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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of our eternal hope, those who serve You live in Your presence. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to follow Your teachings. Let Your precepts lead them to make laws that will help the marginalized and strengthen our Nation's moral foundation. May Your wisdom provide them with strategies to defeat the enemies of liberty. Remind them that You have a plan which enables Your will to be done on Earth even as it is done in Heaven. Lord, instill in our Senators the courage to obey Your commands, the grace to pray for their enemies, and the power to persevere in doing what is right.

We pray in Your powerful 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 executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 21, 2023.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3935

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant executive 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. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provi-

sions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, earlier this morning, it was my distinct honor, along with Leader MCCONNELL, to welcome Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to the United States. It is always a privilege to welcome a foreign head of state to the Capitol, but rarely in history have we heard directly from a leader who is fighting for his country's survival and fighting to preserve the idea of democracy.

I told the Members that, right now, this courageous man is at the fulcrum of democracy and freedom. And my message to President Zelenskyy and to my colleagues was simple: America must always stand with our friends around the world, and that includes the people of Ukraine.

President Zelenskyy could not have arrived at a more crucial moment for his country and for Congress. Right now, Ukraine is engaged in a major counteroffensive against Putin's forces to reclaim their own territory and turn the tide of their bloody and brutal conflict. But it is also a moment for Congress too. It is very clear that if we were to have a government shutdown or pass a CR without Ukrainian aid, the damage to Ukraine's campaign would be devastating.

In fact, to quote President Zelenskyy, in the room—and this is a quote—he said: If we don't get the aid, we will lose the war.

That is a quote from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. That is how stark the issue is. Nothing would make Putin happier right now than to see the United States waver in our support for the Ukrainian people.

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



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This is not just about Ukrainian security, but as President Zelenskyy reminded us, it is about American security, as well, because a victorious Putin would be an emboldened Putin.

What is the point of cutting off support now, when we are at a turning point in the war, when we have invested a large amount of resources to get to this turning point? To be sure, there are some on the hard right who say we should abandon Ukraine and negotiate with Putin. It is ironic that the hard right, which historically opposed communism, now openly flirts with autocrats like Putin.

Giving Putin what he wants, for America to abandon Ukraine—that is what Putin wants—would be a terrible, terrible mistake and one I think that would come back to haunt us more rapidly and quickly than people believe.

Now is not the time to take our foot off the gas when it comes to helping Ukraine. Turning our backs would make the world less safe for American democracy.

I commend President Zelenskyy for his leadership during this unprecedented moment in his country's history. I thank him for his visit. I thank him for his courage. I thank him for his steadfastness. And I will keep working to ensure we continue supporting the Ukrainian people.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the CR, an ominous case of déjà vu is playing out this week in the House of Representatives. A national crisis is around the corner. The solution demands bipartisanship, but Speaker MCCARTHY is wasting precious time catering to the hard, hard MAGA right. Catering to the hard right didn't work during the default crisis, and it will not work here in the shutdown crisis.

It has been a troublesome, vexing week for the House of Representatives. A few days ago, House Republicans released what they called the deal on a CR but which, in reality, read like a House Freedom Caucus screed. It called for a devastating 8-percent cut on virtually all nondefense spending. It would have gutted law enforcement funding, border protection, nutrition benefits, and so much more. But that still wasn't extreme enough for MAGA Republicans.

The House GOP's latest proposals are even more extreme, call for even greater cuts, and stand even less of a chance of passing the U.S. Senate. House Republicans are still trying to appease the most hard-right elements of their conference. It is almost as if a small handful are deciding what the whole body of 435 Members should do. It makes no sense. And the hard right, many of them, publicly say they want the government to shut down, despite the fact that it would hurt so many.

So that is what seems the Republican leadership is doing, instead of pursuing the one path we all know will work: bi-

partisanship. Instead of decreasing the chances of a shutdown, Speaker MCCARTHY is actually increasing it by wasting time on extremist proposals that everyone knows—he knows—cannot become law.

Let me say that again. Instead of decreasing the chance of a shutdown, Speaker MCCARTHY is actually increasing it by wasting time on extremist proposals that cannot become law.

In the Senate, many of us are united in the need for more Ukraine aid, but the hard-right proposals in the House fail to provide any. In the Senate, only an agreement that can get votes from both parties will be able to pass, but the hard-right proposals have all been drafted with zero Democratic input and zero effort to even appear bipartisan.

So for all the efforts Speaker MCCARTHY has spent on trying to find something that makes MAGA Republicans happy, there is no scenario where we avoid a shutdown without a bipartisan agreement. If the Speaker continues down on the path he is on, the odds of a shutdown, sadly, go up, and Americans will know that the responsibility of a shutdown will be on the Republicans' hands.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on TPS, yesterday, the Biden administration announced they will designate temporary protection status for Venezuela, giving migrants from that country relief from removal and the ability to get work authorization. This decision will affect more than half of the newly arrived asylum seekers in New York.

The administration's announcement is welcome news and one many of us in the New York congressional delegation have been calling on for months. I wrote to Secretaries Blinken and Mayorkas, in July, that country conditions in Venezuela clearly met the criteria for TPS. So this is a good step forward.

TPS will give much needed relief for New York systems currently straining to support newly arrived immigrants. It is going to save New York taxpayer dollars, and it will allow migrants from Venezuela who are seeking asylum to find temporary employment, support themselves and their families, contribute to our economy, and reduce the shelter burden that New York is now undergoing.

So this is very, very welcome news. Many of these migrants can now, hopefully, get closer to finding work and finding shelter, which they need, and I thank the Biden administration for taking this step.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant executive 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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks, followed by Senator ERNST for 3 minutes, prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

CHINA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, I was proud to welcome President Zelenskyy to the Capitol. I was glad our colleagues had an opportunity to hear from him firsthand and ask questions about the state of Ukraine's counteroffensive.

At the risk of repeating myself, American support for Ukraine is not charity. It is an investment in our own direct interests, not least because degrading Russia's military power helps to deter our primary strategic adversary, China.

As I have discussed this week, competition with China is a global proposition. But increasingly, the Biden administration's approach to the PRC reflects a faulty assessment of the challenge this competition presents.

A few weeks ago, the Secretary of Commerce visited Beijing to tend the soft power of American businesses in China. Unfortunately, the PRC had already targeted Secretary Raimondo with hard power, successfully stealing her official email in a cyber attack just weeks earlier.

To the extent that economic relations with China are deteriorating, it is because on President Xi's watch, Americans and other foreign businesses are facing a state that increasingly expropriates companies, steals intellectual property, welds workers inside of apartment buildings, and forces business leaders to attend communist indoctrination sessions.

So the Biden administration is uninterested in negotiating trade deals with our allies and partners. But it seems desperate to double down on trade with Communist China.

PRC officials publicly mocked Secretary Raimondo's efforts as "doomed to fail" and vowed that "China will never let down individual vigilance because of a few 'beautiful words' from the U.S."

This is hardly the only time the Biden administration has tilted at windmills, literally and figuratively. Remember special climate envoy John Kerry's own recent trip to Beijing. He sought common ground on green energy goals with a nation that publicly pledged not to stop increasing carbon

emissions for the better part of a decade.

Unsurprisingly, our former colleague failed to secure a meeting with President Xi or his foreign minister. Perhaps, as I have discussed before, the CCP had already made that latter official disappear.

China is America's single greatest strategic adversary. The PRC is not inclined to do America or the West any favors. And political relations with Beijing have declined not because of insufficient economic ties but because of China's concerted efforts to intimidate its neighbors, spy on our communications, steal our technology, and undermine global free markets.

The sooner the Biden Administration accepts that reality, the sooner the United States can engage more deeply with allies and partners who share our interests in preserving the peace.

Russia's escalation against Ukraine has taught allies in Europe a valuable lesson about the dangers of economic overreliance. Views are changing across Europe as our allies take a new look at the nature of the dictatorship in Beijing and its friendship without limits with Moscow. The German foreign minister, for example, has publicly warned against replacing dependence on Russian gas with new economic dependence on the PRC.

Asian allies have long been concerned with the PRC's growing assertiveness. They understand that Russia is a Pacific nation with significant air and naval presence in the Far East.

Americans who focus single-mindedly on the Indo-Pacific would do well to consider Russia's own military power in that region. Just last month, the Russian and Chinese navies conducted a joint patrol off the coast of Alaska, the largest such operation in anyone's memory.

These revisionist powers are not going to go away. They will not be classified by economic envoys. Strategic competition will continue to test global interests and reach.

It is time to work more closely with friends and allies. It is time to invest more seriously in hard power and industrial capacity. It is time for the Biden administration to prioritize actions over words.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, the Biden administration announced yesterday that it is seeking new recruits in its war on affordable and reliable American energy to fill the ranks of a new program called American Climate Corps.

While the administration works overtime to freeze sensible development like energy pipelines, its latest initiative would, essentially, set up a taxpayer-funded pipeline for turning climate activists into climate bureaucrats.

Now, President Biden's nostalgia for FDR's New Deal is already well-docu-

mented. So setting aside the absurdity of Washington Democrats' fixation with the Green New Deal, it would be hard to imagine an economic moment less well-suited to a new Depression-era work program.

This isn't the early 1930s, when the American people were up against high unemployment and low inflation. In fact, what the Democrats' runaway spending has dumped on working families today is just the opposite. For 2 years now, we have historic inflation and a record labor shortage.

This is such a profoundly tone-deaf idea it couldn't even earn the support of the President's own party here in the Senate during votes on Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act last year. Not a single one of our colleagues joined Senator SANDERS in voting for his amendment to create a climate work project on the taxpayers' dime.

Apparently, that hasn't deterred President Biden or the leftwing activists behind the wheel of his administration's energy policies.

As working families struggle to afford gas, electricity, and groceries, the advice from wealthy blue State liberals is, apparently, to shell out for an expensive electric car and foot the bill for the so-called Climate Corps.

There is no Hoover Dam or Lincoln Tunnel on the other side of this nonsense spending, just Potemkin jobs and a new make-work program when there is plenty of work to go around.

Activists are calling it climate justice. But it doesn't sound like justice to the working families trying to get by President Biden's watch.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive 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.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

NOMINATION OF GENERAL RANDY A. GEORGE

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about my dear friend and native Iowan, GEN Randy A. George, before we vote on his nomination to be the next Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

As I said in the Armed Services Committee, I believe General George is the right man for this critical job. General George grew up in Alden, IA, a town with just over 700 residents. He joined the Army straight out of high school and was later commissioned at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

General George is a decorated war fighter with extensive combat service, including in the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the war in Afghanistan.

He has been instrumental in leading our great Army, and I am excited to see him confirmed to be the Chief of Staff of the Army.

As an Army veteran myself, I have full confidence that he will continue to modernize the Army and maintain our highly trained and lethal force to fight and win our Nation's wars.

General George is a hard-working public servant who knows the needs of our soldiers and their families. He, too, is a great family man. And I would like to thank his wife and his West Point classmate Patty and their two children, Grant and Andy, for their selfless commitment and support over the years.

I firmly believe that General George's qualifications, record, and character—and, of course, his great home State of Iowa—make him the right nominee to serve in this important role.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON GEORGE NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the George nomination?

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from 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 result was announced—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Baldwin	Cardin	Duckworth
Barrasso	Carper	Durbin
Bennet	Casey	Ernst
Blackburn	Cassidy	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Collins	Fischer
Booker	Coons	Gillibrand
Boozman	Cornyn	Graham
Braun	Cortez Masto	Grassley
Britt	Cotton	Hagerty
Brown	Cramer	Hassan
Budd	Crapo	Hawley
Cantwell	Cruz	Heinrich
Capito	Daines	Hickenlooper

Hirono	Mullin	Shaheen
Hoeven	Murphy	Sinema
Hyde-Smith	Murray	Smith
Johnson	Ossoff	Stabenow
Kaine	Padilla	Sullivan
Kelly	Paul	Tester
Kennedy	Peters	Thune
King	Reed	Tillis
Klobuchar	Ricketts	Tuberville
Lankford	Risch	Van Hollen
Lujan	Romney	Vance
Lummis	Rosen	Warner
Manchin	Rounds	Warnock
Markey	Rubio	Warren
Marshall	Sanders	Welch
McConnell	Schatz	Whitehouse
Menendez	Schmitt	Wicker
Merkley	Schumer	Wyden
Moran	Scott (FL)	Young

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein Murkowski Scott (SC)

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 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.

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 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, 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), 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 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 238 Ex.]

YEAS—96

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

NOT VOTING—4

Feinstein Romney
Murkowski Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote, the yeas are 96, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2791

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, since 1790, the Coast Guard, our Nation's oldest continuous seagoing service, has been the world's premier force in maritime safety, security, and stewardship. Guided by its core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty, the Coast Guard is a symbol of resolve to our adversaries and of hope to those in peril at sea.

Our Nation relies on more than 50,000 members of the Coast Guard each day to keep our country safe, to project national power, and to champion the rule

of law and governance on our waters and beyond.

In Texas, Coast Guard members are on patrol 365 days a year. From Station South Padre Island to Sector Houston-Galveston and beyond, Coast Guard members keep our citizens and our country safe. Just this week, a Coast Guard Air Station Houston helicopter crew completed a daring rescue, saving the life of a mariner 10 miles off the coast of Galveston, TX. When our Nation calls, the Coast Guard is always ready to answer.

As the ranking member of the Senate Commerce Committee, which has responsibility for policies affecting the Coast Guard and Coast Guard servicemembers and their families, I believe that in the event of a shutdown, the Coast Guard must be paid without question and without delay.

That is why, last week, I introduced the bipartisan Pay Our Coast Guard Act, which would treat coastguardsmen the same as all other servicemembers for purposes of pay and benefits if there is a lapse in appropriations. If a continuing resolution is not passed, the prudent thing to do—the right thing to do—is to agree now that we will pay the men and women of the Coast Guard. That is what this bill does.

If there is a shutdown, military personnel from all branches of the Armed Forces will keep working. In past shutdowns, Congress acted swiftly to pay our troops. But since the Coast Guard is housed in the Department of Homeland Security and not the Department of Defense, coastguardsmen were left out; they weren't compensated.

Our bipartisan legislation, which I introduced along with Senators CANTWELL, SULLIVAN, and BALDWIN, avoids that scenario by saying if there is a shutdown, all of our Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard, must be paid. This bipartisan bill makes clear, here and now, that we will not take the Coast Guard hostage to a shutdown fight.

While the American people can always count on the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard has not been always able to count on this Chamber to do the right thing. During the last government shutdown, which was precipitated by the Democrat majority in this Chamber in 2019, members of a single branch of our Armed Forces, the Coast Guard, worked without paychecks for 34 days, oftentimes alongside servicemembers of other branches who were still being paid. The Defense Department was funded, but the Homeland Security Department was not. So I joined with several Senate colleagues to advance a bill that would have treated members of the Coast Guard the same as those of the Air Force, the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps.

That bill was brought up before the entire U.S. Senate, but it was blocked by the Democratic leader.

The only thing necessary to ensure timely payment of every Coast Guard servicemember was for my colleagues

across the aisle to withdraw their objection. Regrettably, that did not happen. While coastguardsmen put their lives in danger protecting our maritime borders, some of their families were forced to resort to food pantries and short-term loans to pay for housing.

We have the opportunity today to get that right. Last month we marked the 233rd birthday of the Coast Guard. To commemorate the occasion, this Chamber unanimously passed a resolution that I introduced honoring the Coast Guard's excellence in maritime border security. The resolution also expressed the Senate's gratitude for the Coast Guard's work in protecting our people and our borders from illegal immigration and keeping deadly drugs like cocaine and fentanyl from entering the United States.

Again, that resolution passed the Senate unanimously in July. I hope to see similar unanimous support for the Coast Guard from my colleagues today. Let's not wait until we know if there is going to be a shutdown or not to make sure that coastguardsmen are treated fairly and equitably. Let's act now to show the coastguardsmen who keep us safe that we have got their backs as well.

