Ah, but President Biden delayed. He dithered for months before approving shipments of advanced air defense systems or medium-range rocket systems like HIMARS. And he anguished for over a year about authorizing F-16s and Abrams tanks.

Eventually, under duress from both parties in Congress, the Biden administration provided each of these capabilities, but the President's hesitation kept our allies, who follow American decisions very closely, from unlocking similar capabilities of their own sooner.

At every step of the way, President Biden's decisions on support for Ukraine have been slow, his actions have been tentative, and his caution has been debilitating. Unfortunately, the President's public messaging has been similarly insufficient. He has an obligation to speak to all Americans, but most of his messaging about lofty and abstract principles seems tailored to Washington think tanks.

President Biden and his administration need to explain to the Nation in practical terms that our Nation has a fundamental interest in Ukrainian victory and European security, that our support for Ukraine isn't distracting from competition with China but contributing materially to it, that Europe has turned a corner on collective defense and burden sharing and is actually contributing more to Ukraine than the United States, that U.S. assistance is subject to rigorous oversight and accountability protections, that most of the security assistance is actually being invested in America's own—our own—defense industrial base, and that pulling the plug would be far more ruinous than our disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

I sometimes get the sense that I speak more about Ukraine matters than the President does. Well, I hope his administration will use this evening's classified Senate briefing to begin making his case more forcefully.

I am encouraged by reports that the United States may finally provide ATACMS, a capability that could have made an impact on the battlefield sooner. And I hope we will learn why this decision, like those preceding it, has taken so long.

Tomorrow, I will join colleagues in welcoming President Zelenskyy to the Capitol, and I will continue to make the case myself for sustained support of the Ukrainian cause—not out of charity but out of primary focus on America's interests. But until President Biden takes on his responsibility to actually lead the case publicly here at home, his administration's timid leadership will continue to speak volumes, both at home and abroad.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, most Americans agree that the cost of prescription drugs is too high. Most Americans agree that President Biden has done the right thing by reducing the monthly cost of insulin to \$35 so that millions of people facing diabetes can afford their medication. Most Americans agree that it is almost impossible to explain why American drug companies sell the same drugs in Canada for a fraction of the cost they charge American consumers. Most Americans agree that the pharmaceutical companies should be able to take advantage of basic research by Agencies like the National Institutes of Health but, when it comes to their profit-making, they ought to be reasonable with the American taxpayers, who started them down the road to a successful product.

Most Americans also agree that the No. 1 driver in the cost of health insurance premiums is the cost of prescription drugs. BlueCross BlueShield of Chicago has told me as much. It stands to reason.

That is why it is very difficult to understand the statement just made by the Republican leader in the Senate, who is suggesting that the idea of negotiating with the pharmaceutical companies so that Medicare, for example, doesn't pay the highest price for drugs isn't a reasonable thing.

What I heard from the Republican leader was this was prescription drug socialism—socialism—that we would go to the private sector and say: Life-saving drugs should be affordable. You are entitled to a profit, but you are not entitled to rip off taxpayers or consumers across America.

That seems like a reasonable approach. In fact, it seems so reasonable that someone suggested we do that for our veterans years ago. The Veterans' Administration has been negotiating prescription drug pricing for years.

What the Senator from Kentucky refers to as “unelected bureaucrats” are the officials of the Veterans' Administration who, on behalf of the veterans and their families, sit down at a table and negotiate a reasonable cost so that veterans will always have those drugs available to them and the government will pay not the highest price but a reasonable price for the product.

That has been going on for decades, and I don't recall any Republican—or Democrat, for that matter—who stood before the Senate or the House and said: That is a bad idea. The Veterans' Administration ought to pay a much higher price for drugs, and taxpayers ought to foot the difference.

The reason you don't hear that is it doesn't make sense. We should be able to negotiate reasonable pricing for pharmaceutical drugs in Medicare, just as we do in the Veterans' Administration. That is what President Biden has suggested.

If you took a look at the top 10 drugs that the Medicare system is buying across America, not surprisingly, these

drugs, which have tongue-twister names, are familiar to most Americans. Why?

The pharmaceutical companies have put so many ads on television for the drug Xarelto that we can not only pronounce it but we can spell it. And Xarelto, of course, is a drug that appeals to many people but certainly to senior citizens.

Now, for the record, there are only two nations in the world that allow television advertising of pharmaceutical drugs: the United States and New Zealand, of all places. So why do the pharmaceutical companies spend more money on television advertising and marketing than they do on research to find new drugs and cures? Well, they do that because they make money at it.

They are trying to reach American consumers—in this case, senior citizens—and convince them, the next time they go for a doctor's appointment, to ask for one of these drugs.

Now, the doctor may decide to counsel the person that that drug is not appropriate for the challenges of the medical situation they face. He may say there is a generic that is much cheaper, and he may try to talk them out of the idea. But, after some time, the doctors usually give in to the patients. They have a limited amount of time to debate with them, and they have got to move on to another patient. And so the high-priced prescription drug advertised on television is then sold to the senior citizen. And as a result, the taxpayers, through Medicare, pay for a large portion of that high-priced drug. That is an unfortunate system, but it is very profitable for the pharmaceutical companies.

So to call this socialism is to ignore the obvious. We want Americans to have access to affordable, effective drugs, whether they are buying them as private citizens or through programs like Medicare and Medicaid. What the President has said is: I should take my authority as President, given to me by Congress with a measure that received only Democratic votes, and negotiate drug prices down to an affordable level—for the government and for individuals.

Some may call that “prescription drug socialism.” I call it common sense. We should protect American consumers from high-priced prescription drugs. Why the Republican leader takes the opposite position is his business, but I think most Americans believe it is a reasonable approach.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. President, on a separate issue, I rise today to discuss the critical role that U.S. attorneys play in keeping America and our communities safe. Unfortunately, this is not the first time I have come to the floor to request unanimous consent to take up and confirm U.S. attorney nominations.

Across the United States, men and women are chosen to head U.S. Attorney Offices through the Department of

Justice. It is a major responsibility. I have seen many U.S. attorneys in my lifetime and my time in the Senate, and I know them to be carefully screened before they reach this level. They go through background checks—extensive background checks—to make certain there are no questions about their background before they are appointed to this position. They then go through the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, which I chair, carefully screened by both Democrats and Republicans. Then they are voted on in the committee and sent to the floor here for approval.

Unfortunately, we have run into an obstacle. Last year, we went through an exercise twice when a Republican Senate colleague refused to allow the Senate to confirm nearly 12 Justice Department nominees by voice vote, which is the typical approach used under Presidents of both political parties. Thankfully, the Senator involved in that particular issue lifted his objections in time for these 12 to be appointed to U.S. attorney posts across the United States.

We were able to get the U.S. attorneys and marshals confirmed and in place so they could go to work. And, thank goodness, we did.

Unfortunately, here we stand again today, finding ourselves in a position where a single Senator objects to the timely confirmation of U.S. attorney nominees.

In short, one Senator—one Senator—is making it more difficult for us to put women and men in the position of U.S. attorney for the prosecution of violent criminals, tracking down fugitives, and protecting Americans from gang violence, cyber crime, terrorism, narcotics, and fraud.

It is an awesome job to be U.S. attorney because of the possibilities of all of the vulnerabilities of American citizens.

Remember when extreme voices were crying out “defund the police”? We knew better as Americans. Sure, reform is appropriate, but we need the police, just as we need prosecutors—criminal prosecutors. Now, we have one Senator who has decided to stop this effort at criminal prosecution by these new U.S. attorneys.

It is worth taking a moment to think about what U.S. attorneys do. The position of U.S. attorney is nearly as old as the Nation. It was created as part of the Judiciary Act of 1789, which was passed by the first Congress and signed into law by President George Washington.

U.S. attorneys are empowered to prosecute all Federal criminal offenses; and we have recognized, since the founding of America, that they are an integral part of our justice system.

U.S. attorneys play a critical role in enforcing the law, promoting public safety, protecting our communities. Blocking the confirmations of U.S. attorneys threatens public safety and puts many Americans and their fami-

lies, including the most vulnerable among us, at greater risk.

Why would we knowingly want to put our families that we represent in States across America at greater risk by holding up the employment of U.S. attorneys?

Now, we have heard a lot of tough talk about law and order from a lot of Senators. But when it comes to law and order, we shouldn't allow one Senator to prevent us from confirming well-qualified law enforcement nominations today.

This Senator has vowed to “grind the Department of Justice to a halt.”

Let me repeat that.

This Senator has vowed to “grind the Department of Justice to a halt.”

And all of this because of why? He is upset that special counsel Jack Smith has indicted the former President of the United States on multiple felonies. This is a protest, a political protest, for an action taken by a special counsel. But he is doing it at the expense of families all across America.

Let me repeat that.

A Member of this body is undermining our government's efforts to prosecute violent crimes, terrorism, and crimes against children because he does not like it that one of his political allies is being held accountable for his actions. He is doing so despite the fact that these are exceptional—exceptional—nominees for U.S. attorneys, and there is no principled basis to delay their confirmation.

Let me describe some of these U.S. attorneys who are being held up by this one Republican Senator.

Todd Gee, nominated to be U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, is dedicated to the rule of law and longtime career in public service. A native of Vicksburg, MS, Mr. Gee attended George Washington University and Tulane Law School. He spent several years as an assistant U.S. attorney right here in the District of Columbia. He prosecuted homicides, carjackings, and gun crimes. In one case, he was the lead prosecutor in securing the convictions for seven members of a deadly street gang that had been indicted for multiple murders. Since 2018, Mr. Gee has served as Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section at the Department of Justice. He is a dedicated public servant with significant experience as a Federal prosecutor. He is the person for the job of U.S. attorney in Mississippi.

Don't take it from me, take it from both Mississippi Senators, both Republicans, who approved his nomination. And yet he is being held up.

Tara McGrath, nominated to be U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California, devoted her legal career to keeping America safe. Ms. McGrath attended Boston College and the University of Michigan Law School before beginning her career as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate with the U.S. Marine Corps. She was honorably discharged after 6 years of service in the Marine

Corps and then began serving as Federal prosecutor in the Southern District of California.

During her time with the U.S. Attorney's Office, she received awards for her work on crime prevention and prisoner re-entry and handled drug importation, human trafficking cases, and gang prosecutions.

Notably, Ms. McGrath led the investigation of a large-scale racketeering and drug-trafficking operation run by the Mexican cartels in San Diego County that resulted in 51 indictments against 40 defendants.

How many times have we heard Members from the other side of the aisle talk about the scourge of fentanyl in the United States, the narcotics that are killing too many Americans every single day? What is going to stop that? A lot of different things. But one thing that has to be part of the equation is a criminal prosecutor who knows how to bring them to court and hold them responsible for the deadly narcotics and deaths across America.

Why in the world would we stop Ms. McGrath from becoming a U.S. attorney in California, where she has a proven record of doing just that? By holding up her nomination for no specific reason, we are jeopardizing the safety of so many people who innocently expect us to do our duty.

These are individuals—the ones she has prosecuted—responsible for drive-by shootings, child abduction attempts, meth distribution. Thanks to Ms. McGrath, they are off the streets.

She recently returned to her military roots, served as a lawyer for the Marine Corps in Okinawa in Japan since 2019. She has represented America admirably. She will be an outstanding U.S. attorney.

A third U.S. attorney nominee who is being held up by this Senator is Rebecca Lutzko. This one is interesting. She was nominated to be U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, the home State of the Senator who is holding up her nomination.

She is a longtime Federal prosecutor. She attended Boston University and Georgetown University Law before clerking on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

After 7 years in private practice, Ms. Lutzko joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio, handled cases involving prescription drug trafficking, gun crimes, and corruption. She eventually became Appellate Chief of the office's Criminal Division.

For nearly a decade, Ms. Lutzko was the lead counsel in prosecuting an online pill-mill organization that illegally distributed well over 4 million pain pills to customers in all 50 States. She secured convictions on all 12 defendants in the case, and the organization was forced to surrender \$4 million to the U.S. Government in criminal proceeds.

She has served her office with distinction. She would be an outstanding U.S. attorney.

April Perry, nominated to be U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, has significant experience in the private sector and as a Federal prosecutor.

She attended Northwestern University and the Northwestern Law School and then clerked on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Then she served as Federal prosecutor in the Northern District of Illinois for over a decade, where she handled narcotics, gang violence, public corruption, and fraud cases. Notably, Ms. Perry specialized in child exploitation prosecutions and spent 6 years in the office as Project Safe Childhood Coordinator.

As an assistant U.S. attorney, she investigated a former police officer who was convicted of raping a person he had arrested, and she secured the conviction of a former priest who was accused of sexually abusing more than 20 children.

Ms. Perry has since served as Chief Ethics Officer for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and is currently working as the GE Healthcare a senior counsel for Global Investigations and Fraud and Abuse Prevention.

She has the qualification and leadership abilities to serve as U.S. attorney with distinction.

The interesting thing about all of these nominees that are being held up by one Senator from the other side of the aisle is the extraordinary records they have already written in their lives as criminal prosecutors. That is why Senators from both political parties in the U.S. Senate have said they are entitled to a promotion and entitled to an opportunity to lead these U.S. attorney's offices.

By keeping these posts vacant, by refusing to give us a vote in the Senate on their nominations, we are jeopardizing the efforts of U.S. attorney's offices to control narcotics and crime.

These men and women are on the frontline of keeping us safe in America. To hold up their nominations without any specific complaint about any one of these nominees is just unacceptable.

We have a responsibility here to keep America safe. We can't keep them safe by using a political reason to hold up the nominations of these well-qualified people. If you are truly for law and order, if you are truly for law enforcement, if you want the prosecutors across America to keep us safe, then, for goodness' sake, lift the hold on these nominations.

Mr. President, I am prepared to make a unanimous consent request at this point.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 129, No. 266, No. 314, and No. 315; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President

be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The Senator from Illinois knows well, I cannot and will not give consent to the confirmation of new officials at the Department of Justice.