Let's do the right thing by making clear that if we pay our Department of Defense groups, we are also going to pay our troops from the Coast Guard.

At this point, I want to yield to my colleague, the Senator from Alaska, Senator SULLIVAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I want to thank my colleague and friend Senator CRUZ from Texas, who has presented our bill, the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, which he noted is a bipartisan bill in the Commerce Committee—the chairman, the ranking member. I am the ranking member on the subcommittee in charge of the Coast Guard. The chair of that committee, Senator BALDWIN, is also a cosponsor of this bill.

Senator CRUZ laid it out really well. This is a very simple bill. The men and women who protect our coastline, who protect our country, who are in the military, whom I see working so hard, risking their lives day in and day out in Alaska, where we have some of the most members of the Coast Guard stationed in our great State than in almost any other State—they need to be protected, and they need to know the U.S. Senate has their back.

Now, it is kind of hard to believe what Senator CRUZ just mentioned, but let me repeat what happened in 2019. When there was a partial government shutdown, every branch of the U.S. military—the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force—they all got paid. They all got paid, with one exception—the Coast Guard.

Imagine how you felt if you were in the Coast Guard, watching your brothers and sisters in the other services getting paid and you weren't. There

were operations going on in the Persian Gulf where members of the Marine Corps, the Navy, and the Coast Guard were doing joint operations against Iranian aggression and one of those members on those ships and boats wasn't getting paid—the Coast Guard members.

So this happened in America. As a matter of fact, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, at the time, ADM Karl Schultz, said:

[T]his marks the first time in our Nation's history that servicemembers in a U.S. Armed Force have not been paid during a lapse in government appropriations.

So what are we doing on the floor today? We are saying: Let's not let this happen again.

In the event of a shutdown, which none of us want, let's make sure that what happened—and Senator CRUZ just mentioned it. Coast Guard men and women across the country, including in Alaska, woke up for 34 days and did not know whether they were going to get a paycheck and, essentially, had to rely on donations from the communities in which they served to do their job.

Now, look, the communities came together, and that was a wonderful thing. But I have committed to my Coast Guard members in Alaska and throughout the country that this should never happen again. This is a no-brainer, and I certainly hope no Senator is going to come down here and object and say: Well, this is an appropriations issue.

Come on. This is a right or wrong issue. Fix it. We are trying to fix it—right now.

I was the one who came down during the last government shutdown and tried to get unanimous consent. I talked to the President of the United States. He said he was going to sign our bill to pay the Coast Guard, and the Democratic minority leader, at the time, blocked it. I certainly hope none of our colleagues, Democrat or Republican, are going to block it again.

This is a bipartisan bill. It makes sense, and the Coast Guard and their family members are watching. Does the U.S. Senate have their back or not?

I strongly encourage my colleagues to work with us to pass our Pay Our Coast Guard Act bill right now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I thank Senator SULLIVAN for his excellent and heartfelt remarks.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2791, the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I share my

colleagues' concern with making sure the men and women of the Coast Guard get the pay they deserve in a timely way. In fact, I don't want any of our Federal workers to miss a paycheck. But this bill, which essentially says the Coast Guard gets paid as long as other members of our armed services are being paid, won't actually stop anyone from missing a paycheck in a few weeks because the looming shutdown would also stop pay for the military.

I appreciate that my colleagues want to talk about how Coast Guard pay is handled compared to other branches of our armed services, but, respectfully, the pressing issue right now is making sure everyone gets paid, and we prevent a completely unnecessary shutdown that would hurt our families across the country, which is why I am working around the clock to make sure we pass a bipartisan CR and supplemental package. And I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in that effort.

And I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I want every member of the Coast Guard to understand what just happened. We are 9 days away from the expiration of current government funding. No one here knows whether a shutdown will happen or not, but it is not complicated, with partisan divisions in Washington, that there is a very real risk of a shutdown.

I believe President Biden and the majority leader of the Senate—Senator SCHUMER—want a shutdown. Whether they want it or not, it is clear there is a very real risk. And if, 9 days from now, what happened in 2019 happens again, which is that our soldiers are paid, our sailors are paid, our airmen are paid, our marines are paid, but our coastguardsmen are left in the lurch—that is what happened in 2019, when Senator SULLIVAN and I came to the floor, tried to take care of our coastguardsmen then, and the Democrats objected. And if, 9 days from now, for the over 50,000 coastguardsmen across this country, their paychecks stop, you will know why, and it was because of two simple words just uttered on behalf of Democrat leadership: "I object."

Had the Democrats simply not said those words—"I object"—our coastguardsmen would be paid in 9 days. And understand that this legislation, as Senator SULLIVAN pointed out, is bipartisan legislation. It is authored by the chairman and ranking member of the Commerce Committee and the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Coast Guard. And yet Democrat leadership wants to engage in a partisan battle with the House of Representatives, and they want to hold the men and women of the Coast Guard hostage.

I am going to urge the Democrat leadership to reconsider. I don't know

whether we will have a shutdown or not, but I know it is unfair to treat coastguardsmen like the red-haired stepchild of our Armed Forces.

The men and women of the Coast Guard, when disaster strikes—and, look, I saw firsthand, when Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the incredible heroism of coastguardsmen who risked their lives to save people in harm's way.

What just happened on the Senate floor is not right, and I would encourage Democrat leadership to listen to their own Democrat chairman of the Commerce Committee, their own ranking member of the Coast Guard committee and say: We are going to end this unfair discrimination against the Coast Guard. We are going to treat our Armed Forces with equity, and regardless of dysfunction in Washington, we are going to pay our Coast Guard.

It is the right thing to do, and I would urge members from both sides of the aisle to come together and say: Just as we know the Coast Guard has our back if we are in trouble, that we have got their back as well. It is the right thing to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am shocked, disappointed, and, to be honest, stunned. I didn't think anyone was going to object to this bill. It makes no sense to do so. I didn't understand the Senator from Washington's explanation. Her colleague from Washington is actually the chairman of the Commerce Committee and a cosponsor of this bill.

So, again, this is a no-brainer. None of us want a government shutdown, but, if it happens, we can't let what happened in 2019 be repeated. And what happened in 2019 was that every member of the military services was paid, with the exception of the Coast Guard. And I have told them that we won't let that happen again.

So I am going to keep coming down to the floor with Senator CRUZ, and we are going to get this bill passed.

And if you are watching and you are a Coast Guard member and you understand what happened, Democratic leadership in the U.S. Senate just blocked this bill—a bipartisan bill to make sure you get treated fairly in the event of a government shutdown.

It is the right thing to do. Senator CRUZ and I will keep working it to make sure this happens.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON SMITH NOMINATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask consent that the vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 239 Ex.]

YEAS—96

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

NOT VOTING—4

Feinstein	Romney
Murkowski	Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2721

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I was Governor of Florida from January 2011 through January 2019, and we had a variety of disasters. We had four major hurricanes; we had wildfires; we had flooding—a variety of things.

What you find out in that role as Governor is you find out the importance of the Federal Government. FEMA is very important to disaster relief.

Disaster relief is partially borne by whomever is impacted, a family or a business. Partially, it is impacted by the city or county, partially by the State, and partially by the Federal Government.

My experience with FEMA is they are hard-working individuals that work

hard to try to be a good partner with our States.

Last September, about 12 months ago, we had a horrible hurricane in our State, Hurricane Ian. We lost over 150 people. We had unbelievable damage. FEMA has been a partner in that hurricane relief.

Just recently—about 3 weeks ago, 4 weeks ago—we had another hurricane, Idalia, and again FEMA came down and is a partner in that hurricane relief.

I met with President Biden 3 weeks ago when he came down to tour the damage, and I talked to him about the importance of getting FEMA fully funded.

There is a Federal Disaster Relief Fund that is part of FEMA that pays for things like debris pickup, helps individuals who have lost their homes, helps our small businesses—a variety of things like that.

Right now, this thing is getting low on funds. I checked on September 11. It is down to \$2.5 billion. And they project, by the end of this month, it will be down to \$550 million. What they also told me is that there is a community in every State in this country that is getting impacted by the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund.

So I have been trying, for months, to get a vote on a bill which is pretty commonsense. No. 1, it will put funds into FEMA so they can provide help for all these communities in every State. No. 2, the next thing it does is helps our farmers.

Our farmers in Florida have been waiting for almost 12 months for relief from the Department of Agriculture. Historically, what the Department of Agriculture did, especially when I was Governor, was they would provide a block grant to the State, to our farmers, so the money could get out to our farmers quicker.

For whatever reason, Secretary Vilsack, the Secretary of Ag, has decided now that he has to have separate legislation from Congress that gives him specific authority that he can do a block grant.

It has never happened before. But for whatever reason, he believes it has to happen now. That is in this bill.

The Army of Corps of Engineers is a key partner in beach renourishment in any State that has been impacted. I know our Presiding Officer had wildfires, and I am sure their beaches have had some impact. So it would also help our Army Corps of Engineers, help with beach renourishment, and also help our military installations after a disaster.

So mine is a commonsense bill. It impacts some community in every State in the country. So what I am asking for is a stand-alone vote on my bill. It is called the Federal Disaster Responsibility Act. I hope every Senator here will unanimously agree that we should do this.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged

from further consideration of S. 2721 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask that the Scott-Rubio substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passing the bill, as amended, with a 60-vote affirmative threshold required for passage of the bill; finally, if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, may I say that I appreciate that Senator SCOTT would like to accelerate disaster aid to his home State. But let me observe that disasters have taken place not only in Florida but in the Presiding Officer's home State of Hawaii, in Vermont, in New York, in Louisiana, and other States as well.

And in response to that, what President Biden did was made a request to Congress in August to pass a comprehensive emergency supplemental that includes an increase in funding for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. It also includes \$45 million for the Department of Ag and \$15 million for the Department of Interior to support more than 20,000 firefighters who are out there braving this explosion in new wildfires that are taking place across our country.

This is driven by climate change. Let's be clear about that. We have had 14 named storms so far in the 2023 hurricane season. If you look back at last year, weather-related damage in the United States topped 165 billion. We have had testimony in my Budget Committee from OMB that climate change will cost the Federal budget \$2 trillion per year.

We cannot address this piecemeal, and we cannot address it only by providing disaster relief and not doing anything useful to head off these risks. Some of these are what economists call systemic risks. "Systemic" doesn't sound like it is a very big word, but what it means is the risk cascades out of the area where the economic harm is taking place to trash the whole economy. Just the way the 2008 mortgage meltdown didn't just trash the banks that had the bad mortgages, it took down the whole U.S. economy—that is predicted for coastal property value crash; that is predicted for a wildfire uninsurability crash; that is predicted for a carbon bubble crash.

And the insurance meltdown has already begun in Florida, in Louisiana, and in Texas. So the warning signs of another 2008-scale financial crisis are already flashing red. And behind those immediate warning signs looms the collapse of Earth's basic natural operating systems that science has predicted for decades and with real precision.

We need to do a lot more than just clean up. We do need to clean up the

disasters, but we also need to get the predisaster preparation resources in because we know this is coming, and we know it is getting worse. And we absolutely need to head off the root cause of all of this, which is fossil fuel emissions choking our atmosphere with greenhouse gases, heating up the Earth, and causing us to spin out from basic conditions of habitability of the Earth that have existed for tens of thousands of years.

So what we should do is pass the continuing resolution with full funding for the President's supplemental request for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, for the Department of Agriculture firefighter money, for the Department of Interior firefighter money, and while we are at it, because President Zelenskyy was here today, I will also add that it is really important to continue to support Ukraine.

For those reasons, I will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's concern about some of these other issues. I think we ought to have a discussion about those and see if we can get something done. But right now, the Disaster Relief Fund is going to be down to the \$550 million by the end of this month. There is a community in every State—and this fund only covers where it fits within the parameters where FEMA says that the Federal Government is responsible for a portion of it. But this would help a community in every State in the country. So I hope, at some point, we can get this passed. There is a community in every State in this country that is getting impacted by this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Iowa.

CREDIT SUISSE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, earlier this year, Chairman WHITEHOUSE and I began bipartisan work to investigate Credit Suisse's historical servicing of Nazi-linked accounts. Today, I would like to discuss this important bipartisan work and thank Senator WHITEHOUSE and his staff for their assistance on this very important topic.

In March of 2020, Simon Wiesenthal Center notified Credit Suisse that it found previously undisclosed information relating to the bank's Nazi ties. The bank, to its credit, initially took steps in the right direction and agreed to investigate. It even retained a research firm to conduct a forensic review. It even retained former TARP Inspector General Neil Barofsky to oversee that review as an independent ombudsman, and they also had U.S. Envoy Ira Forman as an independent adviser.

But after Credit Suisse hired a new general counsel—so a new person stepped in—the bank paused its review, limited experts' access to records, and terminated Barofsky and Forman; very odd acts to take compared to the positive start of this investigation.

Anyway, the bank cited performance issues for the termination. Well, the then-general counsel's predecessor never expressed those concerns, and the bank's research firm described Barofsky as professional. And I happen to know some of Barofsky's work, and he is, in fact, a professional.

Barofsky drafted a report about what he observed at the bank and found, as he was contractually obligated to do. So Chairman WHITEHOUSE and I issued the Budget Committee's first subpoena since 1991 to obtain that report.

Credit Suisse had prevented Barofsky from providing us a fully unredacted report. Ultimately, we not only obtained that report fully unredacted but also the bank's own report.

So then what did Chairman WHITEHOUSE and I find? Credit Suisse did not review and investigate all relevant records. For example, Credit Suisse did not use a full dataset from its predecessor's bank.

It inconsistently collected and reviewed information such as account balances. Credit Suisse failed to review allegations that Nazi heirs had sought access to bank accounts.

When the review pointed to evidence of wrongdoing beyond Argentina, Credit Suisse stated the information was "out of scope" and then didn't do any investigation.

Now, even after those limitations, the reports revealed new information, including nearly 100—and let me emphasize "100"—previously undisclosed Nazi-linked accounts. Some accounts remained open as recently as the year 2020.

And when we finally got an unredacted version, it showed evidence that 64,000—let me emphasize "64,000"—sets of potentially relevant records related to Nazi-linked accounts were not part of the investigation.

Credit Suisse claims that they are irrelevant without giving us a sufficient explanation. Credit Suisse also blocked its independent oversight that included Barofsky, Forman, and also a historian hired to assist the investigation from accessing critical evidence.

The reports also raised brandnew questions about the bank's potential support for Nazis fleeing justice following World War II via the infamous ratlines.

Until pressured by Chairman WHITEHOUSE and me, Credit Suisse had refused to fully investigate allegations of its potential role aiding Nazis' escape from justice via the ratlines.

So, today, despite multiple requests, Credit Suisse still refuses to share exact details on the scope of its ongoing ratlines review. This is unacceptable.

And do you know what else is unacceptable? Credit Suisse's actions after we made those reports public are unacceptable. The bank issued a press release on April 19 of this year filled with one excuse after another. The bank's press release essentially ignored its own report. It also incorrectly claimed

full cooperation with the committee's oversight, despite the bank objecting to the committee receiving a fully unredacted copy of the Barofsky report until July 31 and despite failing to provide a full report of the ratlines review.

Then, the bank petitioned a Federal court against the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The bank says that litigation from the 1990s provided full disclosure in all matters related to the Holocaust and World War II.

Now, this seems to me that the bank is trying to silence a prominent—very prominent—Jewish human rights organization. Ironically, as the bank continues down this road, it appears to be creating a modern-day “David versus Goliath” story.

Notably, it was the bank that initiated the new review that I have discussed with my fellow Senators here today. Credit Suisse acknowledged the potential for the investigation to result in settlements or restitution. The fact that the bank has since agreed to fully review its reported role with the ratlines also shows that we are dealing with a whole new set of facts. But now let's take a step back.

I have listed numbers, and I have listed figures. Let's not forget that we are talking here about, not facts and figures, we are talking about real people, victims of atrocities perpetrated through the Holocaust. Credit Suisse—and now UBS as the new owner—must embrace the sunlight, which, of course, we all know in government is the best disinfectant.

So here is my advice: Accept the historical facts and own those facts. They ought to play a positive role in exposing the historical evils of the Nazis once and for all.

Credit Suisse—and now UBS—has a responsibility to expose all information related to its historic servicing of Nazis during and also following World War II. They owe it to the Holocaust victims, survivors, and to the world community.

This information is very critical to a more complete record, and it will also allow us to learn from history, to create a more peaceful, just future. We must learn from history to prevent the mistakes of the past, from those mistakes being repeated again.

Simon Wiesenthal once said:

Justice for crimes against humanity must have no limitations.

So I encourage Credit Suisse and UBS to bring this matter to a positive conclusion worthy of history's eyes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this year, with full bipartisan support, the Senate Budget Committee issued its first subpoena in more than 30 years.

Ranking Member GRASSLEY has just recounted how his office received credible information about Credit Suisse's historical servicing of Nazi clients and their enablers, and the Budget Com-

mittee responded by issuing a subpoena compelling the production of relevant documents.

Senator GRASSLEY and his team brought this request to me and my team, and I thank him for bringing this to the committee and for his commitment to pursuing justice for Holocaust survivors and their families.

When we first launched this investigation, I said and I will say it again: When presented with credible evidence of Credit Suisse's Nazi ties, the Budget Committee had an obligation to investigate.

The subpoenaed records shined new light on the extent of Credit Suisse's Nazi ties, uncovering nearly 100 previously undisclosed Nazi-linked accounts and related information. Our investigation revealed the servicing of many of those accounts until as recently as 2020.

For all that this investigation revealed, it also raised new questions about Credit Suisse's role in supporting Nazis fleeing justice following World War II via so-called ratlines. Because of the Budget Committee's investigation, Credit Suisse has expanded the scope of its internal investigation to look into those questions. The bank has committed to producing followup reports prepared by its forensic accountants, ombudspersons, and the bank itself in the coming weeks. We stand ready on the committee to pursue whatever information will fully shine light into this dark chapter.

I will take this opportunity to talk about the importance of strong congressional oversight. Many see Congress only as our Nation's legislative body. While legislating is certainly our most recognizable function, our oversight and investigative functions are not to be overlooked.

As the Supreme Court recognized in 1927, “The power of inquiry with process to enforce it is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function. . . . A legislative body cannot legislate wisely or effectively in the absence of information respecting the conditions which the legislation is intended to affect or change.”

Recently, in the case of *Trump v. Mazars*, the Supreme Court said of Congress that “[w]ithout information, Congress would be shooting in the dark, unable to legislate wisely or effectively.”

So investigations like ours demonstrate what good congressional oversight can achieve: advancing transparency, pursuing justice, ensuring corporate accountability.

Whether it is holding companies responsible for their involvement with the Nazis, as in this case, or shining light on companies that are poisoning our planet while making hard-working Americans foot the bill or just promoting good, transparent corporate citizenship, I pledge, as chairman of the Budget Committee, to determine who is complicit in the looming systemic risks to the Federal budget and the U.S. economy.

Especially where we work together across the aisle, we can accomplish big goals on behalf of the American people. That is why I partnered with Ranking Member GRASSLEY on this investigation, and that is why our staffs continue to work together on other investigations.

Senator GRASSLEY, thank you again for bringing this matter to the committee. Thank you for your passionate pursuit of this issue. I share your commitment to leaving no stone unturned. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight a historic moment which will help millions of older Americans and families access affordable prescription drugs.

For too long, U.S. families have paid the highest prices compared to other countries, often leading millions of Americans to leave their pharmacy counter emptyhanded. With the passage and implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act under President Biden's leadership, Democrats are answering the call of the American people for affordable, accessible prescription drugs.

No one should have to go into debt to buy the prescription drugs they need to live a healthy, productive life. Yet this is a dilemma many families in the United States face. Twenty-nine percent of Americans either cannot afford their prescription drugs or are rationing them, and the United States stands alone in this among our developed-nation peers.

The United States spends about \$600 billion annually on prescription drugs. In 2019, the latest year in which internationally comparable data from OECD is available, the United States spent over \$1,100 per capita on prescription medicines. When you compare that to the other OECD countries, it is twice as much.

Getting worse, by 2021 the United States spent over \$1,400 per capita on prescription drugs. Americans and Marylanders are struggling to pay for their prescription medications, and it is long past time for Congress to take decisive action to deal with this issue.

Prescription drugs have been lifesaving for millions, but if they are unaffordable, then their benefit is lost. High prescription drug prices drive health inequities that we are fighting to eradicate since groups in fair or poor health struggle to afford their medications.

U.S. prescription drug prices are set through a complicated process by manufacturers, pharmaceutical benefit

managers, and payers. Prices are often disconnected from the health impacts of the products being purchased. Opponents of addressing the high prescription drug prices claim that more affordable prices will come at the expense of innovation.

I must tell you, I disagree with that, and research also tells us that is just not true. To ensure access to innovative treatments and prescriptions, the U.S. Government, thanks to the U.S. taxpayer, makes significant investments in biomedical research. No greater example of this investment is the National Institutes of Health, located in my home State of Maryland, which is the world's largest government funder of biomedical research. Almost all drugs rely on NIH-supported basic science in their development, and the returns on these investments are very high. We have doubled down on this in the CHIPS and Science bill, putting more money into basic biomedical research.

Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have found that each \$125 million NIH grant leads to \$375 million—that is a 3-to-1 ratio—more in private market value, 33 more patents, and 1 new drug.

Another study estimated that the rate of return on NIH investments is 43 percent and that each dollar of NIH funding leads to an additional \$8.40 in private research and development spending. These are great public investments, and it is leading to innovation. It is leading to development of new drugs.

Further, the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs also support innovation. Known as the SBIR/STTR Programs, they currently are the largest U.S. Federal Government programs supporting small businesses to conduct research and development. This is just another example of government-supported research that is inspiring new innovation and discovery.

SBIR began in 1982 and currently requires that each Federal Agency spending more than \$100 million annually on external research set aside 3.2 percent of these funds for awards to small businesses. SBIR is very selective, with only about 22 percent of the applicants receiving funding. For many small businesses, the SBIR “serves as the first place many entrepreneurs involved in technological innovation go to for funding.”

Through the SBIR/STTR Programs, NIH supports drug innovation by setting aside more than 3.2 percent of its overall intramural research and development budget, specifically to support early-stage small businesses throughout our Nation. Many companies leverage this NIH funding to attract the partners and investors needed to take innovation to the market.

I have the honor of chairing the Small Business Committee here in the U.S. Senate, and I can tell you the

small businesses are the innovators of America. They are the ones coming up with new discoveries.

Thanks to this government program and thanks to these government-supported partnerships, our small companies are leading in biomedical developments. And, I must tell you, thanks to small businesses, they are also growth engines for jobs in America.

For example, Amgen, which was founded in 1980, received an SBIR investment in 1986 as a small company. Today, it is a multinational biopharmaceutical company with over 20,000 employees. That is creating jobs—good jobs—here for Americans.

Despite these significant taxpayer investments, prescription drugs are often priced at levels that limit access to lifesaving drugs, particularly among those who are underinsured or uninsured. Even after accounting for the costs and risks of R&D, evidence shows that the returns on new products exceed the normal rates of return.

For years, Congress has been working on commonsense solutions to increase access to affordable prescription medications, reducing costs for patients and taxpayers. Finally, last year, under President Biden's leadership, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act. This historic law removed a decades-old restriction on Medicare negotiating directly for the price of prescription drugs, finally empowering Medicare to get older Americans the best prices for their prescription drugs.

In the private sector, no plan sponsor or manager would ever accept responsibility without the ability to decide how to negotiate. No private sector company would parcel themselves out in order to negotiate. They would use their full size as their market force. That is exactly what we did in the Inflation Reduction Act to allow Medicare to negotiate using its full market force to bring down the costs of prescription medicines for those under the Medicare system.

It should have been done originally. We got it done in the Inflation Reduction Act. Medicare negotiations will ensure that patients with Medicare get the best possible price on high-priced drugs.

Three weeks ago, the Biden-Harris administration announced the first 10 drugs that will be part of the first round of negotiation. This historic occasion is the culmination of decades of efforts by Democrats to make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible to Medicare beneficiaries. The 10 drugs chosen for negotiation are taken by 10 million older Americans, representing about \$50 billion in annual spending. They are used to treat conditions including blood clots, diabetes, cancer, heart failure, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Another policy included in the Inflation Reduction Act is to increase prescription drug affordability by capping Medicare patients' out-of-pocket costs at \$3,000 in just a couple months and

then lowering to \$2,000 beginning in 2025. This policy will save Medicare beneficiaries from paying tens of thousands of dollars to purchase lifesaving drugs prescribed by their doctors.

And there is more good news. As of this year, vaccines are free in Medicare, insulin is capped at \$35 a month, and drug companies are penalized if they raise prices faster than inflation.

All of these policies will make U.S. prescription drugs more affordable for individuals and families who desperately need them. Democrats worked together to pass the Inflation Reduction Act and to make these policies a reality.

Today, I celebrate the progress we have made, and I urge all of my Senate colleagues to join in our efforts to continue making progress and leading the world in developing new drugs to improve health outcomes and to make these drugs affordable to our constituents and lower the costs to the taxpayers of this country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Kansas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, on Sunday, our Border Patrol reported more than 7,500 migrants illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border—7,500 migrants crossed the border on Sunday. Then on Monday, there were more than 8,000 arrests along the southern border as a new surge of migrants tried crossing on that day.

These numbers still haven't provoked any significant, meaningful response from the Biden administration, even though they are just shy of that single-day record for the year that was recorded in May after the end of title 42.

Every day, I think that there is going to be a response, a reply, a significant effort. It isn't necessarily a partisan issue. Democratic Mayor Eric Adams stated last week that New York City is being destroyed, and it will cost \$12 billion after an influx of 110,000 migrants from the southern border have landed in the city. And while 110,000 migrants clearly are a massive number for any city to absorb, it is only a tiny fraction—a very tiny fraction—of the 2.76—2.76 million migrants who crossed the border in fiscal year 2022.

The unending catastrophic situation on the border has continued for so long that it seems like the Biden administration has grown numb to what, in any circumstance, would be considered a crisis—a crisis for the people who are crossing, a crisis for the people in the United States, a crisis for the people in New York City.

Gone are the days when the migrants showing up at our borders were from our neighboring country to the south. Now migrants are flooding in on trains from El Salvador, Haiti, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and most significant to me, China.

We have a gaping hole in our national security that stretches from California to Texas and, I assume, our other borders as well, and our adversaries are already using that circumstance to their advantage.

I visited the border with a bipartisan group of Senators earlier this year and witnessed Chinese nationals being apprehended—apprehended—by our border agents.

This week, it was reported that approximately 18,000 Chinese nationals had been encountered at the southern border. This is compared to 2,000 in 2022 and only 450—still a big number—in 2021. It was also reported that some of these individuals potentially had ties to the Chinese Communist Party and that not one of them was detained for any length of time.

This failure to respond to the arrival of the Chinese succeeded the FBI report that I had read, with great concern, about migrants with ties to ISIS who had been permitted to enter the country. The Customs and Border Patrol, which is overworked and understaffed, released an individual on the terrorist watch list into the country. The American people deserve answers from Secretary Mayorkas and from the Biden administration.

I have been on this floor previously, numerous times, like many of my colleagues, to make the case that the crisis at the southern border is causing an influx of illegal, deadly drugs—like fentanyl from China—to enter the United States and is leading to the overdose deaths of thousands of Americans. I made the case that this is a humanitarian crisis as mothers and children attempt to make the long, dangerous trek across Mexico. Along the way, they face hunger, heat waves, human trafficking, and drug cartels. Caravans with thousands of migrants continue to march on our southern border. Border agents have been pulled away to deal with the record number of migrants and are left without the manpower to try and stop drug and human traffickers, spies, and potential terrorists.

For a long time, we have worried about people just coming across our border who are violating our sovereignty and taking our jobs; but it is even more significant and more critical that we respond now as our law enforcement deals with drug cartels, human trafficking, and now our national security—harmed significantly by those who enter our country illegally to do us harm.

President Biden must act to ensure the stricter enforcement of our immigration laws, reinstate the construction of a wall or fencing in areas that are largely unprotected, and the ad-

ministration must send a message, loud and clear, that our border is closed to unlawful entrants.

It is way past time—way past time—we finished the wall and gave our law enforcement agents the tools they need to better protect our border. Instead, this administration is sitting on resources and paying storage fees for the unused border wall panels. With the President's lack of action, it is just an amazing circumstance we find ourselves in. Our national security is at stake, and we have failed to respond.

I would say that we can do more than one thing at one time. I also believe that the Senate should act to deliver lasting solutions to keep our border secure, to keep our communities safe, and to ensure the humane treatment of migrants. We could start by taking a vote on the Secure the Border Act. Securing our southern border shouldn't be—and I hope isn't—a Republican or a Democratic issue. It is not a Texas or a New Mexico or an Arizona issue. It is a national security issue.

Speaking of national security, I would be remiss if I didn't raise the importance of passing a supplemental appropriation that includes not only support for our efforts to contain the influx of people on our southern border and on our borders generally but that also includes money to support the efforts by the Ukrainian people to have a free country. While Ukrainian forces have not made a decisive breakthrough in their counteroffensive, they are making incremental progress that deserves our ongoing support.

The commitments made by our European allies now surpass America's, and the assistance that the United States has sent to Ukraine has been accounted for by multiple inspectors general. A failure on our part to remain committed would shake the confidence in the United States of allied capitals around the world. This, in turn, could lead to more aggression by more adversaries. Now is not the time to give up on Ukraine. Vladimir Putin is counting on our doing so. His only way to win—his only way to win—is to hang in long enough until the West—until the United States—and our allies grow tired or otherwise become distracted. America's resolve against Russia's aggression should be unwavering.

The world is watching and judging American dependability. If we are found unreliable, the world will become an even more dangerous place. If we fail, the world becomes a more dangerous place. This is certainly about Ukraine, but it is about the security and safety of the people of the United States. Looking the other way is not an option.

What is happening at our southern border and, in fact, what is happening well beyond our borders in Europe needs a serious response. The security of our country, the security of American citizens, the security of Kansans depends upon it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL ERIC M. SMITH

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor for a couple of reasons but No. 1 and most important is to congratulate General Smith, Gen. Eric Smith, to be the new Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Now, the Presiding Officer may have seen the vote—a pretty impressive vote, 96 to 0. That does not happen a lot in the U.S. Senate. But every Senator on the floor just an hour ago gave Gen. Eric Smith a huge vote of confidence—and with good reason.

This is a Marine officer who has a stellar career—stellar career. He has commanded at every level in the Marine Corps: as an infantry officer, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment. As a general officer, he commanded the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Corps Division, III MEF—Marine Expeditionary Force—and Marine Corps Combat Development Command. That is about as stellar a career as it gets.

Additionally, he is a serious combat veteran. As I have noted to my colleagues before, a lot of the flag officers in the military right now were the lieutenants and captains right after 9/11. This is a group of senior military leaders who have seen more combat than certainly almost any other generation since World War II. And General Smith was one of those: wounded in action in Iraq, did not want to go home; frontline commander in combat; served in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, like a lot of commanders during these challenging wars, he had a number of marines and friends killed in action whom he was in command of. So he knows war. He knows the Marine Corps.

I look forward to working closely with General Smith on a whole host of issues related to the Marine Corps and now, as a member of the Joint Chiefs, related to the national defense of our country, including Marine Corps force design, including the Navy's requirement that is in law—in law, if you are watching, Secretary of the Navy Del Toro; it is in law—31 amphibys for the Marine Corps.

So these and many other issues I look forward to working with General Smith on. But again, 96 to 0.