My objection is not specific to the qualifications or the particular individuals that have been nominated. My objection is, instead, to the fact that we live in an era where the Department of Justice is used for politics as much as justice. And that is unacceptable.

The DOJ is, and always has been, defined by its most consequential investigations and prosecutions. This DOJ is thus defined by its selective prosecution of the leader of the opposition—the man running against Joe Biden to become President of the United States. Of course, I am speaking of Donald Trump.

Now, this unprecedented double standard selectively prosecuting Donald Trump, leaving the President and his family completely untouched, is a reason why the Department of Justice's public confidence has completely collapsed.

A recent NBC News survey showed that 35 percent of the American people approve of the Department of Justice, which is a radical decline from where it was just a couple of years ago.

It is the constitutional duty of this body to provide advice and consent to high-level DOJ nominees. My real fear here—I don't want to be here, I don't want to be objecting to these nominees—but what I like much less is the fact these nominees will be used by the Attorney General for politics over justice.

My colleague might say—and he might say this to Senator TUBERVILLE, who has a similar hold on Department of Justice nominees—that this is extraordinary, that what we are doing as Republicans in objecting to the unanimous consent of these nominations is extraordinary. And I agree it is extraordinary. But what is more extraordinary is this moment in time where the leader of the opposition is being prosecuted by the President of the United States, and the Department of Justice again and again and again is using its powers to go after people from pro-life activists to members of the community who are just exercising their rights.

I would love to live in a country where the Department of Justice does not engage in selective prosecution. I would very much like if the Department of Justice focused on the work of law enforcement instead of politics. Until it does, I will object to these nominations.

I will object to giving unanimous consent. For these reasons, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, my colleague says he is holding up these critical law enforcement positions because former President Trump is being treated unfairly. He promises to grind the Department of Justice to a halt in loyalty to his political ally.

President Biden has continually demonstrated his respect for the Justice Department's independence. He has never interfered in any investigation into himself or his family. In contrast, President Trump treated the Justice Department as his personal law firm for 4 years, and he continues to undermine the rule of law by repeatedly threatening and making baseless accusations against judges, prosecutors, grand jurors, and witnesses.

Former President Trump has been indicted four separate times—once, of course, a State indictment in Georgia. As the criminal charges mount, President Trump is becoming even more reckless in threatening judges, prosecutors, jurors, and witnesses. That is what inappropriate interference in our judicial system looks like.

Instead of directing his concerns there, the Senator from Ohio is attacking law enforcement officers who want to keep our families and communities safe. In fact, one of the nominations that he is holding up, in argument that the Department of Justice has become a political tool, is a nomination which he notified the Judiciary Committee he supports—from his home State of Ohio. If this person is a political tool, why did he support this person for this nomination? He is holding him up today for political reasons.

Despite the tough talk from the Senator of Ohio about crime in America and all the references I have to put up regularly with the other party making references to crime in the city of Chicago, I can't think of a better way to fight crime and protect communities than by confirming all these qualified nominees, especially one for the Northern District of Illinois.

While the Senator from Ohio stands in the Senate talking about crime in my home State and other places, Ms. Perry could be leading Chicago's Firearms Trafficking Strike Force in cracking down on the illicit flow of illegal guns from other States into Chicago.

The Chicago Police Department recovered more than 10,000 guns every year from criminal investigations for the last 2 years—10,000 guns taken off the streets. Ms. Perry could be helping to coordinate these efforts with ATF and other law enforcement agencies.

Instead, thanks to my colleague's political position, our law enforcement agencies and U.S. attorneys are missing key officials who would otherwise be leading these efforts.

If you are for law and order, if you are for safety in the streets, if you want to reduce gun violence, how in the world can you rationalize stopping the nominations of U.S. attorneys, the

lead criminal prosecutors of the U.S. Department of Justice?

I would like to give them the help and leadership they need, but the Senator from Ohio blocks it. These offices and the safety of the public they serve should not be subject to politics. These are highly qualified nominees who deserve to be swiftly confirmed. Until we do so, our law enforcement agencies in Ohio, Illinois, Mississippi, and California are going to be limited on how they can fight crime.

I really am saddened that this has become the new standard for Senate Republicans. One Senate Republican has stopped 300 military promotions for 6 months or longer. Deserving men and women, many of whom risked their life for our country and have served us so well, are being punished because of a political item on the agenda. As important as it may be, you have chosen the wrong targets to take your political revenge.

The same thing is true when it comes to these nominees. For goodness' sake, give the Department of Justice the tools it needs to stop the spread of fentanyl and narcotics in the United States, to stop and slow down violent crime in the United States, to do something to protect children from being trafficked. To stop these nominations is to turn a blind eye to the reality that faces crime in our country. I can't explain it. I won't even try to.

I just beg the Senator from Ohio to think twice. Grinding the U.S. Department of Justice to a halt, as you have promised, is nothing to be proud of. We will not be safer as a nation; we will not be better off in terms of the safety of our children; and this political strategy is, unfortunately, ill-intended and is going to have a result which is going to hurt a lot of innocent people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Monday, the Democrat leader came down to the floor to discuss the continuing resolution the House proposed, and he criticized it for, among other things, making "no attempt to reauthorize the FAA."

Making "no attempt to reauthorize the FAA."

Well, apparently it slipped the Democrat leader's mind that the Senate is currently making no attempt to reauthorize the FAA either. That is right. It has been 97 days since the Democrat chair of the Commerce Committee halted consideration of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization at the beginning of the scheduled markup because the Democrat leader

objected to a bipartisan amendment that Senator SINEMA and I planned to offer—an amendment to improve aviation safety by implementing a structured, rigorous training program for prospective airline pilots.

Current training requirements for airline pilots require 1,500 hours of flight time, primarily in the cockpit, although military pilots and those with a bachelor's or associate's degree in aviation can receive credit for some of those hours.

I recognize the value of cockpit experience and see time in real aircraft as an essential part of training airline pilots, but those 1,500 hours alone are not always the ideal preparation for flying commercial jets or training truly well-rounded pilots.

For starters, the majority of the 1,500 hours are generally completed in small, single-engine aircraft, which have very little relevance to regional or large jetliners in terms of flight characteristics and instrumentation. Little to none of the currently required flight hours, which aspiring airline pilots must seek out and complete on their own, are accumulated in the type of aircraft these pilots will be flying should they get a job with an airline. In fact, current rules would theoretically allow some of those hours to be completed in a hot air balloon—not exactly preparation for flying a 787 across the ocean.

To address these deficiencies and to better prepare pilots for airline jobs, 7 years ago, the Air Carrier Training Aviation Rulemaking Committee—a body of industry, labor, and safety representatives who meet regularly under the auspices of the FAA's Office of Aviation Safety—developed and recommended the implementation of an Enhanced Qualification Program that would create a structured pathway for pilots to obtain intensive training.

That is exactly—exactly—the type of program our amendment would create. Following the recommendations of the Air Carrier Training Aviation Rulemaking Committee, our amendment would implement a 2-month Enhanced Qualification Program, designed and audited by the FAA and administered by air carriers, that would give aspiring airline pilots intensive training both in the classroom and in simulators with experienced air carrier pilots and other experts. Individuals who successfully completed the program would be given a 250-hour credit toward their restricted airline transport pilot license, similar to the credits currently given for undergraduate work in aviation.

The Enhanced Qualification Program in our amendment would significantly improve pilot training and passenger safety. As I said, intensive training in the kind of air carrier environment where prospective airline pilots will be flying is something that is largely missing from current training. Getting the chance to work closely with seasoned pilots would help turn out highly

qualified pilots who are better prepared for flying commercial jets.

In addition, our program's use of simulator training, whose proven value has resulted in its extensive use by our military, would give prospective airline pilots exposure to the cockpits of the jets they would be flying and, crucially, allow them to experience what it is like to handle challenging and dangerous situations in those cockpits.

For obvious reasons, standard flight training hours don't involve deliberately flying into perilous weather conditions or dealing with things like fires or engine failure, but simulator training offers prospective airline pilots a chance to deal with all those situations and more and deal with them again and again until their response to these situations is fine-tuned.

You don't have to take my word for it. A bipartisan group of former FAA Administrators and former presidents of the Air Line Pilots Association recently sent a letter to the chairs and vice chairs of the relevant House and Senate committees wholeheartedly endorsing the kind of simulator training our amendment would provide. Let me just read a little bit from that letter, and I am quoting here:

[F]acilitating the adoption of new technologies that enhance safety should be a bedrock principle for government and industry alike. . . . Since the tragic crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407 almost 15 years ago, there have been significant advances in technology that are incorporated into a pilot's training upon an airline hiring them, but these technologies have not improved the 1,500-hour path to becoming an airline pilot. Modern, state-of-the-art airline flight simulators accurately recreate the experience of flight operations in a fully immersive experience, forcing pilots to encounter aircraft malfunctions, including rare events like rapid decompressions, emergency descents, high-speed rejected takeoffs, dual engine failures, severe icing conditions, flight control malfunctions and full stalls, all without placing any lives in danger.

He goes on:

Simulators also present the opportunity to incorporate actual accident and incident scenarios into training. . . . Like training for an athletic endeavor, a high volume of repetitions of high-quality exercises improves performance and "muscle memory." Requiring the repeated practice of the prevention of and recovery from myriad real-world accident scenarios in full-motion flight simulators will make better pilots.

Again, that comes from former FAA Administrators and presidents of the American Air Line Pilots Association.

So, as I said, that is the message that was sent to the relevant chairs and vice chairs by a bipartisan group of former FAA Administrators and Air Line Pilots Association presidents, a letter that clearly demonstrates the value of the kind of program that Senator SINEMA's and my amendment would establish for improving pilot training and passenger safety—precisely what we are talking about here with respect to our amendment.

I suspect that if put to a vote in the Commerce Committee or on the Senate



floor, for that matter, there is a good chance our amendment would pass, which is presumably why the Democrat leader is blocking any chance for a vote. It is less clear why the leader is opposed to the substance of our legislation. Does he really think that we can't improve upon the 1,500 hours of training largely undertaken in a single-engine prop plane? That is the way it is today. As I said before, that is not exactly the ideal preparation for flying a commercial jet.

A program that better prepares prospective airline pilots for the planes they will be flying seems really to me like a no-brainer. But regardless—regardless—the Democrat leader has every right to oppose our amendment. What is inappropriate is not his opposition but the fact that he is using his position as majority leader to block committee debate on this amendment, which has had the practical effect of blocking the entire bill.

The Commerce Committee and the Senate as a whole are set up for debate and amendment. That is what we do here, and we take votes here. If you don't want to take hard votes, don't run for the U.S. Senate. This place is not set up with the intention of having a single individual determine legislative outcomes.

When I was chair of the Senate Commerce Committee—and I chaired that committee for 4 years—bipartisan debate and amendment were the order of the day. That is how we did things, and it helped produce a lot of strong pieces of legislation, including, I might add, the longest reauthorization of the FAA since 1982.

The last time we did an FAA reauthorization, I chaired the committee, and we brought a bill to the floor that enjoyed broad bipartisan support, which is what we ought to be doing with the legislation this time around. And if the Democrat leader would loosen his hold and stop trying to engineer the legislative outcome that he wants, we would get another bipartisan FAA reauthorization bill out of the committee and onto the Senate floor.

As the leader correctly indicated, the FAA reauthorization is—is—an important piece of legislation. So I encourage him to allow it to proceed through the committee and come to the floor of the U.S. Senate for a vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). The Senator from Kentucky.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to put the leadership of the House, the Senate, and the President of the United States on notice. I will not consent to any expedited passage of any spending bill that provides any more American aid to Ukraine.

It is as if no one has noticed that we have no extra money to send to Ukraine. Our deficit this year will exceed \$1.5 trillion. Borrowing money from China to send it to Ukraine

makes no sense. It is not as if we have some sort of rainy day fund sitting around with trillions of dollars, a pot of money, and we are just going to send it to Ukraine. We are going to borrow it. When we borrow it and create new money to pay for that borrowing, we create the inflation that is plaguing our economy.

Since the beginning of Russia's war on Ukraine, the American taxpayers have provided Ukraine with \$113 billion. Over the 583 days of war, between February 24, 2022, and the end of the month, that averages \$6.8 billion per month or \$223 million per day. There are a lot of things that we need to fix in our country before we borrow money to try to perpetuate a war in another country.

When will the aid requests end?

When will the war end?

Can someone explain what victory in Ukraine looks like?

President Biden certainly can't. His administration has failed to articulate a clear strategy or objective in this war, and Ukraine's long-awaited counteroffensive has failed to make meaningful gains in the East. With no clear end in sight, it looks increasingly like Ukraine will be yet another endless quagmire funded by the American taxpayer.

That is why public support for the war is waning. A CNN poll from August shows that a majority of Americans now oppose Congress authorizing additional funding to Ukraine. Now, there are those in the Senate who would refuse to listen to these voices, voices coming from a war-weary nation, and who would hold the Federal Government hostage by inserting \$24 billion more for Ukraine. They are talking about saying the only way government stays open—the only way we avoid a shutdown—is by shoveling more American taxpayer dollars to Ukraine. They are going to link keeping the government open with more money to Ukraine, and I am here to say that I am not going to agree to it, and I will not let them shut down the government simply because they want to send more of your hard-earned tax dollars to Ukraine. Either the American people fund an endless war in Ukraine or the “uni-party” threatens to shut down the government.

This is a clear dereliction of duty, and I will not stand for it. Colleagues, as representatives of the American people, you should not stand for it either. The bill that comes before us should be about funding our government, not somebody else's government. I will not give consent to a bill that includes funding for Ukraine in keeping our government open.

As elected officials, we have an obligation to pursue a foreign policy that advances the security and prosperity of our country. Funneling billions of dollars that have to be borrowed into the meat grinder of eastern Ukraine does neither. The longer this conflict continues, the greater the risk that mis-

calculation or purposeful escalation draws the United States into direct conflict with Russia. Russia's military may have a bloody nose, but Moscow still maintains the largest nuclear arsenal in the world. Let's not pretend that the U.S. involvement in this war comes without risks.

If that is not bad enough, we lack effective oversight mechanisms to ensure that the hard-earned American tax dollars don't fall prey to waste, fraud, and abuse. For over a year now, I have been asking for a special inspector general to make sure they are not stealing our money. We have had one in Afghanistan, and his team of economists and technicians have overseen and found billions of dollars' worth of waste that they have saved. We need the same thing in Ukraine, a special inspector general to make sure they are not stealing our money.

When that has come before a vote in the Senate, the majority party here says: No, we just want to spend the money. We don't care. Some Republicans have gone along with this as well, and they have voted against an inspector general. It is a terrible abuse of our spending authority to spend money overseas in a war and not make sure that they are not stealing it.

So in addition to the colossal cost of the war, we end up paying a corruption tax. Ukraine is one of the most corrupt countries on the planet—maybe second only to Russia. Corruption runs deep through Ukraine, and there is plenty of evidence that it has run rampant since Russia's invasion.

As President Zelenskyy landed in New York earlier this week, we learned that corruption concerns in Ukraine's Ministry of Defense resulted in the firing of six Deputy Defense Ministers. This comes 2 weeks after the firing of Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov, who was removed after it was discovered that the Ministry of Defense had mishandled military contracts.

Last month, Zelenskyy fired all 24 regional military recruitment chiefs because they were “involved in illegal activities, including enrichment.”

Last October, we learned that U.S. shipments of grenade launchers, machineguns, rifles, bulletproof vests, and thousands of rounds of ammunition were ending up in the hands of criminal gangs and weapons traffickers posing as humanitarian organizations. And what did the Senate do? They voted against a special inspector general to make sure they are not stealing our money.

What are we doing? Is this fair to the American people?

Millions of Americans are struggling each day to make ends meet. Millions of Americans are struggling to provide for their families and put food on the table.

Can we honestly look our constituents in the eye and tell them that this is a good investment of their dollars?

Some say the war in Ukraine is a fight to save democracy, but those who

say that need to be honest with themselves. Ukraine is far from a shining example of democracy. And while the strain of war can make for questionable government actions, we have to live with them when the war is over.

For all the platitudes about America supporting democracy and making the world safe for democracy—the Woodrow Wilson advocates among us—the biggest recipient of American welfare, Ukraine, canceled its next Presidential election. You are telling me we are sending \$100 billion to a country that is not going to have elections? We are going to send \$100 billion to a country that now has, what, a President for life?

They say: Well, we could, but it is difficult.

Does anybody remember the American Civil War, where 600,000 people died and yet we didn't miss an election?

They canceled the Presidential election. We should cancel our aid as a response.

This is not the only concerning development in Ukraine. Despite Zelenskyy's charm offensive this week, his actions also deserve scrutiny. Citing national security concerns, Zelenskyy has banned Orthodox churches oriented toward the Russian Orthodox Church and has ordered Ukrainian law enforcement to raid churches and arrest priests.

He has banned the political opposition. How do you have a democracy if you are not going to have elections and you ban the opposition? He suspended 11 political parties, including the Opposition Platform—For Life, the second largest party in Ukraine's Parliament and the one which held 44 seats.

He has attacked free speech by banning opposition media and increasing his government's regulatory power over journalists. It hardly sounds democratic to me.

Earlier this year, he signed into law a bill that allows Ukraine's state broadcasting council to regulate all media in Ukraine. The council can impose mandatory orders, fines, restrict content from search engines, and even outright suspend media outlets without a court decision. It hardly sounds very democratic to me.

If these actions sound like the actions of an authoritarian regime, if you suspect these do sound like an authoritarian regime, you are right.

This past July, a Swiss intelligence report observed "authoritarian traits" in Zelenskyy, as he tries to push the mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko, out of contention for Ukraine's 2024 Presidential elections. Citing martial law, Zelenskyy stated that those elections will not take place.

Martial law, no elections, banning opposition parties, this is where your \$100 billion has gone, and they are not done.

We don't have the money. The money is being borrowed. We borrow the money from China to send it to Ukraine.

In 2021, Zelenskyy fired multiple government officials, including his Prime Minister, for investigating a Ukraine oligarch who just happened to be a key backer of Zelenskyy's Presidential campaign. The United States placed sanctions on this oligarch for his involvement in significant corruption, and earlier this month, he was finally arrested. Clearly, Ukraine and the regime are not paragons of democracy.

But this is not just about what Ukraine is or is not with respect to government. This is about American interests in our national security. Every day this war continues is another spin of the roulette wheel with another chance of it stopping on Armageddon, and we are paying for the privilege.

We cannot continue with business as usual. We cannot continue to put the needs of other countries above our own. We cannot save Ukraine by dooming the U.S. economy, and we certainly cannot save Ukraine by fighting a war with Russia.

As we go further and further into debt, we become weaker. It is not just that this is not helping our national security; the very threat to our national security is our debt. The more we send money overseas, the more we deplete our munitions, the worse things get.

No matter how sympathetic we are to the Ukrainian people, we must put the American people first; and to that end, I encourage my colleagues to oppose any effort to hold the Federal Government hostage for Ukraine funding.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, by my watch, today is September 20. The fiscal year for the U.S. Senate and for the U.S. Government ends in 10 days. Congress, which is required to fund the government by passing appropriations bills, has not passed a single appropriations bill 10 days before the end of the fiscal year.

The obvious point is that, unless Congress acts to fund the government in the next 10 days, the government will be without funds, and large portions of the Federal Government will shut down; notwithstanding the fact that some people think maybe that is a good idea and that we are spending too much money here, so let's just shut it down. Well, tell that to the members of the U.S. military and their families. Tell that to the men and women who serve bravely as members of the Border Patrol and of the Customs and Border Protection, who are responsible for processing the goods that enter into our country from our trading partners who create millions of jobs. Tell that to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE. Tell them that they will have to work and not get paid. Programs that support our seniors, veterans, children, and some of the most vulnerable Americans will be para-

lyzed, and a range of services from passport processing to opioid treatment will be delayed. Good luck if you want to take a vacation and need your passport renewed.

Well, as may be obvious from my statements, I am not a fan of government shutdowns. I have noticed from my experience that when that happens, the same problems that caused you to shut down the government are still there staring you in the face when the government reopens, and it creates a lot of collateral damage and a lot of collateral expense. It doesn't actually save money; it actually costs more money because of the disruption. And shutdowns harm innocent people and create needless uncertainty for our economy.

I don't need to tell Members of the Senate that our economy is in a precarious position right now. Inflation is at a 40-year high—or it has been at a 40-year high—and the Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates in order to try to deal with inflation. One of the largest autoworker unions in the country, the UAW, is currently on strike; and we don't know how long that strike will last or how far it will spread. So notwithstanding the fact that President Biden likes to talk about the virtues of Bidenomics, I think if you ask most people whether they are feeling good about the economy and their personal and family prospects, they will tell you they are a little nervous—and with good reason.

I mentioned that shutdowns are not a useful tool nor do they provide leverage for negotiations. I know, here in the Senate, we are always looking for leverage to try to persuade people to do what we want or to vote for the things we like or to vote against the things we don't like. Leverage is part of the way we operate. But shutting down the government does not provide leverage, certainly not to the people who, ultimately, contribute to that shutdown. But, sadly, that seems to be the direction we are heading in.

It has been pretty clear for a long time now that the Senate majority leader—the only person who can actually bring bills to the floor and schedule them for a vote—is trying to play the old Washington blame game: It is not my fault. It is somebody else's fault. In this case, he wants to put the blame solely on the shoulders of the House of Representatives and the Republicans who have a thin majority there.

Before the August recess even ended, Senator SCHUMER began pointing the finger at House Republicans, referring to their desire to secure spending cuts—the horror of trying to save money, of trying to reduce the debt and annual deficits. Our debt-to-GDP ratio is 100 percent. We have been writing checks here in Washington that somebody is, ultimately, going to have to cover, and it probably won't be us. It will probably be our children and grandchildren. So I applaud the House



of Representatives for trying to find ways to save money.

But the Senator from New York, the majority leader, called those—the angling for spending cuts—political games. Over the past few weeks, he has continued to try to sell this narrative to the press. Unfortunately, he has found some traction. Some of the press is saying: Oh, it is all the Republicans in the House. He even called the process here in the Senate the “gold standard.” The “gold standard.” We are in big trouble. If the way that the majority leader has handled this appropriations process is the gold standard, we are in big trouble. He has even gone so far as to call it a MAGA shutdown.

Well, Senator SCHUMER is in a very powerful position as the majority leader, but that power comes with responsibilities, which he has completely abdicated. The majority leader sets the schedule in the Senate, as I mentioned. He determines which bills come to the floor, whether they will receive a vote, and how many amendments will be considered. That is a lot of power in one person, and that is the benefit of being the majority leader—being able to set the schedule, to schedule votes, and decide who gets to vote on amendments and the like. It also comes with responsibility—and I don’t mean just a responsibility to the Senate; I mean a responsibility to the American people and to the institutions that work for them, like the Senate, like the House.

So the Senate can only take up and pass legislation when Senator SCHUMER is on board, and when it comes to funding the government, it is obvious he is clearly not on board.

I see the chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee on the floor. I want to just, once again, commend her and the ranking member, Senator COLLINS, and all 14 of the Senate Appropriations Committee members for doing their job and doing it on a timely basis.

I think all of us sort of hoped maybe this would be the beginning of a crack in the broken system and that maybe we could get the Senate to work again as it is supposed to. Well, it was a great plan. As I said, they did their part. The committee passed all of its 12 appropriations bills by the end of the summer—or, actually, by the end of July—marking the first time that has happened in 5 years. Each bill passed with bipartisan support—some of them unanimously. That is impressive, and I know that Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS worked hard to achieve that.

But the committee’s productivity was no accident. The chair and the vice chair of the committee promised a return to the regular way we have been appropriating money for time immemorial, consistent with the rules of the Senate. They followed through on their promise. They used the power that they have as the Appropriations Committee, and they also embraced their responsibilities. I applaud them for it.

They gave the majority leader exactly—exactly—what he needed in order to restore the Senate appropriations process to its normal function, according to the rules. But you can’t do that by not passing a single appropriations bill in the U.S. Senate 10 days before the end of the fiscal year.

Despite the fact that the Appropriations Committee began passing funding bills on June 22, the majority leader did not even attempt to put the first funding bill on the floor until mid-September. I think it was 18 days before the end of the fiscal year. Now it is 10 days, and we still haven’t voted on a single bill. He could have tinkered with the Senate’s 2-week recess for the Fourth of July. He could have said: Well, instead of 5 weeks for an August break or a summer break, let’s make it 4 weeks, because this is important. We need to get our work done. But he did none of those things. He could have adjusted the priorities as the majority leader.

All we have been doing here—it is not like we have been voting on legislation. All we have been doing is doing nominations. When you are doing nominations, it is not that they are unimportant, but you are not using that time—which is coin of the realm here in the Senate, which is floor time—in order to pass legislation.

Well, it is pretty obvious—it should be obvious—to everybody that the majority leader has decided to run out the clock. He has orchestrated this crisis here in the U.S. Senate. I say “crisis” because of the disruption that it will cause, the unnecessary disruption this shutdown will cause, if it occurs, but he allowed months to pass without making any effort—any effort—to move appropriations bills.

So the majority leader can criticize our colleagues across the Capitol as much as he wants. He does it a lot. He tries to shift the blame from himself to them. Again, this is a world-class sport here in Washington, DC. It is called the blame game. Years ago, someone said, “Well, whoever has got the best narrative wins in Washington, because the press will go along with it, and they will ignore the real or, at least, the whole story,” which is the complicity of the majority leader in creating the circumstances that we find ourselves in now.

We find ourselves with an impossible task given this heel-dragging by the majority leader. We cannot get these appropriations bills passed through the Senate. We cannot get a bill that the House will agree to. We cannot get a Presidential signature before the deadline. It is impossible, and the majority leader knows that. He created the problem. He orchestrated it. This was intentional.

So the Senate is rushing to pass some appropriations bills, this so-called minibus, but there is no scenario—none at all—in which the Senate will pass all 12 appropriations bills before September 30. There is just not enough

time. Again, I am confident that this truncated timeline was no accident. It was all part of the majority leader’s plan.

Now, you might ask me: Why in the world would he do something like that?

Well, when he basically undermines the work of the Appropriations Committee on a bipartisan basis, when he doesn’t give all 100 Members of the Senate an opportunity to participate in the process by offering amendments, debating those amendments, and getting votes on those, it actually increases his power and influence. We saw that last December when, basically, three or four people negotiated an omnibus appropriations bill. And he likes that because it enhances his power, but we should not be asked to like it, because that means we are unable to do our job on behalf of the constituents we represent—in my case, 30 million Texans.

Over the last few months, back when the debt ceiling vote occurred, it sounded like Senator SCHUMER was on board with what Chairman MURRAY and Ranking Member COLLINS were trying to do. He applauded the bipartisan work of the Appropriations Committee and talked about the importance of working together in good faith. But here is another lesson I have learned here in Washington: Don’t just listen to what people say. Watch what they do.

When given the opportunity to restore the Senate appropriations process to its customary function and put individual bills on the floor in a timely manner, he took a pass. He let months go by without even attempting to put a funding bill on the floor.

I know, after the minibus came to the floor, there has been an attempt to try to get this thing going, and we are still working on that. But this is all entirely predictable if you wait until the last minute to try to do the work you should have done months ago.

We are just months away from a potential government shutdown, something that I am hopeful we can avoid. But, of course, what is the majority leader’s tune? Not my fault.

He called the process here in the Senate the “gold standard.” If this is the gold standard, we are in big trouble.