Great job, General. Semper Fi.

Mr. President, I also think it is important to just talk a little bit about how we got here, and to be honest, we should have gotten here a lot earlier—weeks, if not months, earlier.

I am a pro-life and pro-military Senator, so I have been very involved in these negotiations between leadership

and some of our Members on issues of moving forward nominees but also on not agreeing with Secretary Austin's memo as it relates to travel issues.

There have been a number of us who have been trying to get to a resolution on some of the holds that are happening here on the Senate floor.

By the way, holds happen all the time. The way they are resolved 98 percent of the time is through compromise. So that is why I am trying to help my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the administration and the Department of Defense. But in the meantime, there was nothing preventing the majority leader from bringing qualified military members to the floor for a vote—nothing. As a matter of fact, in the Senate, we vote on members of the Joint Chiefs all the time. That is a tradition here—when the Democrats have been in charge, when the Republicans have been in charge—but that has not been the priority here.

In the last several months, we have had 76 rollcall votes, everything from the Assistant Administrator of the EPA to district court judges, NLRB judges, Board members for the National Archives, Assistant Secretaries of Education, HHS. You name it, we have been confirming them, with the exception of one group: military officers.

A lot of the press is saying: Well, that was the Senator from Alabama.

That is not true. That is not true at all. We could be voting on individual members of the Joint Chiefs. That wasn't the priority. That wasn't the priority.

Senator TUBERVILLE was going to make a resolution, signed by 17 Senators, to file cloture on General Smith, and all of a sudden, the majority leader thought it was important to start moving forward on Joint Chiefs of Staff nominees. I think that is good. That shows some compromise. And I think even that little bit of compromise is going to help us on the broader issues that we are all trying to address.

But I do want to just correct the record. In our Ukraine briefing yesterday, Secretary Austin, Secretary of Defense, said he really appreciated Senator SCHUMER's leadership on filing cloture on these Joint Chiefs we just voted on. Well, with all due respect to Senator SCHUMER and Secretary Austin, it wasn't his leadership; it was our side of the aisle that forced his hand to do it. That is a fact. That is a fact.

So, Mr. Secretary, I know the Senate procedures can be a little confusing, but you might want to thank this side of the aisle for actually moving forward to make sure that Joint Chiefs are getting confirmed.

So I hope we continue to do that and continue to work like a number of us have been on a broader compromise here to move forward on these other military nominees.

By the way, I do welcome many of my Democratic colleagues' newfound

interest in national security. A number of them have been howling about national security and we are not ready and readiness issues. A lot of them, I have never heard them talk about national security, but they are all talking about it now. That is great. Welcome.

By the way, join me in criticizing President Biden for sending to us 3 years in a row three budgets each year that dramatically cut our Department of Defense.

President Biden's budget this year shrinks the Army, shrinks the Navy, shrinks the Marine Corps. It is exactly the wrong message to be sending Xi Jinping and Putin during one of the most dangerous times our Nation faced since the end of World War II.

So if you are worried about national security, join me on some of these. It is great. I hear a lot of howling from silent voices on national security from the other side of the aisle, so I welcome you to be caring about these issues.

I want to end where I started, and I want to thank and congratulate again General Smith. I also want to congratulate the new soon-to-be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General C.Q. Brown, who is also exceptionally qualified, and the new Chief of Staff of the Army, General George. All three were recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate in overwhelming numbers—overwhelming. That is progress. On both sides of the aisle, that is progress. That is what we needed. I am hopeful that progress will lead to more compromise on these other issues that we all know are important.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, for the last week, we have seen chaos and dysfunction in the House of Representatives as they try to come up with a single bill to fund the government to avert a shutdown. We are now 9 days away from a lapse in funding, and even though it is their responsibility under the Constitution to originate an appropriations bill, they have got nothing. They have no plan to pass a bill that can be signed into law.

I want to be really clear about this because when we had this debt ceiling fight earlier in the year, the bar was lowered so much for the House of Representatives that passing anything was considered a legislative victory. All the political pundits and newsletters out there were lauding the House of Representatives for passing a legislative vehicle—not one that could pass, not one that was well thought through, not one that was bipartisan, not one that was on its way to the President's desk, but just like passing something is like a huge victory. I was irritated back then because if CHUCK SCHUMER passed something on a partisan basis that couldn't be enacted by the House and wasn't going to be signed by the President of the United States, nobody would be giving him credit.

The point here is to make a law. The point here is to make a law. But they haven't even cleared the bar that was so low in the spring that even if you pass something that is largely symbolic, you have united your caucus and you have shown you can legislate. They have not. They have not shown that they can legislate.

But let's be clear. The consequences in the next 9 days are dire.

A few of my colleagues on the Senate side stopped us from being the legislative body that we ought to be. So let's back up a second.

Every year at the end of the year, we usually pass an appropriations bill. It is called an omnibus. It takes all 12 individual appropriations bills and piles them up into one, and everybody gets very irritated because it is so much, right, that it is difficult for a legislator to sort out what they like about a bill and what they don't like about a bill. It is hard to do amendments.

So lots of Members—mostly on the Republican side—said: You know what. We need to do the regular order.

What is the regular order? Well, it is a little bit in the eye of the beholder, but the basic idea is, we should have committee markups; we should vote on stuff; we should have amendments; we should behave like the legislative body we grew up learning about.

The regular order. We demand it.

So PATTY MURRAY, the chair of Appropriations, and SUSAN COLLINS, the vice chair of Appropriations—Democrat and Republican—together said: Let's do the regular order.

So we do a committee markup on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development. It happens to be my subcommittee. Unanimous, bipartisan vote. Then we do MILCON and VA. Unanimous, bipartisan vote. Then we do ag approps. Unanimous, bipartisan vote. Because people—correctly, in my view—demanded no more omnibuses. So we are going to do this. We are going to do it old school, right? How we should.

So we put together this process and, again, unanimous, bipartisan vote. So we tried to bunch these together, and then Republicans stopped us from pursuing the regular order. Three bills, each of which passed out of committee with unanimous, bipartisan support, 13 Republican votes—we couldn't even begin debate on the Senate floor.

What are we doing here? Americans across the country are counting on the Federal Government to help them, and right now, Congress is not getting it done. I get that there is plenty to argue about between Democrats and Republicans, particularly during this time of year, but we have to do our jobs.

Americans impacted by disasters are the ones that are most desperately in need. That includes the people on Maui who are just beginning the recovery process from last month's devastating wildfires, but also people in States across the country—in Vermont, in

Florida, in California, in Texas, and in many other States. In each case, the need for recovery is so big that the local county or State can't manage the recovery.

That is what it means when the President declares a national disaster. It, sort of, just means it is a really big disaster. But at a technical level, what does it mean? It means that this thing is too big for county government. This thing is too big for State government.

So the President declares the disaster, and then we fund the disasters. We put money in the Disaster Relief Fund, and then FEMA can access it on behalf of whomever needs the help.

As it stands, without Congress providing additional funding to Federal Agencies that are working to respond to these disasters, aid to communities will dry up. For instance, FEMA just said that there is only \$2.4 billion remaining in its Disaster Relief Fund, and, as a result, it is delaying funding for over 1,000 long-term projects, totaling \$1.8 billion, in past disaster recovery zones in order to continue urgent work on Maui.

What do they do? When they run low, they prioritize current disasters. So they are servicing the problem on Maui, as they should be.

But anybody who had a disaster in the last couple of years—Louisiana, Texas, New Jersey, New York, California, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida—all of them have their disaster recovery money frozen. Why? Because the House of Representatives adjourned for the week without having passed a single appropriations bill, because the Senate—Senate Democrats are ready to roll and many Senate Republicans are ready to roll—and we have blocked our own request. We asked for the regular order. We did it in regular order, and then they said: Actually, no, let's not do that.

I want us to all feel a collective sense of urgency, not just because the end of the Federal fiscal year is coming shortly and there does not appear to be a viable plan from the House of Representatives, but because there is special urgency as it relates to disaster response.

I know the Presiding Officer is working so hard to get resources for his home State and the terrible floods that he experienced. Obviously, MAZIE HIRONO and I are working very hard with our colleagues to try to get the funding that we need for Maui. But this isn't just a Maui or Vermont problem. This is an across-the-country problem.

By the way, the way the Disaster Relief Fund works, you prefund it. You don't fund individual disaster responses. You just put money in this pile—the Disaster Relief Fund—and then, wherever there is a disaster, you have access to it.

I have never seen—I have only been here 11 years, but I have never seen us decide not to fund disaster relief.

Let's fight about everything, except whether or not our fellow Americans

get the help that they need from the Federal Government. This is one of the core responsibilities of the Federal legislature. This is one of the core things we have to do, not just as a matter of public policy but morally. What are we here for other than to help our fellow Americans when they are in desperate situations?

In Hawaii, in West Maui, you have hundreds of kids still not in school. You have an elementary school that was destroyed. You have sewer and water treatment facilities that have been not destroyed but deeply damaged. You have Lahaina Harbor that is not operable. You have telecom services that are not operating at full capacity. You have roads that are trashed. And that is to say nothing of the 1,800 homes burnt to the ground, 2,200 structures—2,200 structures—and, very likely, between 100 and 200 dead.

We have to stop messing around here.

I have been known to be partisan sometimes. I have been known to get into it with my colleagues on the Republican side. But part of the beauty of the American system of government, when it works, is that you can fight about all the stuff that you are supposed to fight about and not fight about the stuff that you are not supposed to fight about. We are not supposed to fight about whether people on Maui or people in Vermont, or people in Florida or people in Texas or Louisiana or California get the help that they need.

We have to get our act together and get this money out.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 307, Philip S. Hadji, to be a judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of 15 years, that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate, that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Philip S. Hadji, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-42, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$150 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-42

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * 0 million.

Other 150 million.

Total 150 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: The Government of Kuwait has requested the replacement of expiring limited life components and certifications testing in order to support an operational life of thirty (30) years for Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles. Included in this potential sale are: test and repair of PAC-3 missiles; stockpile reliability testing and field returns; repair and return of classified and unclassified PAC-3 missile items and ground support equipment (GSE) component level parts; replenishment of classified and unclassified missile spares, GSE spares, and seeker spares; tools to improve the turnaround time of the repair and recertification efforts; air transportation services for missile processing; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support; training devices; organizational equipment; support equipment; test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (KU-B-UYK).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KU-B-UMI.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 20, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kuwait—Repair and Recertification of Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missiles

The Government of Kuwait has requested the replacement of expiring limited life components and certifications testing in order to support an operational life of thirty (30) years for Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles. Included in this potential sale are: test and repair of PAC-3 missiles; stockpile reliability testing and field returns; repair and return of classified and unclassified PAC-3 missile items and ground support equipment (GSE) component level parts; replenishment of classified and unclassified missile spares, GSE spares, and seeker spares; tools to improve the turnaround time of the repair and recertification efforts; air transportation services for missile processing; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support; training devices; organizational equipment; support equipment; test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$150 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the infrastructure of a Major Non-NATO ally that has been an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

This proposed sale will improve Kuwait's capability to sustain their missile density and ensure readiness for air operations. Kuwait will use this capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen homeland defense. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this infrastructure, support, and associated services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be the Lockheed Martin Corporation, Camden, Arkansas. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional

U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Kuwait.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-69 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-69

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$500 million.

Total \$500 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE:

A Foreign Military Sales Order (FMSO) II to provide funds for blanket order requisitions under a Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Agreement (CLSSA) for common spares/repair parts to support the Royal Saudi Land Force's (RSLF) fleet of Abrams tanks, M-60 tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, mortar carriers, Combat Engineer Vehicles (HMMWVs), Mine Resistance Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs), howitzers, additional support vehicles, components & acces-

sories, pistols, rifles, crew-served weapons, recoilless rifles, mortars, vehicle periscopes, night vision devices, TOW launchers and missile parts, computer units, radar sets, generators, testing/calibration equipment, communication and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-KYZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SR-B-UBW, SR-B-KRK, SR-B-KSB, SR-B-KYL, SR-KYM, SR-B-KYN.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 21, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Saudi Arabia—Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA) Program, Foreign Military Sales Order (FMSO) II

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy a Foreign Military Sales Order (FMSO) II to provide funds for blanket order requisitions under a Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Agreement (CLSSA) for common spares repairs parts to support the Royal Saudi Land Force's (RSLF) fleet of Abrams tanks, M-60 tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, mortar carriers, Combat Engineer Vehicles, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs), Mine Resistance Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs), howitzers, additional support vehicles, components & accessories, pistols, rifles, crew-served weapons, recoilless rifles, mortars, vehicle periscopes, night vision devices, TOW launchers and missile parts, computer units, radar sets, generators, testing/calibration equipment, communication equipment and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$500 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by supporting a strategic partner's self-defense and promoting stability in the Middle East.

This proposed sale will maintain Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats by allowing the RSLF to continue to purchase needed spare/repair parts, through their current CLSSA program, to replenish in-country stocks required for general maintenance and sustain the operability of RSLF equipment. The RSLF has participated in the CLSSA program since 1965 and will have no difficulty absorbing these items into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There are no principal contractors involved with this potential sale. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the permanent assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Saudi Arabia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. President, today I would like to recognize September as National Recovery Month, a time for us to honor our Nation's recovery community. This community includes

those who are battling addiction and the service providers who are dedicated to supporting them.

On this occasion, I want to extend my appreciation to Georgia's Cobb County DUI Court, which celebrated its 15th anniversary and 48th commencement ceremony on September 19, 2023. Founded in 2008 by the Honorable Melodie H. Clayton and now presided over by the Honorable Eric A. Brewton, this court plays an important role in supporting individuals as they work towards sobriety.

Since its implementation, the program has admitted over 700 participants and graduated over 519 individuals. The program's achievements have been recognized by Georgia's Council of Accountability Court Judges. The dedication of the Cobb County DUI Court team has been instrumental in establishing alternatives to incarceration and providing support to individuals, their families, and the entire community.

There is no greater way to celebrate National Recovery Month than by acknowledging the hard work of recovery professionals and participants as they celebrate 15 years of success.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINCLAIR CASPER REFINERY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Casper Refinery in Natrona County, WY.

On September 27, HF Sinclair will hold a Casper centennial celebration lunch. They will "celebrate the history of the refinery and the Casper story." For the past 100 years, the refinery and its employees have played a key role in economic and energy development, benefitting the Casper community and the State of Wyoming.

This facility first opened in 1923 as the White Eagle Refinery. It is now one of the oldest operating refineries in the Rocky Mountain region. In the beginning, crude oil was transported fifty miles to a processing site by horse-drawn wagons. This journey took over ten days. Initially, the refinery produced an industry-leading 200 barrels-per-day.

In 1968, the former White Eagle Refinery was acquired by Sinclair Corporation from Mobil Oil. It was then renamed the Little America Refining Company. In 2022, Sinclair joined HollyFrontier Corporation to form HF Sinclair. The Casper refinery is a central hub in Wyoming for crude oil supply. Their goal is to "update and modernize equipment to maintain reliable production well into the future."

The refinery is capable of running both domestic and Canadian synthetic crudes. With a 30,000 barrels-per-day output, the facility primarily runs Rocky Mountain Region sweet crude. They are also efficient in producing gasoline and diesel for customers in Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Nebraska, Colorado, Montana, and South Dakota.

The Sinclair Casper Refinery focuses on treating their customers and co-workers like family. They build their company on integrity and loyalty. Plant Manager Sam Cooper continues the legacy of hard work. He is joined by 180 employees in this endeavor. The team at the Casper refinery creates "a culture driven by excellence in production, reliability and safety." They are able to accomplish this by following their five core values of safety, integrity, teamwork, ownership, and inclusion.

It is an honor for me to recognize this significant milestone for the Casper Refinery. This refinery serves as an economic cornerstone for central Wyoming. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to the HF Sinclair Casper Refinery on their 100th anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BURKETT WITT

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, today I honor the life of a truly extraordinary Tennessean.