The majority leader bears responsibility for the Senate’s failure to pass a single appropriations bill so far. The Appropriations Committee gave Senator SCHUMER exactly what he needed in order to do his job on a timely basis. The fact that Senator SCHUMER fumbled the ball is no one’s fault but his own. This is not a “MAGA shutdown.” This is a Schumer shutdown. He ignored his own commitment to return to regular order.

I wasn’t privy to the conversations the majority leader had with the chair and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, but, based on what they did, my impression is that they held the hope that, somehow, we would have an orderly and timely process. I know that is what they want.

That is what I want. But Senator SCHUMER made sure that was not possible. And, ultimately, he will carry much of the blame if the government shuts down next Saturday.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

H.R. 4366

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, last week, an overwhelming 91 Senators voted to begin debate on the bipartisan appropriations package—a package of bills that each passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously. But then a few Senators decided to object to a run-of-the-mill procedural request, threatening to derail our months of hard work, halt our return to regular order, and prevent the full Senate from having a chance to debate and offer amendments and vote on our appropriations bills.

The senior Senator from Maine and I have been working hard to make sure we have a robust amendment process with amendments from Democrats and Republicans. And so many Senators have been working with us in good faith so we can debate their ideas for how to make these bills stronger. That is how this process should work.

But in the wake of continued obstructions from a very small handful of Senators, we can't get started discussing those amendments without this vote on a motion to waive rule XVI.

So I hope all of our colleagues who voted to move forward last week will join us for cloture and for this motion so we can avoid an omnibus and keep our bipartisan process on track, because that is really what this vote is. It is a vote to keep us on track, and that should be a really simple choice.

Do you want to continue our return to regular order and move forward with the appropriations bills that we have all spent months putting together in an open, bipartisan way, or do you want to halt the Senate's appropriations bills and essentially set up another massive 12-bill omnibus at the end of the year?

I have heard the complaints from a very small handful of Members who are trying to derail this process, but I have not heard any—any—realistic alternatives from them for us to pass the Senate's funding priorities in a more open and bipartisan process than what the senior Senator from Maine and I have worked so hard to provide.

We held nearly 50 hearings in the committee. We televised those mark-ups for the first time ever so people back home can follow along—complete with debate and amendments—and see what we are doing here. We were trans-

parent. Our doors have been open the whole time—in fact, they still are—for Members who have ideas on how to make these bills stronger.

The vice chair and I went through great pains to give every single Senator the chance to weigh in on them. And I am pleased to say a lot of our colleagues took that opportunity. You shared your thoughts, your ideas. You shared the needs, the concerns of your families back home—all of which helped to make all these bills stronger.

That is why, even though the Appropriations Committee has everyone, from strong liberals to staunch conservatives, all 12 of our funding bills passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. In fact, every bill in the package before us passed the committee unanimously.

That is a very different process from where we ended up in the past few years and from what we will end up with again if we can't keep these bills moving forward.

To everyone who wishes these bills came to the floor even sooner—and I think we all understand how it feels to wish things moved faster around here—I hope you will vote with us today to prevent any further delays that will derail this process and would lead us, then, of course, to an omnibus. After all, wishing the Senate was faster is no reason to slow us down now.

And to those saying the bills spend too much money, these bills are written to the bipartisan deal that was struck by the President and Speaker MCCARTHY that we all voted on just a few months ago. These aren't the bills I would have written. They enact cuts across so many of the programs that I care deeply about. But that was the deal that the President and the Speaker shook hands on. If you don't like them, vote no on the bill.

I have heard from so many colleagues, including in speeches given right here on the Senate floor, about how they hate getting jammed at the end of the year with a 12-bill omnibus, about how we have got to return to regular order. And I have worked really hard with the senior Senator from Maine, with all of our chairs and ranking members on the Appropriations Committee, all of our committee members on both sides of the aisle, and every Member of this body who has come to my door to get us moving in that direction, to keep up our return to regular order.

I think we can get there. And I think moving forward with this package will show the American people we are serious about getting there. But it depends on this vote because if, after all the work we have done over the last months to make sure every Senator can have their voice heard, moving all 12 appropriations bills through our committee in an open, bipartisan way and having 91 Senators vote to move forward with this package—if after all of that—we let a handful of Senators toss out months of hard work to move

us closer to regular order, abandon an overwhelming bipartisan effort to do something as basic as funding our government, and cause chaos that puts us all on a collision course for another omnibus, well, frankly, I think that sends a very bleak message for the future of this body and whether we will ever be able to truly break through the pattern of dysfunction and partnership that we all hate.

We have got to get back to regular order. We have got to get back to bipartisanship. We have to get back to helping people in solving problems, just like we all came here to do.

This vote is our chance to break that pattern, to avoid another omnibus, and to make sure the Senate and all of its Senators and all the people we represent have their voices heard and concerns addressed in our Nation's funding bills.

So I urge my colleagues who joined me in putting this bill together, all of my colleagues who voted with me last week to get started with debate and amendments, to join me in pushing back against a small handful of Senators who are objecting to moving forward and who want to stop us dead in our tracks.

I hope everyone votes for cloture, votes for the motion to suspend rule XVI, and keep us on track.

I ask unanimous consent to begin the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

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 motion to suspend the rules under rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate with respect to substitute amendment No. 1092 to Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, as printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on September 14, 2023.

Patty Murray, Susan M. Collins, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tom Carper, Martin Heinrich, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Charles E. Schumer.

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 motion to suspend the rules under rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate with respect to substitute amendment No. 1092 to Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, as printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on September 14, 2023, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 233 Leg.]

#### YEAS—49

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

#### NAYS—48

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

#### NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
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(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 48.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 282.

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 the following named officer for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601: to be General, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 282, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 281.

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 the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General, Gen. Randy A. George.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 281, Gen. Randy A. George for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 249.

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 the following named officer for appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8043: to be General, Gen. Eric M. Smith.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 249, Gen. Eric M. Smith for appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8043: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 20, be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the senior Senator from Alabama, Senator TUBERVILLE, for more than 6 months, has continued his brazen, reckless hold of hundreds of routine, nonpolitical promotions of senior military officers.

Democrats have said all along that these promotions should move forward together as these nominations have for decades in the past. They should have happened a long time ago. They should have happened the way these promotions have been done in the Senate until Senator TUBERVILLE arrived. They should have been done quickly and in a bipartisan way.

Instead, the Senator from Alabama decided he would take the unprecedented step of holding up these promotions because he held a political position on abortion that doesn't have the votes to pass the Senate and is opposed by the Commander in Chief and the Secretary of Defense. This poorly conceived tactic has also been opposed by the Senate Republican leadership. Leader MCCONNELL and Senator THUNE have both voiced grave concerns about the path that Senator TUBERVILLE is taking. And Speaker MCCARTHY, when asked about it this week, demurred and said: I am the Speaker of the House.

Senator TUBERVILLE's tactics have been opposed by top Republicans in Congress. It has been opposed by Republican Presidential candidates. It has been denounced by military families from one end of America to the other, and it has been denounced by veterans groups. Polls show that the American people strongly oppose what Senator TUBERVILLE is doing. A recent poll showed that even 58 percent of Alabama voters believe Senator TUBERVILLE should allow the promotions to go forward.

Simply put, besides the most extreme elements of the Republican Party, no one thinks this is a good idea. In the face of that opposition, it seems that Senator TUBERVILLE is becoming more and more desperate to get out of the box he has put himself in. He is desperate to shift the responsibility onto others, but I have made it clear that we will not allow anyone to shift this onto Democrats. The blame—the blame—falls squarely on the shoulders of the senior Senator from Alabama.

I offered to give him a vote to get the Department of Defense to do what he wants on abortion in the NDAA. He never—never—took me up on that vote. When Democrats tried to move all of the nominations—because Democrats don't want to leave anyone in our military behind—Senator TUBERVILLE objected. And now, in a further act of desperation, Senator TUBERVILLE is seeking to use a procedural step to overcome his very own holds. Yes, you heard that right. Senator TUBERVILLE is seeking to undo his own holds. The man who is holding everything up is trying to obfuscate things by playing this ruse on the floor.

Senator TUBERVILLE is essentially trying to make himself the gatekeeper of which officers are promoted and who sits and waits. Instead of just getting out of the way and allowing the Senate to approve the promotions that these decorated military officers deserve, the Senator from Alabama, unfortunately and wrongly, is using them as pawns.

What Senator TUBERVILLE is doing will set the military and the Senate down a path to vote on every single military promotion. It will make every single military officer's promotion subject to the political whims of the Senate and even of one Senator. It will change the nature of our nonpolitical military. It will hamstring the Senate and further bog down this body and make it harder for us to legislate. It will take away time from appropriations. It will make it harder to get things done to benefit the American people. The decision by the senior Senator from Alabama will have long lasting repercussions that may not be apparent right away but that we may come to regret. I believe we will come to regret them.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances of Senator TUBERVILLE's reckless decisions, Democrats will take action. It is not the path the vast majority of Senators on either side of the aisle wants to go down, but Senator TUBERVILLE is forcing us to confront his obstruction head on.

I want to make clear to my Republican colleagues: This cannot continue. We cannot continue down this path. It threatens the ability of the Senate and the leadership of both sides to work together to get things done for the American people, and it threatens the nonpolitical nature of our military servicemembers. Senator TUBERVILLE's obstruction is pushing the Senate down this road, and where it goes from here will depend on all of us.

The Senate runs on unanimous consent, and we depend on each other to ensure this institution functions smoothly. That is how we make things happen around here. If everyone objected to everything to get leverage for their pet priorities, it would grind this body to a halt. Either we choose a different direction or we continue down the road of more and more obstruction.

It is my hope—indeed, it is my prayer—that we find a better way. Our mili-

tary deserves better. We cannot allow Senator TUBERVILLE to set us on a path that no Senator wants to travel. We cannot allow Senator TUBERVILLE to decide which of our dedicated and brave servicemembers get promoted and which get to languish, which military families are able to settle in their new posts and which must remain in limbo. We cannot and we should not allow that to be the case.

So I have just filed cloture on the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Army Chief of Staff. These men should have already been confirmed. They should already be serving in their new positions. The Senate should not have to go through procedural hoops just to please one brazen and misguided Senator, but this is where we are.

In the end, the Senate will overwhelmingly vote to overcome Senator TUBERVILLE's blockade of these three nominees by voting for cloture. Then the Senate will overwhelmingly vote to confirm them, and these three honorable men will finally be able to assume their positions. And the abortion policy that Senator TUBERVILLE abhors will remain in place. Senator TUBERVILLE will have accomplished nothing, but the harm he is doing to the military and their families remains and, unfortunately, continues for hundreds of others.

For the information of all Senators, now that I have filed these motions, I will request consent to collapse the time and hold these votes later this afternoon. I hope Senator TUBERVILLE does not object, but if he does, Senators should expect votes on Friday and possibly Saturday to finish the consideration of these nominations. Again, I will shortly move to speed up the votes on these amendments this afternoon, and I hope the Senator will not object, but if he does, we will stay until we get them done.

Finally, Senator TUBERVILLE's unprecedented disrespect of the men and women who lead our military has unsurprisingly caused many of our colleagues to discuss ways to change the way we process military nominations. They recognize that the Senate process is being abused and that Senator TUBERVILLE's reckless actions are harming hundreds of military families.

Once again, I wish we were not in this position. I wish my Republican colleagues who do care deeply about keeping our military strong were able to prevail on Senator TUBERVILLE to completely change his tactics. They clearly made some progress, which forced him to vainly attempt a procedural play, but this is not a sustainable path. Senator TUBERVILLE's continued abuse of his privilege will continue to disrupt the lives of hundreds of our Nation's finest and most dedicated military officers and their families. While we Democrats didn't choose this fight, we are ready to put an end to this sooner rather than later.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on a different subject, that of the minibus and the vote that just occurred, the outcome of this vote on the minibus is wholly disappointing and undermines months of hard work appropriators have done to move appropriations bills through regular order. Senators MURRAY and COLLINS have done herculean work as have the members of their committee.

Democrats have worked cooperatively with Republicans on every step of this process. We pursued regular order. We are willing to allow votes on amendments, and we are partnering with colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bring this minibus to the floor.

Senate Republicans have asked us to work with them, and we have worked with them. Until now, we were making progress, but now a few select Republicans who seem to think they are Members of the House Freedom Caucus have thrown a wrench into the process and for no other reason than the pursuit of gridlock itself.

So the outcome here is disappointing, but it is not the end of the process. I filed a motion to reconsider this vote. Democrats want to reach an agreement with our Republican colleagues that will pass the minibus and make up the time lost because of Senator JOHNSON's obstruction. My Democratic colleagues and I will do our very best to get the minibus done. We have come very far, and there is no good reason for us to turn back now.

With that, I yield the floor to the great President pro tempore, chair of the Appropriations Committee, my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from the great State of Washington, Mrs. PATTY MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the majority leader.

Let's be clear. The three bills in that package are not partisan bills. This was not some secretive process. We drafted these bills through an open, bipartisan process. We held hearings. We held markups for the first time in years. We kept our doors open to any Member with thoughts or concerns. So it is very frustrating to see that this bipartisan effort got derailed today despite all of that work and despite the overwhelming consensus last week that we wanted to all get started on this package.

All of our colleagues and their staffs who spent long hours working on these bills in good faith deserve better. More importantly, all of our constituents who sent us here to advocate for them, to work together, and to solve problems deserve better.

I will keep fighting to make sure we do right by our constituents and keep our regular appropriations process moving here in the Senate. As my colleagues know, I don't give up easily, and I am not going to give up here either. I am going to keep pushing with everything I have got to pass the

spending bills that so many of us have spent so much time working on to get our communities the resources they need.