If you ask the people of Athens, TN, to describe the life and legacy of Burkett Witt, most of them will immediately point to his more than three decades of public service to the town where he was born and raised. But I like to go back even further to the true beginning of his public service. Beginning in 1949, he began connecting to his community through food at the helm of Bo and Pete's Southern Soda Shop at Tennessee Wesleyan College. Those who knew him—and in some cases, worked for him—remember his strong work ethic and credit his mentorship as inspiration for their own personal and professional growth. The value of that influence, of course, did not go unnoticed. In 1971, Witt became the town's first African-American elected as a member of the city council. It is worth noting that at the same time Witt made history, the people of Athens did, too, and ousted three incumbents from the council. It was time for change.

In 1983, Witt made history again when he became the first African-American mayor of Athens—and indeed, one of the first African-American mayors in Tennessee. After 4 years in the top post, Witt stepped back into his role on the council, where he served with dignity for 33 years. When Tennessee Wesleyan granted Witt an honorary doctorate of public service in the spring of 2014, Witt's longtime friend Paul Watkins described him as "a one of a kind in our world," and I could not agree more.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I want to recognize Burkett Witt's stunning contributions to the Volunteer State and offer my prayers and continued support to the generations of young Tennesseans who will benefit from the lessons his legacy will teach them.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLEN W. MOORHEAD III

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate Lt. Gen. Glen W. Moorhead III on earning the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Air Force Association.

Wally, as he is known to his close friends and colleagues, is a native of Arkansas. He has an outstanding record in service to our Nation's air superiority. He entered the Air Force upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1969, after which he deployed to Asia and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery in the Vietnam war.

As leadership noticed his ability to push his aircraft to the limit in combat, they brought him back home to apply those lessons learned in his A-37 to the Air Force's new platform, the A-10. The A-10 was effective in military operations and was loved by those on the ground. Moorhead played a leading role in the validation of the A-10 and development of the training program, so much so that he led the inaugural weapons school course on the platform. Moorhead was further entrusted with leadership of the Air Warfare Center, which in addition to serving as one of the major testing and evaluation operations of the U.S. Air Force, is also the home of the revered Thunderbirds. He ultimately was assigned to serve as deputy commander of U.S. European Command.

Moorhead's long-lasting impact on the military space community is evident. While commander of the 50th Space Wing at Schriever Air Force Base, he was dual-hatted as commander of the Space Warfare Center, which conducted tactics, techniques, and procedures development for space operations and has evolved into a significant part of the Space Force's Space Training and Readiness Command. Not only did he leave a notable imprint upon those under his command, but his enduring legacy will continue for generations of Guardians to come.

Perhaps Moorhead's most consequential role, however, has been as key adviser in the development and standup of the Space Force. No one could overstate the value of his mentorship to the leaders of the Space Force as they assess its current and future needs in pursuit of the vital mission to secure our national interests in, from, and to space.

The sustained record of excellence of Glen Wallace Moorhead has made our country better and safer, and he is to be commended for his lifetime of leadership to our Space Force and Air Force.

As the ranking member of the Senate appropriations subcommittee responsible for ensuring our Armed Forces and their families have the infrastructure and facilities to support their needs, it is an honor to recognize Lieutenant General Moorhead on his outstanding impact within our military.

Arkansas can be proud of his advocacy and leadership that integrally contributed to the United States' ability to maintain our military superiority.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate and a grateful nation, I extend my deepest appreciation to Lieutenant General Moorhead for his many years of exemplary military service and sacrifice. I wish him nothing but the very best in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO McAVOY LAYNE

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the legacy of McAvoy Layne. Mr. Layne has dedicated 35 years of his life to promoting art and literature to audiences across Nevada. After more than 4,000 performances as one of the premier Mark Twain impersonators, Mr. Layne will share his legendary charm with audiences for one last time at Piper's Opera House, in historic Virginia City, NV, on September 30, 2023.

As a lifelong Nevadan, I always appreciate our State's history and those who tell and preserve it. Samuel Langhorne Clemens became Mark Twain while residing in Nevada between the years 1861 and 1864. It was in this 3-year span that Mark Twain's career set off, writing for "Territorial Enterprise" in Virginia City and inspiring the novel "Roughing It," which helped introduce Nevada to the world.

McAvoy Layne moved to Tahoe's North Shore 40 years ago when he was offered a job at Diamond Peak Ski Resort. He has lived there ever since, and it was there he discovered his calling to impersonate and educate people about one of America's best-known authors, Mark Twain.

Mr. Layne began his career as a Twain impersonator at Piper's Opera House in Virginia City, NV, performing two shows a day, 6 days a week in the summer of 1988. Over the years, he specialized in school programs, visiting schools across the United States, Europe, and Russia. He would sometimes visit 10 schools a week, performing for students of all ages. Countless Nevadans can recall stories of Mr. Layne visiting their school as Mark Twain.

Highlights of Mr. Layne's career include winning the Nevada Award for Excellence in School and Library Service, playing the ghost of Samuel Clemens in the Biography Channel's episode on Mark Twain, and participating in the Discovery Channel's Cronkite Award-winning documentary, "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Mr. Layne is not just an actor but a writer, educator, storyteller, and a Nevada icon. September 30 will mark the end of an era as he takes the stage one last time in the place where it all began. It is important to ensure future generations understand Nevada's history, and I would like to thank Mr. Layne for his service in educating us about the legendary Samuel Clemens.●

REMEMBERING ALLISON KENNEDY

● Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, earlier this year, we lost a treasured consumer, public health and safety advocate. Allison Kennedy passed away on May 10, 2023, after suffering a brain aneurysm. She was 36 years old. A devoted mother, beloved wife, and cherished daughter, Allison was full of life and love.

Allison was born in Visalia, CA in February 1987. Although Allison was an only child, she grew up surrounded and supported by her large and loving extended family in Washington, anchored by her Nana and major role model Nita King. Life for Allison revolved around her family. She loved her grandfather Jim beyond words. She especially loved the precious time she spent with her father outdoors or working on household projects together, even FaceTiming her dad 3,000 miles away to help her put a table together. She loved traveling with her family, including to the off-road races in Baja, especially with her Uncle David.

She attended Washington State University, graduating in 2010, and received her master's degree from American University in Washington, DC, in 2014.

After starting her graduate studies at Washington State University, she began a 3-month internship in Washington, DC. Within weeks of moving to DC, she fell in love with the city, the politics, and a man named Brian. Their love started on their first date as they sat talking in her apartment until 3 in the morning. Allison and Brian were engaged in December 2014 and married in November 2015. They first lived in Northeast Washington, D.C., then moved to Maryland in 2019, and finally found their dream home in Burke, VA, in 2022.

Allison longed to be a mother. Allison and Brian tried for nearly 5 years. In 2021, they received the gift of Christopher "Kit" Colm, through adoption, who blessed their home with the fullness of love and joy. Allison thrived as a mother. In every way, she knew how to care for Kit and help him blossom. In 2022, Brian and Allison found out they were pregnant. Callahan "Cal" was welcomed into the world in January 2023. The final months of Allison's life were filled with happiness and contentment as she thrived as a mother of two.

Allison also served as the director of government relations for Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. She was well known and well respected on Capitol Hill as an ardent champion for safe roads, safe vehicles and safe road users. During her more than 10 years with Advocates, she cultivated a safety legacy that will continue to prevent crashes and save lives for years to come.

Under the leadership of her professional mentors, Cathy Chase and Jackie Gillian, Allison grew into a fierce and successful advocate whose work led to the adoption of critical safety-minded policies, including many of the key

safety provisions of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. For generations to come, Allison's legacy will be measured in the countless lives of children, teen drivers, pedestrians, and motorists that her work helped to save. She loved and was adored by all her colleagues at Advocates.

Allison's untimely passing is a monumental personal and professional loss for the Advocates' team and for all those who work closely with the organization. She will be remembered as a dedicated public health and safety activist, wonderful colleague, caring friend, cherished daughter, devoted wife, and dedicated mother.

I send my condolences to her husband Brian, their two young sons Christopher "Kit" and Callahan "Cal," her parents Erin and Michael, her entire family, and all her loved ones.●

RECOGNIZING EL SEGUNDO LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL—THE 2023 WORLD CHAMPIONS

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 2023 Little League World Series Champions, Southern California's own El Segundo 12U All Stars.

Every year, communities from around the world gather their best youth baseball players to assemble an All-Star team with dreams of one day making it to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. But after local, State, and regional tournaments, only 20 teams earn such an honor, 10 from the United States and another 10 from around the world. In the end, only one team takes home the World Series title—and it is no easy road.

For the El Segundo 12U All Stars in Williamsport, after an opening game win thanks to back-to-back homeruns and a high-powered offense, the team from Southern California hit a significant hurdle in just their second game. They lost 3-1 to a Southwest Region team and were quickly sent down to the elimination bracket, facing long odds and a rocky road back to the finals, when even one loss would send them home.

But rather than shrink from the challenge, El Segundo trusted their pitching and defense, their great power hitting, and their fearless competitiveness to rattle off four straight wins to make it all the way to the Little League World Series Championship. Their impressive streak included returning the favor and defeating the team from the Southwest Region in the U.S. Championship 6-1.

Finally, on the biggest stage, facing Curacao in the Little League World Series Championship, El Segundo got off to an early start, jumping to a 5-1 lead in the fourth inning. But the winds quickly shifted after a Curacao grand slam tied the game heading into the sixth and final inning. Yet again, El Segundo refused to back down.

Manager Danny Boehle turned to No. 14 Brody Brooks to shutdown a hot Curacao offense and give El Segundo a

shot in the bottom of the sixth, which he provided with a standout scoreless inning. Then, in the bottom of the sixth, as countless Little League baseball fans will now remember for eternity, No. 19 Louis Lappe stepped up to the plate—and the rest is history. A shot to deep left field sent the crowd to their feet, Lappe around the bases, and a city all the way across the country into pandemonium. Lappe's walk-off homerun meant California, once again, was on top of the baseball world.

For one summer in 2023, kids in Southern California weren't just imitating Mookie Betts' batting stance or dreaming of throwing across the diamond to Freddie Freeman at first base. They were dreaming of playing like Brooks and Lappe, Salazar and Green, Boehle and Keldorf, Lee and Baker, McRoberts and Parks, O'Connor and Kalish.

My sincere congratulations to all the players, manager Danny Boehle, coaches Tim Abrams and Eddie Lee, and all the parents and family members who made this dream possible.

Congratulations—you have made California proud.●

REMEMBERING JOHN R. KLAI

● Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I share the passing of a great Nevadan, a dedicated advocate, and my dear friend John Reynolds Klai II of Las Vegas. John passed away on Saturday, September 2 with his husband Jon, loving family, and beloved dogs Bruno and Dexter at his side. John leaves behind an incredible legacy as an impactful community leader and champion for equality and justice.

John was born and raised in the small town of Osnabrock, ND. His smalltown values guided his generous spirit and deep love of community. After taking an engineering class at the University of North Dakota's College of Business, John realized a knack for architecture. Upon graduating with a bachelor of architecture from North Dakota State University, NDSU, John moved out west to Las Vegas to join Marnell Corrao Associates. In 1995, John and his business partner Dan Juba founded Klai Juba Architects, now Klai Juba Wald Architecture + Interiors. Over the last 40 years, John has made significant contributions to building Las Vegas, leading projects at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, the Forum Shops at Caesars, and many local landmarks.

Outside of his distinguished career, John devoted his time and resources to supporting architecture programs at NDSU and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV. He thoroughly enjoyed his time serving as a volunteer adjunct faculty member in UNLV's hospitality design graduate program. He also made regular trips back to Fargo, ND, to teach students at NDSU. To honor John's service to the program, NDSU awarded him with an hon-

orary doctorate of humane letters in 2018.

John's service to his community extended beyond educating the next generation of architects. He volunteered much of his time to many great institutions, both in Nevada and across the country. John was heavily involved with the LGBTQIA+ Community Center of Southern Nevada, helping the community organization to celebrate diversity, empowering everyone to live as their authentic selves, and supporting others through difficult times.

John and his husband Jon Sparer, also an architect, met in Las Vegas in 1981. They made Las Vegas their home and were married in 2014. They shared a deep love of travel, trekking across the world and most recently across North America in their motor coach with their puppies. John is survived by his loving husband, his daughter and son-in-law, two grandchildren, and many more family members and friends.

I met John over 25 years ago through our synagogue, and I will forever cherish his unwavering friendship and support. He stood up for what was right, fought against what was wrong, and always put others ahead of himself. John was a beloved member of the Las Vegas community and will be deeply missed. May his memory be a blessing.●

RECOGNIZING TAMPA VETERANS TREATMENT COURT AND MENTORS PROGRAM

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize the 10-year anniversary of the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court and Veteran Mentors Program.

Among the largest veteran treatment courts in the nation, the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court and Mentors Program was established in 2013 thanks to the efforts of retired U.S. Army COL DJ Reyes. The purpose of the program is to help identify and provide the necessary U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs treatments and counseling to veterans whose involvement in the criminal justice system is often connected to a condition or disorder incurred during their military service.

At the height of the program, the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court and Mentors Program grew to more than 225 veteran defendants and more than 100 volunteer veteran mentors. The program currently enjoys a 90-percent graduation rate and is nationally recognized as the model for newly formed veteran treatment courts.

In June 2019, Colonel Reyes was invited to both the White House and Capitol Hill to brief policymakers on the success of the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court and Mentors Program and in support of Federal legislation to support State veteran treatment courts. This bill, the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2019, which I cosponsored, was signed into law by President Trump in August 2020.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Colonel Reyes and every-

one associated with the Tampa Veteran Treatment Court and Mentors Program for their work assisting our veterans and wish them many years of continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. WARD

● Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, today I rise today to recognize Robert L. Ward for his many years of service to the State of Florida and its business community. After 26 years serving as a trusted adviser to the Governor's office and legislature, Mr. Ward was chosen in 2016 to be the seventh president and chief executive officer of the Florida Council of 100, Inc. Since 1961, the Council of 100 has worked closely with the governors of the great State of Florida, and on the occasion of Mr. Ward's retirement, I commend his dedication to ensuring the economic prosperity of all Floridians.

During my time as governor, Mr. Ward supported my efforts to drive job creation in the State. He facilitated the creation of a long-term strategic plan for PreK-12 education in Florida emphasizing high standards, rigorous assessments, strong accountability, and the instructional benefits of career and technical education and work-based learning, two key components of our State's educational success. Additionally, Mr. Ward led a project recommending ways to increase research and development by Florida's universities and an initiative outlining a comprehensive economic competitiveness strategy for our State.

Subsequently, Mr. Ward continued to shape workforce policy by serving as the chairman of Florida's Talent Development Council, which ensures that our State's educational programs are meeting the needs of business and industry, and authoring editorials celebrating Florida's thriving business climate and talent pipeline, while Mr. Ward was also a staunch advocate for government fiscal responsibility.

I applaud Mr. Ward for his tenure with the Florida Council of 100 and his long-time dedication to helping Floridians in all the capacities in which he has served. I am pleased to recognize Robert L. Ward in the U.S. Congress.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FRANKLIN PIERCE SCHOOL OF LAW

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law on its 50th anniversary.

Taking its name from the only Granite Stater to become President of the United States, the Franklin Pierce Law Center was established in 1973 as New Hampshire's first law school. Its founder, renowned inventor Robert Rines, welcomed the first class of students in an old bull barn on the city of Concord's east side. The school's modest beginnings belie the outsized and

international impact it would soon have on the legal community, particularly in the field of intellectual property—IP—law.

The Franklin Pierce Law Center quickly developed a reputation as a powerhouse in IP law. It strove not only to instill an understanding in intellectual property law, but also to train students to be comfortable in the practice of an emerging legal field. Many of its graduates have climbed to positions of global influence in IP, and many attribute their success and achievements to the preparation and instruction they acquired as law students. The law center's administration—and Mr. Rines in particular—also invited groups from other countries to attend classes at no cost. These groups observed the American system of patent law and ventured home to shape systems that suited the needs of their own countries.