Yet I do have to say today that I am deeply disappointed. I am not new to politics. I am not new to tough votes or setbacks. I know that this work is never easy, but it is really unfortunate that this overwhelming bipartisan process and this package of bills that passed unanimously has been stymied by the objections of just a few Senators. That is upsetting, and it is pretty hard to square with a lot of the talk that we hear all the time about wanting to work together, wanting to break the pattern of partisanship, wanting to help people, wanting to solve problems, to say nothing of how some of our loudest complainers who have been talking big about their commitment for us to return to regular order and who have been railing against these omnibus bills at the end of the year have led the effort to halt our best shot in years of actually getting closer to regular order and, instead, possibly setting us on a collision course for another massive omnibus.

While this full package may not be moving forward right now through this process, I will not stop working to return this process back to regular order and keep things moving. I will keep talking to colleagues about how we get all 12 of our bipartisan spending bills across the finish line here in the Senate. I will keep working to see if we can get that consent agreement that will allow us to move forward on this package.

As we get closer to September 30, I am working hard to make sure we chart a bipartisan course for a CR and supplemental funding package so that we can avoid a damaging and completely unnecessary shutdown and reject the devastating cuts from the House Republicans that would gut everything from heating assistance to FAA funding, to the Social Security Administration, and so much more, and that will provide critical resources for things like disaster relief and wildland firefighters and our allies in Ukraine.

I came to Congress to help people and solve problems. That is what gets me up every day in the morning. It is what I am focused on at every meeting I have, in every bill I write, and in every vote I take. And while this vote a few minutes ago sent a disheartening message about the state of things, it will not be the last word, because I won't let it be, and I know many of my colleagues will not either.

One thing I have seen over and over again in my time here is, if you want progress, you don't leave the table, and you keep working. So I am going to stay at the table. I will keep working. Right now, we have to get a bipartisan CR and a supplemental package done. That is a priority.

But I hope and I believe, through the work that we do, that we will show the

American people there are still Senators on both sides of this aisle determined to get our work done.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, in the mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh, a humanitarian crisis is unfolding. Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin corridor has left over 100,000 ethnic Albanians cut off from the world—deprived of the food, the water, fuel, and medical care that they need to survive.

Last week, one resident made a plea. She asked:

How many more people will have to die before the world takes notice?

Today, that question carries new meaning as the Armenian people not only confront dwindling resources but heavy bombardment. On September 19, Azerbaijan violated the fragile peace and began attacking Nagorno-Karabakh. While a cease-fire was announced this morning, we cannot ignore the violence, and we must stand with the citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh.

This conflict systematically targets the Armenian people. It is cruel; it is calculated; and it is inhumane—further demonstrating that the Armenian people are facing an existential threat. Experts from the International Criminal Court say there is reason to believe it amounts to an act of genocide. That word would always sound an alarm, but it creates a particular weight with the Armenian people and evokes a devastating chapter of their history.

The government of Azerbaijan has orchestrated a humanitarian disaster, only to further their political and their territorial claims. The blockade of the Lachin corridor has kept essential supplies out of the region since June. Pregnant women are being forced to walk miles to a medical clinic. Fuel shortages have shut down schools and sidelined emergency vehicles. People get sick from untreated water and then visit pharmacies with empty shelves.

Food shortages run rampant. Officials in Nagorno-Karabakh estimate that 95 percent of residents are suffering from malnutrition. Starving citizens are lining up for bread in the streets and wondering how they will find their family's next meal. The use of military force by Azerbaijan will only further endanger citizens who have already endured so much.

The Biden administration has provided some crucial assistance, and the Azerbaijani Government has announced a theoretical agreement to open the Lachin corridor once again. But that deal has yet to bring the Armenian people out of harm's way. The

bombardment began after it was reached, and this increasing military aggression has only deepened the humanitarian crisis.

The Aliyev regime has now demanded that Nagorno-Karabakh's government be dissolved and the ethnic Armenian troops be removed. The Azerbaijan Government has made it clear their goal is to erase the historic presence of Armenians in this region.

Until it is proven that this cruel campaign has ended, we must be vigilant. Until the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have what they need to survive and to walk freely in their home once again, we cannot stand to the side.

In the midst of these unthinkable conditions, residents have taken to the streets, calling for an end to the blockade. We must join their chorus—shedding a light on Azerbaijan's actions and addressing the immediate threat of ethnic violence. And I encourage the Biden administration to remember these crimes against humanity when considering where to send aid and to apply diplomatic pressure.

If we continue to let this crisis devolve, then we are complicit in the violence. I call on my Senate colleagues and the Biden administration to stand against the cruelty of the Azerbaijan Government and stand by the side of the Armenian people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 3:30 p.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the Brown nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 6:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from New Hampshire.

#### AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RELIEF

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to discuss the urgent need for Congress to provide relief for recent agricultural disasters.

I appreciate that circumstances around the appropriations process have changed somewhat since we prepared these remarks, but what I really want to do this afternoon is to highlight the

devastating experiences of New Hampshire growers this year and explain why it is so urgent for them that Congress provide disaster relief.

In New Hampshire, our growers have faced an unprecedented difficult year. A late frost on the evening of May 18 caused enormous damage to fruit crops across New Hampshire but especially to our apple orchards.

These photos really depict what happened to most of the apple crops in New Hampshire. You can see that these almost look like chestnuts as they are so small and stunted and brown. In this, you can barely make out that it is an apple, and you can see the size of them based on the impact from the frost.

This event followed an extreme freeze in February that wiped out virtually 100 percent of our peach crops and other stone fruits.

My office has been hearing from apple growers who lost 80 to 100 percent of their crops this year as well as from New Hampshire growers who lost up to 100 percent of other crops, such as peaches, pears, plums, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, and cherries.

For people who think "Well, you don't have that many orchards in New Hampshire," we have the largest apple orchard of New England in New Hampshire.

This is a big concern for our farmers in the State, and they make up a considerable percentage of our small businesses. What we have seen is total crop losses for some growers and near-total losses for others.

The business impact of such catastrophic damage goes way beyond the direct cost of damage to the crops because, in New Hampshire, we have a strong tradition, as I know they do in other States, of families who visit their local orchards every year to "pick your own" apples and other fruit. For local farms, these visits aren't just about that actual apple picking; it is an opportunity to showcase everything their farms have to offer, to display other products for families to purchase—vegetables that have grown during the season, baked goods, apple cider, applesauce. Everything that can be made from apples is available at those farm stands.

Apple picking marks the start of autumn in New Hampshire. We are currently well into September and what should be apple-picking season. This past weekend should have seen busy crowds at farms across New Hampshire, with families apple picking, eating cider doughnuts, and sipping apple cider, but, sadly, this was not the case.

I heard from growers like Trevor Hardy from Brookdale Fruit Farm in Hollis, who called his counterparts at Meadow Ledge Farm in Loudon, at Poverty Lane Orchards in Lebanon, and other orchards to learn that it wasn't just his farm that lacked the usual bustling energy of children and families on the farm. Local growers across the State, like Windy Ridge Or-

chard in North Haverhill, are concerned that families won't come this season for their annual farm visits, and the total resulting revenue losses will be enormous.

For a lot of families—and my family is no exception—going to the local pick-your-own orchard to get whether it be apples or pumpkins or vegetables is an annual event. My daughter and her four children have had pictures taken in the pumpkin patch in the nearby farm every year that those kids have been home.

I had a chance to meet with a number of farmers last Friday. One of the things they talked about was the concern that they have longtime customers who are not going to be able to enjoy their farms this year because of the impact from the frost. New Hampshire growers are estimated to be facing as much as \$20 million in disaster-related impacts from these freeze events. This estimate doesn't even include the ongoing impacts to vegetable growers and forage crops from flooding and excessive moisture. The total cost for that is still being tabulated.

This is the Brookdale Fruit Farm, which is the biggest orchard in New Hampshire. It is in Hollis. It is the biggest orchard in New England. We can see this is a rainstorm that happened about 2 weeks ago, and you can just see the water cascading through the orchard because of the flooding. The impact that this is having on next year's crop, on vegetables, is really still being tabulated but is excessive across the State.

I am hearing from longtime New Hampshire growers that they have never seen crop damage this bad before. Last week, when I visited with farmers, I went to Apple Hill Farm in Concord along with a number of apple growers from different regions in the State. Chuck and Diane Souther, who own Apple Hill Farm, showed me the severe losses their apple crops have suffered this year. They showed me apples that looked very much like these apples. They told me about the devastating effects of the late frost on their orchards and how they stayed out all night on May 18, during the freezing-cold temperatures, to try to protect their crop and save as many of their trees as they could. They told me in heartbreaking detail about the impact on their businesses and how disappointed they are not to be able to provide apples to their annual customers.

I hope that families in New Hampshire will still visit their local orchards. Some still have some apples to pick, and they still have other products to buy and other activities for kids to enjoy. In a year like this, we need to support our local farmers more than ever.

Before I close, I want to read some comments from a letter that was shared with my office from Ken Merrill, who is an apple grower in Londonderry, NH. His family owns and operates Oliver Merrill & Sons, which is a



fifth-generation farm in Londonderry. They specialize in growing apples and other kinds of fruit as well as other products. I think his comments here really show the experience of so many growers in New Hampshire this year.

Ken says:

I am writing you this letter on Labor Day 2023. Labor Day weekend is usually a busy time on the farm. The farm stand is packed with people buying apples, peaches, and other fruit. Some years Pick-your-own apples is beginning and people are coming to the orchard for outings.

Not this year.

I am sitting in my office, writing this letter, because there are no peaches or other stone fruit, pears, and few apples.

At least 95 percent of the apple blossoms were killed by a severe frost on May 18, 2023. The peaches and stone fruit were killed by an unusually cold night in February.

The consequences of these weather events are dramatic. The farm stand is operating at a reduced level selling the few vegetables we grow.

Most years we hire three to five people for the harvest season to pick, pack and help sell the crop. This year, we have to tell the people that have worked for us for many years that there were not jobs for them.

We have had to cancel all our wholesale contracts with supermarkets, no apples.

We have had to stop selling to other farm stands we have sold to for years as well as telling the New Hampshire Food Bank that we had nothing to sell them this year.

This is the first time in more than 50 years, since I have been associated with the family business, that we have not had an apple crop.

Ken's experience reflects that of almost all of our growers in New Hampshire.

In July, the Secretary of Agriculture declared a Federal disaster for New Hampshire growers as a result of the frost. However, for agricultural disasters, as the Presiding Officer knows, there is no Federal relief that is automatically triggered even after the Secretary of Agriculture has declared a Federal disaster.

Instead, Congress must specifically appropriate funds. There is plenty of precedent for this. In 2023, Congress provided \$3.7 billion for agricultural disasters that had occurred in calendar year 2022, and in 2022, Congress provided \$10 billion for agricultural disasters that occurred in 2020 and 2021.

Federal disaster relief is particularly urgent for farmers like those in New Hampshire who are underserved by existing Federal agricultural programs. In fact, many of our apple growers don't even have crop insurance because they have found that it doesn't really work for their businesses the way it is currently structured.

I hope we can come together to support appropriations bills, but I hope we can also come together to provide the urgently needed relief funding for our farmers—those who have been so affected in New Hampshire and New England.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort and to ensure that agricultural disaster relief is enacted promptly.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

### 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 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. 282, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

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 Executive Calendar No. 282, the following named officer for reappointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601: to be General, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 234 Ex.]

### YEAS—89

Baldwin	Blumenthal	Brown
Barrasso	Booker	Budd
Bennet	Boozman	Cantwell
Blackburn	Britt	Capito

Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Carper	Johnson	Rosen
Casey	Kaine	Rounds
Cassidy	Kelly	Rubio
Collins	Kennedy	Sanders
Coons	King	Schatz
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lujan	Shaheen
Cramer	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Sinema
Daines	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	McConnell	Stabenow
Durbin	Menendez	Sullivan
Ernst	Merkley	Tester
Fetterman	Moran	Thune
Fischer	Mullin	Tillis
Gillibrand	Murphy	Van Hollen
Graham	Murray	Warner
Grassley	Ossoff	Warnock
Hagerty	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Paul	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wicker
Hirono	Ricketts	Wyden
Hoeven	Risch	Young

### NAYS—8

Braun	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Vance
Hawley	Schmitt	

### NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 8, and the motion is agreed to. The Senator from Alabama.

### NOMINATIONS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, 2 hours ago, Senator SCHUMER announced that we will be voting on the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Army Chief of Staff, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It is about time. I have called for individual votes on these nominees for almost 6 months. Instead of voting, Democrats have spent months complaining about having to vote. They want to use floor time for things like liberal judges, like the one we confirmed a couple of hours ago.

Senator SCHUMER could have confirmed these nominees a long, long time ago. We have had more than 80 days off this year in the Senate, not including weekends. Yet Senator SCHUMER is outraged that we are voting on these nominations.

As I have noted before, the current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was given a floor vote in 2018. The current nominee for that position, General Brown, was given a floor vote for his current position not long ago. Despite what Senator REED and others have said, there is nothing wrong with a floor vote on these nominations.

I ran for Senate so I could vote on behalf of the people of the State of Alabama. I didn't come up here just to outsource my job to the Pentagon or the White House. Yet that is exactly what Democrats want to do. That is the current position of Senate Democrats.

The Constitution says we make the laws here in Congress, not in the Pentagon and not in the White House. So this is not about me. It is about the Senate and the Constitution. This is a win today for the legislative branch of government. Voting gives all Senators a voice for their constituents.

The Constitution says that the Senate is to "advise and consent" to the President's nominations. Over the last 6 months, Democrats in this Chamber have actually complained that the Senate has too much power. Senator SCHUMER made reference this afternoon to proposals by Democrats to make the Senate weaker. Senate Democrats have been more than happy to go along with executive overreach when a Democrat is in the Oval Office.

Democrats have spent the last 6 months attacking me for standing up to an illegal and immoral new policy. Many of these attacks have been wrong on the facts. First, they said I was leaving important jobs open. That is false.