In 2010, the Franklin Pierce Law Center entered into a partnership with the University of New Hampshire to become the University of New Hampshire School of Law. It was renamed the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law in 2019 after careful consideration of the Franklin Pierce name in the intellectual property community and its longstanding reputation for innovative legal education.

While known for its intellectual property law curriculum, the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law also offers instruction in traditional legal fields, as well as public interest and social justice law, health policy and law and sports and entertainment law. It is also home to the Daniel Webster Scholars Honors Program, a groundbreaking initiative that provides an alternative to the traditional bar licensing process. These students enroll in a rigorous educational program under the supervision of judges, lawyers, professors, and bar examiners, and they are sworn into the New Hampshire bar the day before law school graduation. It is the only program of its kind in the country.

Thousands of attorneys in 48 States and more than 80 countries can point to their experience at the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law as the foundation of their thriving legal practices and careers. Countless more have been represented, educated, and protected by attorneys who honed their skills in an active, practice-based learning environment in Concord, NH. The reach of this small school with humble beginnings is truly widespread.

I congratulate the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law on this important milestone and wish the law school community all the best as it celebrates its past and looks forward to its bright future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 475. An act to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

At 12:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Holmes, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1530. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the requirement to publish disability benefit questionnaire forms of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2872. An act to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3371. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3371. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

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.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 21, 2023, she-

had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 475. An act to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic.

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. HAWLEY:

S. 2875. A bill to require the prompt reconstruction of and restoration of suspended operation of rural post offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 2876. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to cancel existing school meal debt; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 2877. A bill to establish a matched savings program for low-income students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2878. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude certain activities from hours worked, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2879. A bill to provide targeted funding for States and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant program to address the increased burden that maintaining the health and hygiene of infants and toddlers, medically complex children, and low-income adults or adults with disabilities who rely on adult incontinence materials and supplies place on families in need, the resultant adverse health effects on children and families, and the limited child care options available for infants and toddlers who lack sufficient diapers and diapering supplies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2880. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2881. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to provide notice to students participating in a State or federally financed work-study program about potential eligibility for participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax on the sale of electric vehicles and batteries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 2883. A bill to require Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to report information related to allegations of misconduct of law enforcement officers to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2884. A bill to delay the implementation of a rule relating to the importation of sheep and goats and products derived from sheep and goats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2885. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit States to record in writing that applicants for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits have signed an application through a recorded verbal assent over the telephone; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2886. A bill to permit manufacturers of generic drugs to provide additional warnings with respect to such drugs in the same manner that the Food and Drug Administration allows brand names to do so; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2887. A bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to require the acceptance of cash payments for entrance fees at units of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2888. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during pre-separation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2889. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to reduce food loss and waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2890. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify limitations on amounts of farm ownership loans and operating loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BUDD, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2891. A bill to reauthorize the program of grants for innovative programs to address dental workforce needs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2892. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to require impact assessments of automated decision systems and augmented critical decision processes, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2893. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Clean Energy Victory Bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 2894. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to require certain congressional notification prior to entering into, renewing, or extending a science and technology agreement with the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2895. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 2896. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to define the term "State" for the purposes of the microloan program carried out under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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

S. 2897. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 2898. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to authorize the use of certain grants to deliver peer-to-peer mental health support to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, farm work, and other occupations relating to agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 2899. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to include Middle Easterners and North Africans in the statutory definition of a "racial and ethnic minority group", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2900. A bill to protect and provide humanitarian assistance to Armenians in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh impacted by actions taken by the Government of Azerbaijan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2901. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr.

BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2902. A bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2903. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to extend education grant programs for Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2904. A bill to support national training, technical assistance, and resource centers, to ensure that all individuals with significant expressive communication disabilities have access to the augmentative and alternative communication the individuals need to interact with others, in order to learn, work, socialize, and take advantage of all aspects of life in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 2905. A bill to deny asylum to members of a Communist or other totalitarian party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2906. A bill to reduce child poverty in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2907. A bill to improve medical device recall notifications by amending the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish an electronic format for device recall notifications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2908. A bill to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2909. A bill to provide for congressional review of rules rescheduling marijuana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2910. A bill to amend section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require each Federal department or agency to have a compliance officer to ensure the department or agency is meeting the requirements of such section; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr.

DAINES, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. VANCE):

S. 2911. A bill to prohibit the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from declaring certain emergencies or disasters for the purpose of imposing gun control; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2912. 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 Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations to carry out supplemental nutrition assistance programs; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 355. A resolution recognizing the critical importance of access to reliable, clean drinking water for Native Americans and affirming the responsibility of the Federal Government to ensure such water access; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. VANCE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. Res. 356. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 18 through September 24, 2023, as "Rail Safety Week" in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week to reduce highway-rail grade crossing and trespasser-related incidents, fatalities, and injuries, reduce derailments, improve the safe transportation of hazardous materials by rail, and prevent rail worker fatalities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 357. A resolution recognizing the formation of the Alliance for Development in Democracy and urging the United States to pursue deeper ties with its member countries; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 358. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 17 through 23, 2023, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 359. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 360. A resolution designating the week of September 25 through September 29,

2023, as "National Hazing Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Con. Res. 20. A concurrent resolution recognizing the decades-long effort of pro-democracy forces in Chile to end the dictatorship and restore civilian governance in the country; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 106

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 106, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 135

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 135, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 254

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 254, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account, and for other purposes.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) 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. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be

recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

S. 722

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of 529 accounts.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1024

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

S. 1047

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1047, a bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1064, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 1474

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1474, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to establish a dairy nutrition incentive program, and for other purposes.

S. 1478

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1478, a bill to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway", and for other purposes.

S. 1502

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1502, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide a uniform 8-digit subheading number for all whiskies.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1983

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1983, a bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available.

S. 2041

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2041, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 2250

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a groundwater conservation easement program, and for other purposes.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

S. 2336

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2336, a bill to address the threat

from the development of Iran's ballistic missile program and the transfer or deployment of Iranian missiles and related goods and technology, including materials and equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2415, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2477, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2662

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2662, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain activities relating to research for wood products, and for other purposes.

S. 2713

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2713, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to make commodities available for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) 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. 2771

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2771, a bill to allow additional individuals to enroll in standalone dental plans offered through Federal Exchanges.

S. 2791

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2791, a bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to make appropriations

for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations Act expires before the enactment of a new appropriations Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2801

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2801, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 2821

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2821, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for prostate cancer screenings without the imposition of cost-sharing requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2824

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) 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 Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2835, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 2874

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to provide fresh produce to individuals facing food and nutrition insecurity, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 43

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United

States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program”.

S. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) 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. 353

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 353, a resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 16 through September 23, 2023, as “National Estuaries Week”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1194

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1194 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2881. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to provide notice to students participating in a State or federally financed work-study program about potential eligibility for participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Opportunity to Address College Hunger Act, which I introduced today.

According to a 2018 GAO study, roughly 2 million at-risk college students who were potentially eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, benefits did not report receiving them. Millions of eligible college students across the Nation face steep barriers to accessing these critical benefits due to a complex application process and a lack of information-sharing from their own colleges and universities.

In California alone, 127,000 college students received CalFresh before the pandemic, despite upwards of 690,000 students being potentially eligible. Through my conversations with California college students, many have said that they wished their campuses told them they were eligible for SNAP and how to access benefits.

That is why I am introducing this bill—to increase awareness of SNAP for potentially eligible college students and to continue the fight to tackle student hunger.

If enacted, this bill would require colleges and universities to notify students participating in State or federally financed work-study programs of their potential eligibility for SNAP benefits. Institutions would also need to provide students with details about how they can obtain more information about SNAP, confirm their eligibility for the program, and access benefits.

This notification would be developed by the U.S. Department of Education, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and would be specific to the student’s State of residence and provide contact information for the local office where the student can apply for SNAP.

The notification would also include an official document confirming that the student participates in a work-study program and meets one of the SNAP eligibility requirements for college students. This documentation would help students overcome a common paperwork hurdle they face when applying for SNAP benefits.

Finally, this bill would require the Department of Education and USDA to provide guidance to States and institutions on how to better engage with potentially eligible students.

While I support eliminating the restrictive work requirements that limit access to critical nutrition benefits for millions of low-income college students, this bill works to tackle barriers students face with the eligibility requirements currently in place.

I want to thank Representative SUZANNE BONAMICI for introducing this bill in the House and for her continued work to combat student hunger. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation to help improve student food security, health, and learning.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 2898. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to authorize the use of certain grants to deliver peer-to-peer mental health support to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, farm work, and other occupations relating to agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Supporting Farm Workers’ Mental Health Act of 2023. This bill would ensure that the Farm and Ranch Assistance Network serves

the behavioral health needs of farm workers.

The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network is a transformative program that addresses the mental health needs of farmers, ranchers, and those engaged in agricultural occupations. While grants can be used to serve farmworkers, farmworkers are not explicitly identified as population of interest, despite their unique health needs.

Farmworkers face significant barriers to care, including a shortage of culturally competent providers and low health literacy in addition to the challenges associated with accessing healthcare in rural areas. Nineteen percent of farmworkers reported symptoms of anxiety, and 14 percent reported feeling depressed, according to a recent University of California, Merced study.

The Supporting Farm Workers’ Mental Health Act of 2023 would amend the Farm and Ranch Stress Act of 2023 would amend the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network to explicitly include farmworkers as an eligible population and ensure peer-to-peer mental health services are an allowable grant activity. Both changes will update the program to reflect our agricultural workforce’s behavioral health needs.

Farmworkers feed our Nation. It is our responsibility to ensure they have access to behavioral health care they need.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this important initiative as quickly as possible.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 2899. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to include Middle Easterners and North Africans in the statutory definition of a “racial and ethnic minority group”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Health Equity and Middle Eastern and North African Community Inclusion Act of 2023. This bill would ensure that Middle Eastern and North African communities in the United States receive the Federal recognition they need to receive targeted public health resources.

Too often, Federal data collection overlooks people in MENA communities. This is true even at the Office of Minority Health, which is tasked with the important work of improving health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority populations. The office’s definition of “racial and ethnic minorities” does not currently include a Middle Eastern or North African category, meaning that people in this community are often misidentified as White. As a result, the unique health concerns that Middle Easterners and North Africans face remain underreported and unaddressed.

This bureaucratic oversight has a tangible impact on individuals’ abilities to live full and healthy lives.

The Health Equity and Middle Eastern and North African Community Inclusion Act of 2023 would add a Middle Eastern and North African category to the definition of “racial and ethnic minorities” used by the Office of Minority Health. Additionally, it would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to use this data to conduct a comprehensive study of the unique patterns and health outcomes in MENA populations.

I want to thank Representative TLAIB for joining me in introducing this bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues to take this important step to reduce health disparities.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2907. A bill to improve medical device recall notifications by amending the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish an electronic format for device recall notifications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2907

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Medical Device Recall Improvement Act”.

SEC. 2. REGULATION OF MEDICAL DEVICE RECALLS.

Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.), is amended by inserting after section 518A of such Act the following:

“SEC. 518B. ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION FORMAT FOR DEVICE RECALLS.

“(a) ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION FORMAT FOR DEVICE RECALLS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Medical Device Recall Improvement Act, the Secretary shall publish a form and manner for notifications of a recall.

“(2) CONTENT.—The form and manner prescribed by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be electronic;

“(B) include mandatory data elements, including—

“(i) the name of the manufacturer or importer;

“(ii) the contact information and address of the manufacturer or importer;

“(iii) the specific reason for the correction or removal from the market of the device;

“(iv) the specific device of the manufacturer or importer subject to such recall;

“(v) the unique device identifier of the device, including, as applicable, the device identifier and any production identifier;

“(vi) information for device user facilities and health professionals with regard to the device and such recall; and

“(vii) information for patients with regard to the device and such recall, including—

“(I) the risk presented by the device; and

“(II) any action that may be taken by, or on behalf of, such patients to eliminate or reduce such risk; and

“(C) include optional data elements as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(b) NOTIFICATIONS.—

“(1) NOTIFICATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 180 days after the Secretary establishes the form and manner for recall notifications under subsection (a), a manufacturer or importer of a device shall submit notifications required under section 519(g) to the Secretary through the electronic notification format established under subsection (a).

“(B) REVIEW REQUIREMENT.—

“(i) INITIAL REVIEW.—Not later than 2 business days after receipt of a notification described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall conduct an initial review of such notification.

“(ii) RESPONSE OF THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 3 business days after the completion of such review, the Secretary shall inform the manufacturer or importer of the information the Secretary determines, through the initial review under clause (i), should be shared with device user facilities and health professionals.

“(2) NOTIFICATIONS TO DEVICE USER FACILITIES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—

“(A) INITIAL NOTIFICATIONS.—A manufacturer or importer shall submit notifications to device user facilities and health professionals through the electronic notification format established under subsection (a) after an initial review by the Secretary is completed under paragraph (1)(B)(i).

“(B) SUBSEQUENT NOTIFICATIONS.—A manufacturer or importer shall provide notifications in addition to those described in subparagraph (A), as necessary, to device user facilities or health professionals through the electronic notification format established under subsection (a).

“(c) ELECTRONIC DATABASE.—The Secretary shall maintain an electronic database that is publicly accessible, downloadable, and populated with information regarding device notifications made under this section.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section and in section 518C—

“(1) the term ‘device user facility’ has the meaning given such term in section 519(b)(6); and

“(2) the term ‘recall’ has the meaning given such term in section 518A.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of conducting activities under this section and hiring personnel to conduct such activities, there is authorized to be appropriated \$6,700,000 for fiscal year 2024, \$1,700,000 for fiscal year 2025, and \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028, to remain available until expended, without fiscal year limitation.

“SEC. 518C. PATIENT NOTIFICATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that any recall strategy under section 519(g) provides for notice to patients whom device user facilities and health professionals treated with the device.

“(b) COMPLIANCE.—In accordance with subsection (a), the Secretary shall require recall notifications sent from the manufacturer or importer of the device to—

“(1) include information for device user facilities and health professionals about the risks presented by the device to patients whom device user facilities and health professionals treated with the device; and

“(2) instruct such device user facilities and health professionals to share information under paragraph (1) with patients whom device user facilities and health professionals treated with the device.

“(c) AFFECTED DEVICES.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any class I or class II recall for a class II or class III device that is used outside of device user facilities and—

“(1) implanted in the human body;

“(2) life-sustaining;

“(3) life-supporting; or

“(4) used significantly in pediatric populations.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require device user facilities or health professionals to provide patient information to the manufacturer or importer of the device.”.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITED ACTS.

Section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331) is amended by adding at the end the following

“(jjj) The refusal or failure to submit notifications in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 518B(b).