Then they complained that we have acting officials in many important roles. They claim that generals and admirals just can't do the job as an acting official.

Senator REED came to the floor 2 weeks ago and said we "have no effective military leadership" in several branches of the military right now. One member of the House said the military is "paralyzed."

I don't even think the Pentagon would defend these accusations. Democrats still have never shown me one fact to show that we were behind on readiness. It is just not true.

Just last week, GEN Charles Flynn, our top Army general in the Pacific, said he hasn't noticed any challenges because of the hold—not any. Over the weekend, the outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Milley, said our readiness is better than it has been in years.

This hold is not affecting readiness.

If Democrats want to complain, then they should look in the mirror. I don't control the Senate floor; the Democrats do.

In a typical week, we work 3 days. Those aren't the kinds of hours people are working back in my home State of Alabama. This is one of the least productive Senates in our lifetime.

Democrats can't have it both ways. Either they can confirm these nominees through regular order or they can stop complaining about acting officials.

Democrats say there is a large backlog of nominees. They say it would take a long time. Well, I agree. It has been a big backlog. But, again, CHUCK SCHUMER allowed the backlog to build up over 6 months. It is his fault.

We could have been confirming one or two a week over the last 200 days. It would have taken us just 4 hours of voting each week.

But we didn't do it. We took another angle of just sitting back and watching. CHUCK SCHUMER refused again and again and again.

We don't have a lack of leadership in our military. We have a lack of leadership right here in the U.S. Senate.

Despite the lack of leadership, Senators are perfectly capable of voting. Voting is our job. That is why we were sent here.

So to be clear, my hold is still in place. The hold will remain in place as long as the Pentagon's illegal abortion policy remains in place. If the Pentagon lifts the policy, then I will lift my hold—easy as that. That has been my position from the very beginning.

I am not afraid to vote on these nominees or on all of these nominees. I came here to this Chamber to vote, and I reserve the right to seek another cloture petition on the nominees in the future.

So that is where we stand today.

I yield the floor.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 6:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:01 p.m., recessed until 6:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. WHITEHOUSE).

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

### VOTE ON BROWN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brown nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Ex.]

### YEAS—83

Baldwin	Cornyn	Hoeven
Barrasso	Cortez Masto	Hyde-Smith
Bennet	Cramer	Kaine
Blackburn	Crapo	Kelly
Blumenthal	Daines	Kennedy
Booker	Duckworth	King
Boozman	Durbin	Klobuchar
Britt	Ernst	Lankford
Brown	Fetterman	Lujan
Budd	Fischer	Manchin
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Markey
Capito	Graham	McConnell
Cardin	Grassley	Menendez
Carper	Hagerty	Merkley
Casey	Hassan	Mullin
Cassidy	Heinrich	Murphy
Collins	Hickenlooper	Murray
Coons	Hirono	Ossoff

Padilla	Schatz	Van Hollen
Paul	Schumer	Warner
Peters	Scott (FL)	Warnock
Reed	Shaheen	Warren
Ricketts	Shinema	Welch
Risch	Smith	Whitehouse
Romney	Sullivan	Wicker
Rosen	Tester	Wyden
Rounds	Thune	Young
Sanders	Tillis	

### NAYS—11

Braun	Lee	Schmitt
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Hawley	Marshall	Vance
Johnson	Rubio	

### NOT VOTING—6

Cotton	Moran	Scott (SC)
Feinstein	Murkowski	Stabenow

The nomination was confirmed (Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be notified of the Senate's actions.

## 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. 281, Gen. Randy A. George for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz.

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 the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7033: to be General, Gen. Randy A. George, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted “yea.”

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 92, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Ex.]

#### YEAS—92

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hassan	Risch
Blumenthal	Hawley	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Braun	Hirono	Rubio
Britt	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lankford	Tester
Collins	Lujan	Thune
Coons	Lummis	Tillis
Cornyn	Manchin	Tuberville
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	McConnell	Warner
Cruz	Menendez	Warnock
Daines	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Moran	Welch
Durbin	Mullin	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	Young
Gillibrand	Padilla	

#### NAYS—1

Lee

#### NOT VOTING—7

Cotton	Paul	Stabenow
Feinstein	Schatz	
Murkowski	Scott (SC)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, and the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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

##### TRIBUTE TO GEORGIA MERRILL

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Georgia Merrill of Brentwood as August's Granite Stater of the Month. For the past 8 years, 14-year-old Georgia has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the New Hampshire Food Bank through her Peach Project initiative.

When Georgia was 6 years old and driving in a car with her grandmother, she saw a homeless person on the side

of the road holding a sign that read, “I’m hungry.” It was a moment that stuck with her and inspired her to give back to her community. She went home and asked her mom if they could set up a bake sale with proceeds going to people like the man she had just seen on the road.

Georgia—along with her mother Erin, her dad Josh, and brothers Owen and Miles—started holding bake sales, with sales going to the NH Food Bank. Georgia's nickname is Georgia Peach, and so they decided to name the initiative the “Georgia Peach Project.” Georgia's parents were touched by their daughter's commitment to helping those in need and worked with Georgia to take the project even further. Georgia started new projects, and they spread the word about them on social media and got other families in their community involved.

Now, the project's various initiatives include making and selling bracelets with proceeds going to the NH Food Bank, holding a food collection, passing out cards to classmates at school encouraging them to donate, and hosting a community holiday concert. In addition, every year, they organize a holiday stroll partnering with local organizations and families who commit to decorating a part of the walk. The event also includes a bake sale, a silent auction, and live entertainment—with all donations from the night going to the NH Food Bank.

Since the start of the Peach Project, Georgia has raised more than \$66,000 for the NH Food Bank. Her commitment to serving her community at such a young age is an inspiration for all of us. After she saw a neighbor in need, it was clear to her that she needed to bring her community together to do whatever it could do to help. Georgia's ability to think about the needs of those around her and then act to address them exemplifies the Granite State spirit of generosity, and her work demonstrates that you can always make a difference by getting involved in your community.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. McLaughlin, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 112. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and asks a conference with the

Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Rogers of Alabama, Wilson of South Carolina, Lamborn, Wittman, Austin Scott of Georgia, Ms. Stefanik, Messrs. DesJarlais, Kelly of Mississippi, Gallagher, Gaetz, Bacon, Banks, Bergman, Waltz, Johnson of Louisiana, Mrs. McClain, Mr. Jackson of Texas, Fallon, Gimenez, Mses. Mace and Greene of Georgia, Messrs. Smith of Washington, Courtney, Garamendi, Norcross, Gallego, Moulton, Carbajal, Khanna, Keating, Kim of New Jersey, Mses. Houlahan, Slotkin, Sherrill, and Escobar.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Messrs. Turner, Wenstrup, and Himes.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of secs. 636, 651–55, 658–61, 1041, and 1042 of the House bill and secs. 303, 563, 592, 593, 1079, 1090K, 1099JJ, 1726, and 3142 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Ms. Foxx, Messrs. Owens and Scott of Virginia.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 224, 749, and 3121 of the House bill, and secs. 314, 712 of division A, 1087, 1088, 1090A, 1090G, 1099II, 3122–24, 3143, 3144, 6074, 8141, and sec. 11009 of division J of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Carter of Georgia, Pfluger, and Pallone.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of subtitle J of title X of division A, sec. 1086, title LXVIII of division F, division I, and division J of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. McHenry and Luetkemeyer, and Ms. Waters.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 217, 1009, 1080K, 1210, 1211, 1213, 1214, 1216, 1220, 1220A, 1220C, 1220G, 1220K, 1220L, 1221–24, 1234, 1245, 1250, 1310L, 1505, and 1883 of the House bill, and secs. 212, 1085, 1302, 1397, 1399B, 1399D, 1399E, 1399F, 1399I, 1399J, 1399K, 1399L, subtitles H–K of title XIII of division A, secs. 1634, 6031, 6242, 6293, division F, and secs. 11104 and 11105 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. McCaul, McCormick, and Meeks.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 542, 822, 1049, 1689, and 3116 of the House bill, and secs. 1041, 1090H, subtitles I and K of title X of division A, subtitle I of title XIII of division A, secs. 6031, 6075, 6082, 6084, subtitle H of title LX of division E, secs. 6813, 6816, 6821, 6831 of division E, secs. 9007, 9011, 9012, 9014, and title LXXI of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Issa, Ms. Lee of Florida, and Mr. Nadler.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 261, 510, 1853, 1865, 2843, 2844, 2847, and 3515 of the House bill, and secs. 312, 1041, 1090G, 2805, 6711, 11002 of division J, division K, and sec. 11341 of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Carl, Ms. Hageman, and Mr. Grijalva.

From the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for consideration of secs. 364, 834, 891, 899C, 921, 922, 1047, 1101–10, 1116–18, 1122, 1221, 1222, 1521, 1523, 1805, and 1880 of the House bill, and secs. 537, 867, subtitle H of title X of division A, secs. 1201–03, 1206–09, 1211–13, 1215, 1512, 11133, 6101, 6202, 6203, 6607, sec. 6831 of division E, 8141, 9005, 11331–33, and secs. 601, 603, 605, 703, 704, 715–18, 802, and 1001

of division M, and secs. 11001 and 11002 of division L of the Senate amendment and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Grothman, Perry, and Raskin.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of secs. 886, 1608, 1875, and 1879 of the House bill, and secs. 308, 845, 1090E, 1090G, 3144, 5204, and title X of division M of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Mike Garcia of California and Collins, and Ms. Lofgren.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 223, 853, 881, 882, 884, and 886 of the House bill, and secs. 141, 823, 831, 841-45, 849-52, and 5841 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Molinaro and Alford, and Ms. Velázquez.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 315, 707, 723, 866, 1602, 1608, 1804, 1854, 3501, 3511-13, 3515, 3531, and 3533 of the House bill, and secs. 314, 1083, 1090D, 1399N, 1606, 1644, 2814, title XXXV of division C, secs. 6079, 6226, 8141, and division H of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Graves of Missouri, Webster of Florida, and Larsen of Washington.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of secs. 571, 572, 579, 1118, 1413, 1733, and 1885 of the House bill, and secs. 1084, 1090B, 1521, 1833, 1852, 6071, 6077, and 11020 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. Bost, Luttrell, and Takano.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1418. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 3935. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

#### 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-2161. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Update to OMB Approval Table for Paperwork Reduction Act" (GSAR Case 2022-G518) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2162. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2023-05, Introduction"

(FAC 2023-05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2163. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2023-05, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2023-05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2164. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2017-014, Use of Acquisition 360 to Encourage Vendor Feedback" (RIN9000-AN43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2165. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2023-004, Small Disadvantaged Business Threshold" (RIN9000-AO52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2166. A communication from the Deputy Controller Performing the Duties of the Controller, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance for Grants and Agreements" (Docket No. OMB-2023-0004) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2167. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2168. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2169. A communication from the Solicitor, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Federal Labor Relations Authority, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2170. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Physicians' Comparability Allowance Program"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2171. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report entitled "2022 Information Collection Budget of the United States Government"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2172. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2173. A communication from the Deputy Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Privacy Office 2020 and 2021 Data Mining Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2174. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2023 Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2175. A communication from the Chief of Staff of External Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2176. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2022 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act) of 2002 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2177. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2178. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2022 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2179. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-179, "Green Housing Transition Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2180. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-185, "St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2181. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-186, "The Volunteers of America, Inc. National Service Center Relocation Tax Exemption Amendment Act of 2023"; to

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2182. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-178, "Association Meeting Flexibility Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2183. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-180, "Virtual Open Meetings Authority Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2184. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-181, "Friendship Heights Business Improvement District Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2185. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-182, "Golden Triangle Business Improvement District Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2186. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-183, "Children's National Hospital Research and Innovation Campus Equitable Tax Relief Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2187. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-184, "Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2188. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting a legislative proposal that would establish two new sub-accounts within the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2189. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Report to Congress on Contract Funding of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Awards"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2190. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the use and distribution of the Chinook Judgment Funds in Indian Claims Commission Docket 234 for congressional consideration and approval received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2191. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Election Administration and Voting Survey 2022 Comprehensive Report"; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2192. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Persons Eligible for Burial" (RIN2900-AR80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2193. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Presumptive Service Connection for Respiratory Conditions Due to Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter" (RIN2900-AR25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2194. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Trademark Classification Changes" (RIN0651-AD70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2195. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Implement Provisions of the Trademark Modernization Act of 2020; Delay of Effective Date" (RIN0651-AD71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2196. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transfer of Electronic Prescriptions for Schedules II-V Controlled Substances Between Pharmacies for Initial Filling" ((RIN1117-AB64) (Docket No. DEA-637)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2197. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2014" ((RIN1117-AB81) (Docket No. DEA-481)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2198. A communication from the Acting Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation" (CPCLD Order No. 003-2023) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2199. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States" for the March 2023 calendar session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2200. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Sequestration Update Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2024"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; Joint Committee on Taxation; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2201. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report rel-

ative to violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-65. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to work with the President of the United States to authorize assigning the City of Eastvale an independent ZIP code; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, The City of Eastvale was incorporated on October 1, 2010. Located in the County of Riverside, before incorporation Eastvale was predominantly dairy farms and agricultural land; and

Whereas, The United States Postal Service uses Zone Improvement Plan, commonly known as ZIP Codes, to route mail and deliver packages. ZIP Codes assist the United States Postal Service's obligation to provide quality mail delivery to the American public at reasonable prices; and

Whereas, The City of Eastvale shares the ZIP Code 91752 with the City of Jurupa Valley. The ZIP Code is coded as the former Mira Loma community, which was annexed by the Cities of Eastvale and Jurupa Valley. Additionally, the City of Eastvale also shares the ZIP Code 92880 with the City of Corona; and

Whereas, The City of Eastvale has grown exponentially in the last two decades and currently has a population of over 71,000 according to 2021 census information; and

Whereas, Since its incorporation, the City of Eastvale has experienced various challenges because it shares ZIP Codes with neighboring jurisdictions; and

Whereas, It is difficult for certain businesses to expand in the City of Eastvale because commercial developers and businesses evaluate expansion decisions based on trade areas that are analyzed by ZIP Codes; and

Whereas, Because the City of Eastvale does not have its own ZIP Code, its population demographics and economic data are inaccurately represented in various Geographic Information System (GIS) platforms that entities utilize to inform commercial attractiveness, insurance payment rates, and sales tax distribution decisions; and

Whereas, Eastvale residents and visitors experience navigational and mail delivery challenges because many addresses in the City of Eastvale are incorrectly identified as being located in Corona, Jurupa Valley, or Mira Loma; and

Whereas, Having an address improperly associated with another city has led to increased insurance rates for Eastvale residents due to being grouped with other jurisdictions; and

Whereas, Lack of a definitive ZIP Code causes confusion with voter registration, misdirected property, possible decreased sales tax revenue, and decreased property values because comparable sales are mixed with adjacent communities and are not exclusive to the City of Eastvale. Thus, the continuity of property values is disrupted; and

Whereas, The City of Eastvale is also concerned about possible delays in response efforts in the event of a large-scale emergency such as wildfire, which has become fairly common; and

Whereas, Eastvale residents' eligibility for sport league participation is impacted because many associations and sport entities

set team limits and restrictions based on ZIP Codes; and

Whereas, The City of Eastvale's independent ZIP Code advocacy efforts have been widely supported by federal, state, county, and local community members, including United States Senator Alex Padilla, United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, United States Representative Ken Calvert, United States Representative Norma Torres, Riverside County Supervisor Karen Spiegel, the City of Chino, the City of Corona, the City of Norco, and the City of Ontario, the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Eastvale Chamber of Commerce, the Eastvale Chinese American Association, the Eastvale Kiwanis Club, Norco College, and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department; and

Whereas, United States Representatives Ken Calvert and Norma Torres have introduced federal legislation granting the City of Eastvale a new and independent ZIP Code; and

Whereas, Granting the City of Eastvale a new and independent ZIP Code would address its emergency management, public safety, business attraction and retention, and insurance coverage challenges caused by factors that are outside of its control; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to work with President Joseph R. Biden to authorize assigning the City of Eastvale an independent ZIP Code; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-66. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to pass H.R. 412, designating the U.S. Post Office at 620 East Pecan Boulevard in McAllen as the Agent Raul H. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Post Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1343

Whereas, United States Representative Monica De La Cruz introduced a bipartisan bill, H.R. 412, on January 20, 2023, to designate the U.S. Post Office at 620 East Pecan Boulevard in McAllen as the Agent Raul H. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Post Office; and

Whereas, On December 7, 2022, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Raul H. Gonzalez of Edinburg was engaged in a high-speed chase when his ATV crashed; he was transported to a hospital but died of his injuries that day, at the age of 38, leaving two children, Sebastian and Camila Gonzalez, and a large extended family, as well as numerous bereaved colleagues; and

Whereas, Agent Gonzalez was a graduate of Economides High School in Edinburg and the Border Patrol Academy; deeply patriotic, he demonstrated great dedication over the course of a career that spanned more than a decade with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which is within the Department of Homeland Security; he was assigned to the Rio Grande Valley Sector McAllen Station; and

Whereas, Committed to the important mission of the U.S. Border Patrol, Agent Gonzalez lost his life in the line of duty, and it would be most fitting to recognize his exemplary service and supreme sacrifice by naming the post office in McAllen in his honor; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to pass H.R. 412, designating the U.S. Post Office at 620 East Pecan Boulevard in McAllen as the Agent Raul H. Gonzalez Jr. Memorial Post Office; and, be it further

*Resolved,* That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-67. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee expressing strong support for completing the southern border wall and urging the United States Congress to immediately take action to fund the construction necessary for completion; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, the security of our nation's borders and the safety of our citizens are paramount to protecting the American way of life; and

Whereas, it is essential to the welfare of our nation that illegal immigration cease; and

Whereas, the United States government began to secure our borders through the construction of a physical border wall, but completion of the wall was halted under the Biden Administration; and

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants continue to enter the United States of America each year through our nation's southern border; and

Whereas, the members of this General Assembly have consistently taken steps to address illegal immigration within the borders of our great State and now wish to urge the United States Congress to address illegal immigration by supporting and funding the completion of the southern border wall: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate concurring,* That we strongly support completion of the border wall along our nation's southern border, and we strongly urge the United States Congress to immediately take action to fund the completion of said border wall without delay. Be it further

*Resolved,* That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.

POM-68. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Texas requesting that the United States Congress fully reimburse the State of Texas for 9,927,000,000 dollars in expended funds that were used or will be used to meet federal obligations to secure the southern border; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 678

Whereas, The Texas Senate finds that border security is a federal responsibility; and

Whereas, Due to the lack of action by the federal government, the State of Texas has been forced to continually appropriate funds to secure the southern border of the United States; and

Whereas, Texas has taken these actions not just for the people of Texas, but to help

maintain safety and security across the United States; and

Whereas, The human costs of sex trafficking, human trafficking, drug proliferation, and the expansion of vast criminal enterprises cannot be easily quantified; and

Whereas, The financial cost that the State of Texas has paid or will pay to combat these criminal acts has totaled more than \$9,927,000,000; and

Whereas, The state has spent the following amounts on border security in each of the most recent biennial state budgets:

2016-2017—\$800,000,000  
2018-2019—\$800,000,000  
2020-2021—\$800,600,000  
2022-2023—\$2,926,400,000; and

Whereas, Texas plans to spend \$4,600,000,000 to secure the border in the 2024-2025 biennium; now, therefore, be it further

*Resolved,* That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby respectfully request that the Congress of the United States fully reimburse the State of Texas for \$9,927,000,000 in expended funds that were used or will be used to meet federal obligations to secure the southern border; and, be it further

*Resolved,* That Texas is not seeking reimbursement for additional costs associated with securing the southern border, including the additional strains that have been placed on the state's healthcare and education systems, and the impacts on local law enforcement or private property damage; and, be it further

*Resolved,* That the secretary of the Senate forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE, from the Committee on the Budget:

Special Report entitled "Legislative Activities of the Committee on the Budget during the 117th Congress" (Rept. No. 118-99).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Tobin John Bradley, of California, 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 Guatemala.

Nominee: Tobin Bradley.

Post: Guatemala.

(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:

Self: None.

Spouse: N/A.

Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.



Nominee: Nathalie Rayes.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Croatia.

(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:

Planned Parenthood Action Fund PAC: \$1,000, 12/19/2022, Nathalie Rayes; Planned Parenthood Action Fund PAC: \$1,000, 12/15/2021, Nathalie Rayes; Lorena Gonzalez: \$500, 05/10/2021, Nathalie Rayes; Alfonso Lopez: \$250, 03/31/2021, Nathalie Rayes; People First Future: \$250, 02/18/2021, Nathalie Rayes; Hoo-siers for Hale: \$600, 10/21/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Ricky Hurtado: \$500, 10/14/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Nora Vargas: \$350, 10/12/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Janet Diaz: \$250, 10/12/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Jon Santiago: \$500, 08/31/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Andy Vargas: \$500, 08/31/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Adam Gomez: \$500, 08/31/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Damali Vidot: \$500, 08/31/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Biden for President: \$2,800, 07/22/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Biden for President: \$2,800, 07/22/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Democratic National Committee: \$4,400, 07/22/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Biden Victory Fund: \$10,000, 07/22/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Michelle for Kansas: \$500, 06/30/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Dr. Raul Ruiz for Congress: \$1,000, 06/30/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Kennedy for Massachusetts: \$1,000, 06/30/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Nora Vargas: \$500, 06/30/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Candace for 24: \$500, 06/19/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Mara for Congress: \$500, 06/01/2020, Nathalie Rayes; People for Ben: \$1,000, 05/11/2020, Nathalie Rayes; Kennedy for Massachusetts: \$2,800, 11/13/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Melissa Mark-Viverito: \$2,800, 09/30/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Debbie for Congress: \$500, 06/28/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Biden for President: \$2,800, 06/25/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Nora Vargas: \$850, 03/22/2019, Nathalie Rayes; Kennedy for Massachusetts: \$2,800, 08/24/2020, Tarek Samad; Albert Mata: \$500, 05/03/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Melissa Cabello Havrda: \$500, 05/02/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Phyllis Viagran: \$500, 05/02/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Marina Alderete Gavito: \$500, 05/02/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Maria Quinones: \$1,000, 04/04/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Janet Cruz: \$500, 04/03/2023, Latino Victory Fund; Chuy Garcia: \$10,000, 01/30/2023, Latino Victory Fund; John Lira: \$1,000, 10/28/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rudy Salas: \$5,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Catherine Cortez Masto: \$5,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Gabe Vasquez: \$2,500, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Robert Menendez Jr.: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Andrea Salinas: \$5,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Sandra Jauregui: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Nancy Brune: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Adrian Fontes: \$5,300, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Karla Hernández-Mats: \$3,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Yadira Caraveo: \$2,500, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Carlos Guillermo Smith: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Maria Peterson: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Susana Mendoza: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Gabriel Acevedo: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Raul Torrez: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Laura Montoya: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Cynthia Borrego: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tara Jaramillo: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rodolphe Martinez: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Willie Madrid: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Shamaine Daniels: \$2,500, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Veronica Escobar: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle Vallejo: \$5,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Frank Ramirez: \$1,000, 10/25/

2022, Latino Victory Fund; Elva Curl: \$1,000, 10/25/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jimmy Gomez: \$1,000, 10/21/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Mike Levin: \$5,000, 10/21/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tony Vargas: \$5,000, 10/21/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Janet Cruz: \$1,000, 10/15/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Lisa Cano Burkhead: \$2,500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Cisco Aguilar: \$2,500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Annette Taddeo: \$2,500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Yadira Caraveo: \$2,500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Eunice Ortiz: \$1,000, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Janelle Perez: \$1,000, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Catalina Cruz: \$500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jessica Gonzalez Rojas: \$500, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Ricky Hurtado: \$1,000, 09/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Gabe Vasquez: \$2,500, 09/22/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$5,000, 09/22/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Nathalia Fernandez: \$1,000, 08/22/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Carlina Rivera: \$5,000, 08/19/2022, Latino Victory Fund; David Arreola: \$1,000, 08/17/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle Lujan Grisham: \$10,400, 07/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Janet Cruz: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Eunice Ortiz: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Janelle Perez: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Carlos Guillermo Smith: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; A.J. D'Amico: \$1,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tom Perez: \$2,000, 06/30/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Maxwell Frost: \$2,500, 06/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Annette Taddeo: \$2,500, 06/29/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Linda Hidalgo: \$2,500, 06/17/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rick Chavez Zbur: \$1,000, 06/13/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Marina Torres: \$1,000, 06/13/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Hilda Solis: \$1,000, 06/13/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Raul Ruiz: \$2,500, 06/07/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Robert Garcia: \$2,500, 06/07/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Arballo: \$2,500, 06/07/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rudy Salas: \$2,500, 06/07/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Lisa Cano Burkhead: \$2,500, 06/03/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$2,500, 05/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Ina Minjarez: \$1,000, 05/24/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Cassandra Garcia Hernandez: \$1,000, 05/24/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jason Esteves: \$1,000, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jason Esteves: \$4,051.91, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Olaleye: \$1,000, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Olaleye: \$4,051.91, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle Schreiner: \$1,000, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle Schreiner: \$4,051.91, 05/23/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Deja Alvarez: \$1,000, 05/16/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Alex Padilla: \$5,800, 05/05/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Brian Colón: \$2,500, 05/03/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rochelle Garza: \$2,500, 05/02/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jessica Cisneros: \$2,500, 05/02/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tony Vargas: \$2,500, 05/02/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Andrea Salinas: \$2,500, 05/02/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Tom Perez: \$4,000, 04/15/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Daniel Hernandez Jr.: \$2,500, 03/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$2,500, 03/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Yadira Caraveo: \$2,500, 03/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Andrea Salinas: \$2,500, 03/31/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Lorenzo Sanchez: \$1,000, 02/24/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Rochelle Garza: \$2,500, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; John Lira: \$2,500, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jessica Cisneros: \$2,500, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Greg Casar: \$2,500, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Alexandra Giuo: \$1,000, 02/18/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Catherine Cortez Masto: \$2,500, 02/17/2022, Latino Victory Fund; Jennifer Gutierrez: \$1,000, 10/29/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Alfonso Lopez: \$2,500, 10/14/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Hala Ayala: \$50,000, 10/13/2021,

Latino Victory Fund; Elizabeth Guzman: \$10,000, 10/13/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Carmen de la Rosa: \$1,000, 09/09/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Shaun Abreu: \$1,000, 09/09/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Pierina Sanchez: \$1,000, 09/09/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Amanda Farias: \$1,000, 09/09/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Hala Ayala: \$5,000, 06/03/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Canek Aguirre: \$500, 05/27/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Alfonso Lopez: \$2,500, 05/21/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Hala Ayala: \$40,000, 05/14/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Elizabeth Guzman: \$20,000, 05/14/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Tara Wilson: \$1,000, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Adam Bazaldua: \$1,000, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Ana Sandoval: \$500, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Roberto Treviño: \$500, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Jana Lynne Sanchez: \$2,500, 04/26/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Alex Padilla: \$2,500, 02/05/2021, Latino Victory Fund; Natalie Hurtado: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lorenzo Sanchez: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ricky Hurtado: \$1,000, 10/28/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Carlos Gallinar: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Eric Holguin: \$1,000, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Arballo: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lujan Victory Fund: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Debbie Mucarsel-Powell: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Candace Valenzuela: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Antonio Delgado: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle de la Isla: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Xochitl Torres Small: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Cisneros for Congress: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Georgette Gomez: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Christina Hale: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Family and Friends of Jane: \$2,500, 10/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Francesca Cesti-Browne: \$1,000, 10/27/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Cesar Blanco: \$1,000, 10/16/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Linda Serrato: \$1,000, 10/16/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Raquel Teran: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lorenzo Sierra: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Adrian Fontes: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Brianna Buentello: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Stephanie Dominguez Walton: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lucia Baez-Geller: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Eliseo Santana: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Felipe Perez: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Anibal Acevedo Vilá: \$2,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Janet Diaz: \$3,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Celina Montoya: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Brandy Chambers: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Joanna Cattanaach: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ana Maria Ramos: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Eric Holguin: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Natali Hurtado: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Victoria Neave: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Wendy Jauregui-Jackins: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Noemie Martinez-Parra: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Carlos Gallinar: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Daniel Corona: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Nora Vargas: \$2,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Adelita Grimalva: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Phil Arballo: \$5,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Gabby Salinas: \$1,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Tony Vargas: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Mike Levin: \$2,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Felicia French: \$1,500, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Deborah Gonzalez: \$2,800, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Maureen Porras: \$1,000, 10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Luisa Santos: \$1,000,