“(kkk) The refusal or failure to provide notice in accordance with section 518C.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 355—RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO RELIABLE, CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR NATIVE AMERICANS AND AFFIRMING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE SUCH WATER ACCESS

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. RES. 355

Whereas access to reliable, clean drinking water is an essential human need that is critical to the public health, well-being, educational attainment, and economic development of all communities in the United States;

Whereas many countries, along with the United Nations, have recognized the urgency of water access by passing laws or resolutions relating to the human right to water, including recognition of this right among indigenous peoples and establishing aggressive targets for achieving universal access to this basic right;

Whereas, in the United States, access to reliable, clean drinking water has long been a significant problem in many Native communities, such that nearly ½ of all Native households in the continental United States still do not have access to reliable water sources or clean drinking water, and Native households are significantly more likely than White households to lack indoor plumbing;

Whereas reliable, clean drinking water may be unavailable to Native households for many reasons, including because—

(1) there is no piped water system connecting to the house;

(2) the water available to the household does not meet minimum protective standards;

(3) the water infrastructure is deteriorating or insufficient; or

(4) Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiian communities are unable to support the operation and maintenance needs of existing water infrastructure;

Whereas many Native communities have significant unresolved claims for federally reserved water rights, many of which have

been unresolved for decades and which may not be resolved for many years to come, due in part to the complex and significant issues typically involved in water rights adjudication and settlements;

Whereas the development of water infrastructure on Federal Indian reservations, in particular, has frequently been conditioned on the settlement of Tribal reserved water rights and has been prevented or delayed by—

(1) continuing uncertainty over the status of Tribal water rights;

(2) the years-long process of Tribal water rights settlements; or

(3) conflict over the quantification of Tribal reserved water rights in State water rights adjudications;

Whereas the quantity of water that would be required to supply reliable, clean drinking water to provide for the basic needs of each Native community is typically only a small fraction of the total quantity water allocated to the Native community;

Whereas the trust responsibility of the Federal Government to Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiian communities requires the Federal Government to ensure the survival and welfare of Native Americans, and the failure to provide basic water service cannot be reconciled with this trust responsibility;

Whereas the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) affirmed the trust responsibility of the Federal Government to support Tribal self-governance and self-determination, and these goals cannot be fully realized without addressing inequities, including ensuring access to reliable, clean drinking water for every Tribal community;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic provided a stark reminder that access to reliable, clean drinking water to support basic hygiene is a matter of life or death for all individuals of the United States and Native communities suffer disproportionate impacts during epidemics and disasters due to a multitude of factors, including—

(1) persistent economic disadvantages on Federal Indian reservations, in Alaska Native Villages, and in Native Hawaiian communities;

(2) lack of on-reservation affordable and safe housing; and

(3) lack of public health infrastructure, including access to running water;

Whereas, on January 27, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14008 (86 Fed. Reg. 7619; relating to tackling the climate crisis), which provides that it is the policy of the Biden Administration to secure environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care;

Whereas, through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429) (referred to in this preamble as “IIJA”) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169; 136 Stat. 1818) (referred to in this preamble as “IRA”), Congress has provided funding for the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Bureau of Reclamation to support the construction and repair of Tribal clean water infrastructure, but inadequate resources are available to Tribes to assist them with accessing these construction and repair funding programs, and to support Tribal operation and maintenance of water infrastructure, which is necessary to successfully implement the historic investment in clean water infrastructure;

Whereas many Native communities need technical assistance to ensure that the Native communities can—

(1) access and take advantage of the new construction funding made available through the IIJA and IRA;

(2) develop the managerial, financial, and regulatory framework necessary for a fully functional and self-sustaining utility; and

(3) engage appropriate outside support to assist, as needed;

Whereas advances in water technology, including treatment, sensors, and innovative pipeline materials, can assist in—

(1) accelerating efforts to provide universal access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water for all Native communities; and

(2) enhancing resilience in the face of climate change;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States, and it is the policy of the United States, that all existing Native communities be provided with safe and adequate water supply systems as soon as practicable; and

Whereas appropriate funding at the level of unmet need and a “whole-of-government” approach among all Federal agencies are both essential to provide a meaningful solution to the lack of access to clean water in Native communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) access to reliable, clean drinking water is an essential human need, and such access on Federal Indian reservations, Alaska Native villages, and in Native Hawaiian communities is—

(i) critical to the health, well-being, and economic development of the individuals living on those lands and in those communities; and

(ii) integral to maintaining the public health of the people of the United States;

(B) settlement or adjudication of Tribal claims of reserved water rights is not and should not be a prerequisite to the provision of this basic human service to households located in Native communities, nor should the provision of basic human services be used to leverage the resolution of Tribal reserved water rights and claims;

(C) the provision of reliable, clean drinking water to support the domestic requirements of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiian communities is an essential component of the Federal trust responsibility to Native Americans and critical to supporting permanent homelands;

(D) while funding for safe drinking water systems for Native communities received a significant and groundbreaking boost from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429) (referred to in this resolution as “IIJA”) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169; 136 Stat. 1818) (referred to in this resolution as “IRA”), the funding made available for construction and repair of domestic water systems in Native communities is not a complete solution;

(E) technical assistance is urgently needed to allow Native communities to plan and design the systems necessary to remedy the longstanding problem of lack of access to clean drinking water and bring those plans to the “shovel ready” stage where Native communities can take advantage of available construction funding;

(F) Native communities need support to develop the managerial, financial, and regulatory capacity necessary for a fully functional and self-sustaining utility and to support the operation and maintenance of water systems; and

(G) further measures are necessary to ensure that the benefits of the historic investments made by the IIJA and IRA in infrastructure are fully realized; and

(2) the Senate—

(A) calls upon the Federal executive branch to—

(i) work in collaboration with the relevant Native governmental entities and State and local jurisdictions to expedite the planning, design, development, and operation of the infrastructure necessary to provide reliable, clean drinking water on Federal Indian reservations, in Alaska Native Villages, and in Native Hawaiian communities; and

(ii) inform Congress of further authorizations and expenditures that may be necessary to meet the objective described in clause (i);

(B) calls upon the Federal executive branch to—

(i) employ a “whole-of-government” approach to ensure the provision of reliable, clean drinking water to households on Federal Indian reservations, in Alaska Native villages, and in Native Hawaiian communities;

(ii) create an interagency task force consisting of high-level representatives from departments and agencies with authority to provide water infrastructure that will work to remove barriers, optimize funding, and make immediate and tangible progress on meeting the objective described in clause (i); and

(iii) report annually to Congress on the progress toward the objective described in clause (i); and

(C) calls upon the Federal executive branch, State governments, and affected water agencies to—

(i) affirmatively support de-coupling the planning, design, development, and operation of water infrastructure from the settlement or adjudication of Tribal reserved water rights; and

(ii) support the development of water infrastructure necessary to provide reliable, clean drinking water in Native communities independent of settlements or adjudications of Tribal reserved water rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 356—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2023, AS “RAIL SAFETY WEEK” IN THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AND TRESPASSER-RELATED INCIDENTS, FATALITIES, AND INJURIES, REDUCE DERAILMENTS, IMPROVE THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BY RAIL, AND PREVENT RAIL WORKER FATALITIES

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. VANCE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 356

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by the national education safety nonprofit organization Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks and to highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing incidents constituted approximately 94 percent of all rail-related fatalities during 2022;

Whereas, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429), Congress provided \$3,000,000,000 during a 5-year period for the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program to help local communities construct highway-rail grade separation projects to eliminate crossings;

Whereas, in 2022, 50 percent of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions and 64 percent of all fatal highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred at gated highway-rail grade crossings;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics indicate that 2,197 highway-grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2022, resulting in 274 deaths and another 812 individuals being injured;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver, the foremost nonprofit organization with respect to rail safety, administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and trespassing prevention;

Whereas, during Rail Safety Week, from September 18 through 24, 2023, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to take added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains;

Whereas the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, which resulted in the burning of 6 vinyl chloride tank cars and forced the evacuation of approximately 2,000 nearby residents, was a reminder of the risks posed by hazardous materials transportation;

Whereas preliminary 2022 Federal statistics indicate that—

(1) Class I freight railroads had the highest derailment rate in the past decade;

(2) the number of derailments per 1,000,000 miles traveled among Class I freight railroads has increased by 14 percent since 2012; and

(3) more than 43,000 rail workers have been injured and 135 rail workers have been killed on duty since 2012;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and Mexico will concurrently observe Rail Safety Week; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing collisions, derailments, rail worker fatalities, and other railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Rail Safety Week”;

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week;

(B) efforts to reduce highway-rail grade crossing and trespasser-related incidents, fatalities, and injuries;

(C) efforts by the Federal Railroad Administration to improve safety cultures at Class I freight railroads;

(D) efforts by the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, and the safety culture at Norfolk Southern;

(E) the residents of East Palestine, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and all other communities impacted by the derailment and release of hazardous materials on February 3, 2023;

(F) the brave actions of first responders who combat releases of hazardous materials across the United States, including the brave actions of the more than 300 firefighters

from 50 fire departments who responded to the February 3, 2023, derailment in East Palestine, Ohio; and

(G) rail workers who have died or been injured while working to keep people and goods moving throughout the United States and the families of those rail workers; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to participate in Rail Safety Week events and activities;

(B) to educate themselves and others on how to be safe around railroad tracks; and

(C) to support efforts to improve the safe transportation of hazardous material by rail.

SENATE RESOLUTION 357—RECOGNIZING THE FORMATION OF THE ALLIANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN DEMOCRACY AND URGING THE UNITED STATES TO PURSUE DEEPER TIES WITH ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 357

Whereas, on September 22, 2021, Presidents Luis Abinader of the Dominican Republic, Laurentino Cortizo of the Republic of Panama, and Carlos Alvarado of the Republic of Costa Rica met in New York during the opening of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly to form the Alliance for Development in Democracy (referred to in this preamble as the “ADD”);

Whereas the member countries of the ADD have committed to work through the ADD to advance institutions that protect the rule of law and individual freedoms;

Whereas the ADD promotes regional integration by strengthening cultural, commercial, and demographic ties in the context of free, peaceful, and democratic societies;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of State have repeatedly emphasized that the economic encroachment of the Government of the People’s Republic of China into the Western Hemisphere is coercive and represents an acute threat to the national security of the United States and of allies of the United States in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, during the years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, United States trade has doubled with the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Panama, and tripled with the Dominican Republic;

Whereas, combined, the three founding members of the ADD represent the third-largest trading partner of the United States in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, on December 10, 2021, the ADD formed a business council to promote the development of trade, investment, and commerce between the ADD and the United States;

Whereas, on June 10, 2022, Canada, a critical ally and strategic partner of the United States, and the members of the ADD issued a joint statement committing to working together to address democratic challenges and to prevent the erosion of democracy in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, on June 16, 2022, the Republic of Ecuador formally joined the ADD as the fourth member of the ADD;

Whereas, on July 25, 2022, the United States and the founding members of the ADD signed a memorandum of understanding to advance the Consultative Dialogue on Supply Chains and Economic Growth between

the United States and the ADD to strengthen supply chain resiliency; and

Whereas the ADD has sought to comprehensively address the migratory flows that transit through territories within the jurisdiction of the member countries of the ADD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Panama, and the Republic of Costa Rica for forming the Alliance for Development in Democracy (referred to in this resolution as the “ADD”), and the Republic of Ecuador for ascending to the ADD;

(2) affirms that the ADD provides a counterweight to the growing influence of autocratic and anti-United States forces in the Western Hemisphere;

(3) calls on the President to—

(A) pursue and prioritize engagement with the ADD regarding the full spectrum of the national security and economic interests of the United States in the Western Hemisphere; and

(B) deepen regional integration on economic issues including increasing trade, expanding market access, and integrating investment markets throughout the Western Hemisphere, including by pursuing nearshoring, reshoring, and friendshoring initiatives; and

(4) calls on the President to use the diplomatic capital of the United States, including the voice and vote of the United States in international organizations, to support member countries of the ADD in promoting policies that—

(A) enhance the regional integration specified in paragraph (3)(B) by strengthening democratic institutions and promoting economic prosperity;

(B) strengthen the critical infrastructure of those countries, such as ports, airports, and other logistical assets to facilitate regional trade;

(C) manage migrant flows across the Western Hemisphere and within the jurisdiction of those countries;

(D) counter corruption, organized crime, and illegal drug trafficking across the Western Hemisphere and within the jurisdiction of those countries; and

(E) strengthen the resiliency of supply chains critical to foreign investment and trade with those countries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 358—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH 23, 2023, AS NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 358

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that more than 43,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy, numeracy, and digital skills necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being and the national security of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit

from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is essential for economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of the parents of a child and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in the education of a child is a key predictor of the success of a child, and the level of parental involvement in the education of a child increases as the educational level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents who participate in family literacy programs become more involved in the education of their children and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, the lives of children become more stable and the success of children in the classroom and in future endeavors becomes more likely;

Whereas addressing the education needs of adults needs to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people of the United States;

Whereas many older individuals in the United States lack the reading, numeracy, or English-language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, which endangers the lives of older individuals and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and keep a job, to continue their education, or to participate in job training and career development programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain work that provides a living wage;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and individuals without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy, numeracy, and digital skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist individuals in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls on public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a fully literate society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 359—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 359

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exoneration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the week of September 17, 2023, to September 23, 2023, is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) contact and invite local media outlets to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the week of September 17, 2023, to September 23, 2023, to be “National Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of

local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

SENATE RESOLUTION 360—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, AS “NATIONAL HAZING AWARENESS WEEK”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 360

Whereas hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against a student regardless of the willingness of that student to participate, in connection with membership in an organization, and causes or is likely to contribute to a substantial risk above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical training necessary for participation on an athletic team), of physical injury, mental harm, or personal degradation;

Whereas 55 percent of college students involved in extracurricular clubs, athletic teams, and organizations reported experiencing hazing;

Whereas a hazing prevention policy is vital to help shape expectations for safe campus communities where healthy group behaviors, ethical leadership, and feelings of positive well-being and belonging are fostered;

Whereas it is recommended that hazing prevention education is broad and includes students, campus staff, administrators, faculty, alumni, and beyond;

Whereas hundreds of students have died as a result of collegiate hazing, including Kristin High on September 9, 2002, Kenitha Saafir on September 9, 2002, Clay Warren on September 21, in 2002, Lynn Gordon “Gordie” Bailey on September 17, 2004, Matthew Carrington on February 2, 2005, Gary Louis DeVercelly, Jr. on March 30, 2007, Brett Griffin on November 8, 2008, Harrison Kowiak on November 18, 2008, Michael Anthony Smallwood Starks on November 21, 2008, Carson Leonard Starkey on December 2, 2008, George Desdunes on February 25, 2011, Robert Darnell Champion on November 19, 2011, David R. Bogenberger on November 2, 2012, Marvell Edmonson on April 20, 2013, Jauwan Holmes on April 20, 2013, Marquise Braham on March 14, 2014, Dalton Debrick on August 24, 2014, Tucker W. Hipps on September 22, 2014, Nolan M. Burch on November 13, 2014, Timothy J. Piazza on February 4, 2017, Max Gruver on September 14, 2017, Andrew Coffey on November 3, 2017, Nicky Cumberland on October 30, 2018, Collin Wiant on November 12, 2018, Noah Domingo on January 12, 2019, Bea Castro on March 17, 2019, Justin King on September 14, 2019, Antonio Tsalas on October 24, 2019, Samuel Martinez on November 12, 2019, Adam Jeffrey Oakes on February 27, 2021, and Stone Justin Pultz on March 7, 2021;

Whereas students have suffered severe, life-altering injuries as a result of collegiate

hazing, including Danny Santulli on October 19, 2021; and

Whereas hazing has a lasting, harmful, and deadly impact, and preventing hazing must be prioritized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 25 through September 29, 2023, as “National Hazing Awareness Week”;

(2) acknowledges hazing prevention is not limited to a single week of awareness but is an ongoing commitment; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Hazing Awareness Week through promoting hazing awareness and prevention.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20—RECOGNIZING THE DECADES-LONG EFFORT OF PRO-DEMOCRACY FORCES IN CHILE TO END THE DICTATORSHIP AND RESTORE CIVILIAN GOVERNANCE IN THE COUNTRY

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 20

Whereas nations around the world are confronting the challenge of strengthening the institutions of democracy against the dire threat of authoritarianism;

Whereas Chile is a strategic partner of the United States, and the bilateral relationship, which includes cooperation on economic, environmental, defense, and human rights issues, is predicated on a shared commitment to democratic values, including absolute respect for free and fair elections;

Whereas Chile is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the bloody military coup d'état of September 11, 1973;

Whereas, as part of that commemoration, the Congress of Chile has overwhelmingly passed a resolution requesting the declassification of United States records related to the coup and its aftermath;

Whereas, after the democratic election of the Popular Unity Party candidate, Salvador Allende, in September 1970, according to reports in 1975 by the United States Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, President Richard Nixon ordered the Central Intelligence Agency to “make the economy scream” and covertly block the inauguration of Allende through instigation of a military coup, an operation that led to the assassination of the pro-constitution commander in chief of the army of Chile, General René Schneider, in a failed kidnapping attempt supported by the Central Intelligence Agency;