10/14/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Georgette Gomez: \$2,800, 09/29/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle de la Isla: \$2,500, 09/28/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Rudy Soto: \$2,500, 09/26/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Xochitl Torres Small: \$2,500, 09/22/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Gil Cisneros: \$2,500, 09/18/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ben Ray Lujan: \$2,500, 09/16/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Debbie Mucarsel-Powell: \$2,500, 09/15/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Victor Torres: \$1,000, 08/04/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Will Knight: \$2,000, 08/04/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Andres Cano: \$1,500, 07/31/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Diego Rodriguez: \$1,500, 07/31/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Joanna Mendoza: \$1,500, 07/31/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Krstine Reeves: \$2,000, 07/31/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Javier Fernandez: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Jose Javier Rodriguez: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Cindy Polo: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Dolores Guzman: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ricky Junquera: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Amy Mercado: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Alex Barrio: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Samuel Vilchez Santiago: \$1,000, 07/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Debbie Mucarsel-Powell: \$2,500, 07/01/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Candace Valenzuela: \$5,000, 06/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Raul Ruiz: \$1,000, 06/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Oz Vazquez: \$2,500, 06/30/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Jessica González-Rojas: \$2,000, 06/19/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Catalina Cruz: \$2,000, 06/19/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Jon Rivera: \$2,000, 06/19/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Lorenzo Sanchez: \$1,500, 06/08/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Christina Hale: \$5,000, 05/13/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Melissa Mark-Viverito: \$5,000, 05/13/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Elizabeth Romero: \$2,000, 05/12/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Xochitl Torres Small: \$2,500, 04/07/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Michelle de la Isla: \$2,500, 04/02/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Ben Ray Lujan: \$2,500, 04/01/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Teresa Leger Fernandez: \$2,500, 03/26/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Gil Cisneros: \$2,500, 03/05/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Cristina Tzintzun Ramirez: \$2,800, 02/24/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Candace Valenzuela: \$5,000, 02/21/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Georgette Gomez: \$2,800, 02/11/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Mara Candelaria Reardon: \$2,800, 02/07/2020, Latino Victory Fund; Angelo Castillo: \$2,000, 02/07/2020, Latino Victory Fund.

Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, 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 Haiti.

Nominee: Dennis B. Hankins.

Post: Republic of Haiti.

(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:  
Self: \$100, August 2019, Tulsi Gabbard.  
Spouse: None.

James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs).

(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. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2855. A bill to modernize and streamline the permitting process for broadband infrastructure on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VANCE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 2856. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures relating to gifts and contracts from foreign sources; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 2857. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to provide greater access to in-State television broadcast programming for cable and satellite subscribers in certain counties; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 2858. A bill to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Guntersville, Alabama, as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2859. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2860. A bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2861. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 2862. A bill to amend the Food for Peace Act to restore the original intent of commodity transfers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2863. A bill to establish the Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 2864. A bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to perform an initial health screening on all detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2865. A bill to establish the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial National Historical Park in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2866. A bill to improve the customer experience of the Federal Government, ensure that Federal services are simple, seamless, and secure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2867. A bill to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2868. A bill to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that Community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 2869. A bill to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2870. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to allow certain activities to be conducted with respect to sturgeon held in captivity or in a controlled environment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2871. A bill to advance Federal Government innovation through the implementation and use of multi-cloud computing software technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2872. A bill to defer student loan payments for survivors of sex-based harassment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2873. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the Women-Owned Small Business program in the Department of Veterans Affairs procurement hierarchy of small business preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2874. A bill to provide fresh produce to individuals facing food and nutrition insecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 353. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, as “National Estuaries Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 354. A resolution congratulating the Louisiana State University baseball team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 176

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to extend and expand the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Constance Baker Motley, in recognition of her enduring contributions and service to the United States.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase civil penalties for, and improve enforcement with respect to, customs fraud, and for other purposes.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1780

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1780, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into self-determination contracts with Tribal organizations to carry out the authority of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1851, a bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes.

S. 1881

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2090

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2090, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines.

S. 2626

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2626, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

S. 2669

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2669, a bill to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2811

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2811, a bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to withdraw proposed rules relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

S. 2818

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2818, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to make unlawful acquisitions that would create monopolies, and for other purposes.

S. 2824

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2824, a bill to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2835, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 2846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2846, a bill to improve Federal efforts with respect to the prevention of maternal mortality, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)”.

S.J. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 42, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Nutrition Service relating to “Application of Bostock v. Clayton County to Program Discrimination Complaint Processing-Policy Update”.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

S. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 20, a resolution condemning the coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Burmese

military, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 320

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 320, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Eyvin Hernandez, a United States citizen and Los Angeles County public defender, who was wrongfully detained by the Venezuelan regime in March 2022.

AMENDMENT NO. 1115

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1115 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1264

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1264 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1268

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1268 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 353—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 353

Whereas estuary regions cover only 13 percent of the land area in the continental United States but contain nearly 40 percent of the population, 39 percent of the jobs, and 47 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes of the United States continue to fuel economic growth across the United States with employment from the estuarine and ocean economy growing at 2.6 percent in 2019, compared to the national average employment growth of 1.4 percent;

Whereas estuary, ocean, and Great Lakes economic sectors created 88,000 new jobs between 2018 to 2019, employed 3,500,000 people, and contributed \$351,000,000,000 in gross domestic product;

Whereas employment in the ocean economy has increased by 25 percent from pre-recession levels in 2007, 3 times the rate of recovery of the United States economy as a whole;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 1,700,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2020—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated more than \$253,000,000,000 in sales and contributed \$117,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

(2) angler trip expenditures totaled nearly \$10,200,000,000; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported over 594,000 jobs, generated \$98,028,000,000 in sales across the economy, and contributed \$54,962,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the original 13 colonies;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical waste, and marine debris;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to some estuaries;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain—

(1) the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of estuaries;

(2) water quality;

(3) balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

(4) recreational activities in estuaries;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zones of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 28 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of estuaries;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 354—CONGRATULATING THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 354

Whereas, on Monday, June 26, 2023, the Louisiana State University (referred to in this preamble as “LSU”) Fighting Tigers baseball team won the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division I College World Series, defeating the University of Florida Gators by a score of 18 to 4;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers won their seventh NCAA Division I Baseball Championship;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers scored 18 runs with 24 total hits in the championship game;

Whereas head coach Jay Johnson became the first coach to win an NCAA Division I baseball title before their third year at a school;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers finished the season with 54 wins and 17 losses;

Whereas 13 LSU Fighting Tigers players were selected in the Major League Baseball draft, the third highest number in NCAA history;

Whereas teammates Paul Skenes and Dylan Crews were the first and second overall Major League Baseball draft selections,

marking the first time in the history of Major League Baseball that players from the same school were drafted first and second;

Whereas LSU pitcher Paul Skenes broke a Southeastern Conference (referred to in this preamble as the “SEC”) record for most strikeouts in a single season, surpassing the record set by LSU Fighting Tiger Ben McDonald in 1989;

Whereas Paul Skenes was named the Most Outstanding Player of the College World Series, was named the 2023 SEC Pitcher of the Year, and was awarded the 2023 Dick Howser Trophy, becoming the second LSU baseball player to win the award;

Whereas Dylan Crews was named to the 2023 American Baseball Coaches Association Gold Glove team, was named the SEC Player of the Year, and was the 45th recipient of the Golden Spikes Award, the highest honor for an amateur baseball player;

Whereas LSU pitcher Ty Floyd set an LSU record for the most strikeouts in a game at the College World Series and tied the NCAA record for the most strikeouts in a 9-inning game; and

Whereas Coach Jay Johnson was named the 2023 NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series;

(2) recognizes the achievements, teamwork, and tenacity of the coaches, players, and staff of the Louisiana State University baseball team;

(3) recognizes the fans and the entire State of Louisiana for their dedication and support; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the head coach of the Louisiana State University baseball team, Jay Johnson;

(B) the president of Louisiana State University, William F. Tate IV; and

(C) the athletic director of Louisiana State University, Scott Woodward.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1269. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1270. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1271. Ms. SINEMA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1272. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1273. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1274. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be pro-

posed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1275. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1276. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1277. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1269. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 7. (a) No funds made available under this Act shall be used to assess or collect user fees under section 919 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387) with respect to premium cigars.

(b) In this section, the term “premium cigar” means a cigar that—

(1) is wrapped in whole tobacco leaf;

(2) contains a 100 percent leaf tobacco binder;

(3) contains at least 50 percent (of the filler by weight) long filler tobacco (such as whole tobacco leaves that run the length of the cigar);

(4) is handmade or hand rolled, without the use of machinery other than simple tools, such as scissors to cut the tobacco prior to rolling;

(5) has no filter, non-tobacco tip, or non-tobacco mouthpiece;

(6) does not have a characterizing flavor other than tobacco;

(7) contains only tobacco, water, and vegetable gum with no other ingredients or additives; and

(8) weighs more than 6 pounds per 1,000 units.

SA 1270. Mrs. BRITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) For an additional amount for “Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated \$1,000,000, to remain

available until expended, for cooperative agreements with qualified nonprofit organizations to expedite research using plant genomics to develop drought- and disease-resistant peanut varieties and other crops.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated by this Act under the heading “Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary” in title I for the Office of Communications shall be reduced by \$1,000,000.

SA 1271. Ms. SINEMA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF STUDY BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON PATIENT RESPONSES TO PHARMACEUTICALS BASED ON THEIR GENETIC PROFILE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the feasibility, advisability, and cost estimate of undertaking a study to record patient responses to pharmaceuticals based on their genetic profile, which shall include the elements specified under subsection (b).

(b) ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—The elements specified under this subsection are—

(1) providing a patient with a pharmacogenomics test;

(2) using the results of that test, through an integrated application programming interface platform, and mapping those results against—

(A) the medical condition or conditions of the patient;

(B) the medications currently prescribed to the patient; and

(C) different therapeutics or medications that are widely prescribed to treat such condition or conditions;

(3) providing the treating physician of the patient with easily understood, actionable, digitized information to utilize in making a decision about the course of medication or medications that would yield the greatest benefit to the patient and limit the risk of potential harm or adverse events based upon identified drug-to-gene and drug-to-drug interactions; and

(4) including an analysis on cost saving to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the patient.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 1272. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other

purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . STUDY ON MODIFICATION OF PAYMENTS TO STATE HOMES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on—

(1) the feasibility of adjusting criteria for priority for payments for State homes in a manner that would—

(A) eliminate priority of payments for limited or high-need States; and

(B) prioritize payments for limited or high-need regions;

(2) the feasibility of increasing the State cost-sharing requirement for each State home project that is a new construction project that seeks to receive higher priority to receive payment from the Department; and

(3) the relevance of the allocation criteria of the Department of Veterans Affairs in place as of the date of the enactment of this Act for payments to State homes and the feasibility of updating such criteria based on the findings of such study.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) STATE HOME DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State home” has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

**SA 1273.** Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division C, insert the following after section 119G:

**SEC. 119H.** The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shall ensure that any amounts made available under this Act for providing matching funds to commercial entities that contract with FAA-designated unmanned aircraft system (UAS) test sites to demonstrate or validate technologies that the FAA considers essential to the safe integration of UAS into the national airspace system (NAS) are also available to test sites that are not designated by the FAA, including tribal test sites.

**SA 1274.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 287, line 19, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may retain up to an additional \$5,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act to fund expenses associated with the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation under chapter 69 of title 40, United States Code, pursuant to authorization under section 6910 of title 40, United States Code.”.

**SA 1275.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr.

CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 283, line 24, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for a grant to Union Station Redevelopment Corporation to rehabilitate and repair the Washington Union Station complex.”.

**SA 1276.** Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In paragraph (3) of the matter under the heading “COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND” under the heading “COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT” in title II of division C, strike “except that the formula shall use age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths for 2021” and insert “except that the Secretary shall use the average of age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths and the average of national overdose mortality rates for 2019, 2020, and 2021”.

**SA 1277.** Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 104 of the amendment, line 11, insert “, and of which \$750,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for invasive catfish control” before the semicolon.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10:45 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY**

The Subcommittee on Economic Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hybrid hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WATER, AND WILDLIFE**

The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER**

The Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Allison Arbuthnot for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

**MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3935**

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3935) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the



Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

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EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, AS "NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK"

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 353, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 353) expressing support for the designation of the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, as "National Estuaries Week".

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent 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. 353) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONGRATULATING THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 354, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 354) congratulating the Louisiana State University baseball team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent 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. 354) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

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ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 21; that following the prayer and 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 upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the George nomination postcloture and that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Smith nomination, all postcloture debate time be considered expired at 1:45 p.m.; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:27 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 11 a.m.

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CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 20, 2023:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REAPPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 152 AND 601:

*To be general*

GEN. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.