Whereas, under the supervision of then-national security adviser Henry Kissinger, the Central Intelligence Agency continued its efforts to foster a “coup climate” in Chile and, in Kissinger’s own words to Nixon, “created the conditions as great as possible” for the military takeover;

Whereas the United States provided active support, including assistance from the Central Intelligence Agency, for the creation of the repressive intelligence directorate of Chile;

Whereas then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told coup leader General Augusto Pinochet in a private meeting, “We want to help, not undermine you. You did a great service to the West in overthrowing Allende.”;

Whereas the rampant human rights violations committed by the military regime of Pinochet led to an estimated 40,000 people tortured and more than 3,000 killed, including the murder of United States citizens in Chile and targeted assassinations of political opponents in the United States; and

Whereas the United States Congress played a critical role in bringing to light the atrocities committed by the Pinochet regime against the Chilean people, and growing congressional awareness of the role of the United States in the 1973 coup and ongoing United States support for the Pinochet regime led to the creation in 1977 of what is now the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State, charged with the mission of ensuring the centrality of human rights in United States foreign policy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the decades-long effort of the pro-democracy forces of Chile that, with support from human rights movements in the United States and around the world, ended the dictatorship and restored civilian governance in Chile;

(2) applauds the Chilean people for rebuilding a strong and resilient democracy against the forces of authoritarianism;

(3) expresses profound regret for the United States contribution to destabilizing Chile’s political institutions and constitutional processes and for United States assistance in the consolidation of the repressive military dictatorship of General Pinochet, and believes that full accountability requires a full accounting in the form of disclosure and declassification of remaining United States records relating to events leading up to, during, and after the military coup of 50 years ago;

(4) will continue to engage with the Chilean people to participate in truth and reconciliation efforts and continue the shared bilateral commitment to strengthen democratic government institutions confronted with the current and ever-changing threats against democracy around the world; and

(5) emphasizes that support for human rights is and should remain a key pillar of United States foreign policy everywhere in the world.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1278. Mr. LANKFORD 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 1279. Mr. LANKFORD 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 1280. Mr. RUBIO 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 1281. Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. CARPER) 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 1282. Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) 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 1283. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) 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 1284. Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. VANCE) 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 1285. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) 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 1286. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 208, expressing support for the designation of November 12, 2023, as “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection.

SA 1287. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 208, supra.

SA 1288. Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. VANCE) 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.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1278. Mr. LANKFORD 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 the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. . . . DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM RULE.

The proposed rule of the Food and Nutrition Service entitled “Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans; RIN 0584-AE88” (88 Fed. Reg. 8050 (February 7, 2023)) shall not be implemented until the first July 1 occurring after the date that is 1 year after the date on which the proposed rule is finalized.

SA 1279. Mr. LANKFORD 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. ____ . REPORTS ON AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

Section 6 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3505) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through “Not later than” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 6. REPORTS.

“(a) TRANSMISSION OF REPORTS TO STATES.—Not later than”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available an annual report that describes holdings of agricultural land by foreign persons, as determined by reports submitted under section 2, including—

“(A) an analysis of the countries with the most extensive agricultural land holdings on a State-by-State and county-by-county basis;

“(B) data and an analysis of agricultural land holdings in each county in the United States by a foreign person from—

“(i) the People’s Republic of China;

“(ii) the Russian Federation; or

“(iii) any other country that the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

“(C) an analysis of the sectors and industries for which the agricultural land holdings are used.

“(2) TRANSMISSION TO STATES.—The Secretary shall transmit the report prepared under paragraph (1) to each State department of agriculture or appropriate State agency described in subsection (a) in conjunction with the applicable reports transmitted under that subsection.”.

SA 1280. Mr. RUBIO 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 II of division C, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer a blood quantum test, DNA test, or any other medical or chemical test intended to determine an individual’s race or racial composition for the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for any program, sub-activity, or project funded by this Act.

SA 1281. Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. CARPER) 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 the matter under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “RURAL DEVELOPMENT” under the heading “RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS” in title III of division C, strike “\$351,087,000” and insert “\$331,087,000”.

In the matter under the heading “RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT” under the heading “RURAL HOUSING SERVICE”

under the heading “RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS” in title III of division C, strike “\$850,000,000” and insert “\$793,520,000”.

In the matter under the heading “RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT” under the heading “RURAL HOUSING SERVICE” under the heading “RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS” in title III of division C, strike “\$62,637,000” and insert “\$82,637,000”.

In title VII of division B, strike sections 771 and 774.

SA 1282. Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) 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 the matter under the heading “HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE” under the heading “HOUSING PROGRAMS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT” in title II of division C, strike “annual appropriations.” and insert “annual appropriations: *Provided further,* That not less than \$6,000,000 of amounts provided under this heading shall be made available for housing counseling agencies to partner with historically black colleges and universities, Tribal colleges and universities, and other minority-serving institutions.”.

SA 1283. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) 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. ____ . (a) There is appropriated \$3,000,000 for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount rescinded in section 745 is increased by \$3,000,000.

SA 1284. Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. VANCE) 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) Section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(21) SPOTTED LANTERNFLY CONTROL.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of devel-

oping and disseminating research-based tools and treatments to combat the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*).”.

(b) Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended in each of subsections (e)(5), (f)(5), (g)(1)(B), (g)(2)(B), (g)(3), and (h) by striking “2023” each place it appears and inserting “2028”.

SA 1285. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) 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:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITATIONS ON CONSUMER CREDIT AND MAXIMUM RATES OF INTEREST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 140B. Limitations on consumer credit and maximum rates of interest

“(a) APPLICATION OF THE MILITARY LENDING ACT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), section 987(b) of title 10, United States Code, shall apply to a creditor who extends consumer credit to a consumer to the same extent as that section applies to a creditor who extends consumer credit to a covered member or a dependent, as those terms are defined in such section 987.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

“(A) a residential mortgage;

“(B) a loan procured in the course of purchasing a car if the loan is offered—

“(i) for the express purpose of financing the purchase; and

“(ii) is secured by the car; or

“(C) a loan made by a Federal credit union, as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752), subject to the rate of interest limit provided under section 107(5)(A)(vi) of that Act, as implemented by the National Credit Union Administration Board.

“(b) NO EXEMPTIONS PERMITTED.—The exemption authority of the Bureau under section 105(f) shall not apply with respect to this section.

“(c) CALCULATION OF THE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE FOR OPEN-END CREDIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the annual percentage rate applicable to an open-end credit plan shall be calculated under section 107(a)(2), subject to adjustments to the amount considered a finance charge, as provided in the rules issued by the Secretary of Defense on July 22, 2015, to carry out section 987 of title 10, United States Code.

“(2) EXCEPTION TO FINANCE CHARGE CALCULATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), for consumer credit extended in a credit card account under an open-end (not home-secured) consumer credit plan, a bona fide fee other than a periodic rate is not a charge required to be included in the finance charge for purposes of this section if the fee is assessed in compliance with section 127(n).

“(B) LIMITATION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

“(i) any credit insurance premium or fee, including any charge for single premium credit insurance, any fee for a debt cancellation contract, or any fee for a debt suspension agreement; or

“(ii) any fee for a credit-related ancillary product sold in connection with the credit card account under an open-end (not home-secured) consumer credit plan.

“(d) RELATION TO STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preempt any provision of State law that provides greater protection to consumers than is provided under this section.

“(e) PENALTIES AND REMEDIES.—Section 987(f) of title 10, United States Code, shall apply to a creditor who extends consumer credit to a consumer in violation of this section to the same extent as such section 987(f) applies to a creditor who extends consumer credit to a covered member or a dependent, as those terms are defined in such section 987.

“(f) PRESERVATION OF STATE ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which a violation of this section occurs, the attorney general of a State (or an equivalent official) may bring a civil action in the name of that State—

“(A) in any district court of the United States that is located in that State or in a State court that is located in that State and that has jurisdiction over the defendant; and

“(B) to—

“(i) enforce provisions of this section or rules issued under this section; and

“(ii) secure remedies under provisions of this section or remedies otherwise provided under other law.

“(2) STATE REGULATORS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which a violation of this section occurs, a State regulator may bring a civil action or initiate another appropriate proceeding to—

“(A) enforce the provisions of this section or regulations issued under this section with respect to any entity that is, or is required to be, State-chartered, incorporated, licensed, or otherwise authorized to do business under State law; and

“(B) secure remedies under provisions of this section or remedies otherwise provided under other provisions of law with respect to an entity described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) NOTICE REQUIREMENT; ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.—Subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 1042 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5552), shall apply to a civil action or other appropriate proceeding brought or initiated under paragraph (1) or (2) to the same extent as those subsections apply to actions and other administrative and regulatory proceedings described in subsection (a) of that section.

“(g) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1027(c) of the Consumer Financial Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5517(o)), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

“(A) issue rules carrying out this section; and

“(B) notify Congress and the public, including on the website of the Bureau, regarding the issuance of the rules required under subparagraph (A).

“(2) CONSISTENCY.—The rules issued by the Bureau under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be consistent with rules issued by the Secretary of Defense to carry out section 987 of title 10, United States Code; and

“(B) may not provide lesser protection to consumers than the protection afforded covered members, as defined in section 987 of title 10, United States Code, in applicable provisions in the rules issued by the Secretary of Defense on July 22, 2015, to carry out that section.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 2 of

the Truth in Lending Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“140B. Limitations on consumer credit and maximum rates of interest.”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to an extension of credit made after the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the rules issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection under subsection (g) of section 140B of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section, require compliance; and

(2) the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1286. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 208, expressing support for the designation of November 12, 2023, as “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection; as follows:

On page 3, line 14, strike “members of the Armed Forces carry” and insert “can afflict veterans and members of the Armed Forces”.

SA 1287. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 208, expressing support for the designation of November 12, 2023, as “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection; as follows:

In the seventh whereas clause of the preamble, strike “can lead” and insert “led, in some cases,”.

SA 1288. Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. VANCE) 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, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Protecting the Right To Keep and Bear Arms Act of 2023”.

(b) **LIMITATION ON DECLARATIONS BY PRESIDENT.**—The President (or any designee thereof) shall not, for the purpose of imposing gun control, declare an emergency pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) or an emergency or major disaster pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(c) **LIMITATION ON DECLARATIONS BY HHS.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not, for the purpose of imposing gun control, declare a public health emergency pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

(d) **FIREARMS POLICIES.**—Section 706(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5207(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) prohibit the possession, manufacturing, sale, or transfer of firearms, as protected by the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

“(6) prohibit the possession, manufacturing, sale, or transfer of ammunition;

“(7) prohibit the possession, manufacturing, sale, or transfer of ammunition feeding devices; or

“(8) prohibit the possession, manufacturing, sale, or transfer of firearms accessories.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have four 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 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 11 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Katherine James, a defense fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, before I speak, I would like to ask unanimous consent that Silvia Symber, a detailee in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 211, H.R. 3935.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 211, 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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 proceed to Calendar No. 211, H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Martin Heinrich, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Mark R. Warner, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, September 21, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have just filed cloture to move forward on FAA. As I have said for months, we must work in a bipartisan fashion to keep our government open, avoid a shutdown, and avoid inflicting unnecessary pain on the American people.

This action will give the Senate the option to do just that.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 12, 2023, AS “NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY”

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 208.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 208) expressing support for the designation of November 12, 2023, as “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the importance of connecting warriors

in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Shaheen amendment at the desk to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution as amended be agreed to; the Shaheen amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble as amended be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1286) to the resolution was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolving clause)

On page 3, line 14, strike “members of the Armed Forces carry” and insert “can afflict veterans and members of the Armed Forces”.

The resolution (S. Res. 208), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1287) to the preamble was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the seventh whereas clause of the preamble, strike “can lead” and insert “led, in some cases,”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 208

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces whose connection to one another is key to the veterans in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the number of suicides of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty was 519 in 2021;

Whereas, in 2020, there were 6,146 veteran suicide deaths, and the unadjusted rate of suicide in 2020 among veterans was 31.7 per 100,000;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2020 was 57 percent higher than non-veteran adults;

Whereas more veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas many of the veterans who take their own lives have had no contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic led, in some cases, to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror many mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 12, 2023, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of November 12, 2023, as “National Warrior Call Day”;

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States, especially members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and veterans, to call a warrior, have an honest conversation, and connect them with support, understanding that making a warrior call could save a life; and

(3) implores all individuals in the United States to recommit themselves to engaging with members of the Armed Forces through “National Warrior Call Day” and other constructive efforts that result in solutions and treatment for the invisible scars that can afflict veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH 23, 2023, AS NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 358, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 358) expressing support for designation of the week of September 17 through 23, 2023, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy 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. 358) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 359, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 359) recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 359) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

5G SPECTRUM AUTHORITY LICENSING ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 2787, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2787) to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to process applications for spectrum licenses from applicants who were successful bidders in an auction before the authority of the Commission to conduct auctions expired on March 9, 2023.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 2787) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2787

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "5G Spectrum Authority Licensing Enforcement Act" or the "5G SALE Act".

SEC. 2. FCC PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR SPECTRUM LICENSES AWARDED BY AUCTION.

In the case of any applicant for a license or permit for the use of spectrum in the band of frequencies between 2496 megahertz and 2690 megahertz, inclusive, that the Federal Communications Commission selected through a system of competitive bidding conducted under section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)) on or before March 9, 2023, and to whom the Commission has not granted the license or permit as of the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission may process the application of the applicant during the 90-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 THROUGH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

stand adjourned to convene for a pro forma session, with no business being conducted, at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 22, 2023, and then that the Senate stand in recess until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26; that on Tuesday, 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 resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 211, H.R. 3935; further, that the cloture motion filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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 4:43 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 22, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MELISSA GRIFFIN DALTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE GINA MARIA ORTIZ JONES.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

SPENCER BACHUS III, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2027. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

TANYA F. OTSUKA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 2, 2029, VICE RODNEY HOOD, TERM EXPIRED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANDREW WILLIAM PLITT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE MICHAEL T. HARVEY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID O. BARNETT, JR., OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE SONIA K. CHAVEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL C. HENDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RICHARD T. APPELHANS
BRIG. GEN. JAMES B. BARTHOLOMEES
BRIG. GEN. JACQUELINE D. BROWN
BRIG. GEN. LANCE G. CURTIS
BRIG. GEN. MICHELLE K. DONAHUE

BRIG. GEN. THOMAS M. FELTEY
BRIG. GEN. LAWRENCE G. FERGUSON
BRIG. GEN. ANDREW C. GAINERY
BRIG. GEN. DAVID W. GARDNER
BRIG. GEN. GAVIN J. GARDNER
BRIG. GEN. CLAIR A. GILL
BRIG. GEN. GARRICK M. HARMON
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. HARRISON
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH E. HILBERT
BRIG. GEN. DARYL O. HOOD
BRIG. GEN. JASON E. KELLY
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES T. LOMBARDIO
BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS S. LOWREY
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN M. MARKS
BRIG. GEN. MARK C. QUANDER
BRIG. GEN. HOPE C. RAMPY
BRIG. GEN. JOHN T. REIM, JR.
BRIG. GEN. LORI L. ROBINSON
BRIG. GEN. MONTE L. RONE
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM A. RYAN III
BRIG. GEN. ERIC P. SHIRLEY
BRIG. GEN. DAVID F. STEWART
BRIG. GEN. CURTIS D. TAYLOR
BRIG. GEN. BRANDON R. TEGTMEIER
BRIG. GEN. COLIN P. TULEY
BRIG. GEN. JOHN W. WEIDNER
BRIG. GEN. JAMES P. WORK
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD L. ZELLMANN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. KRISTINA J. GREEN
COL. COLIN J. MORROW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ANTHONY B. POOLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES A. BENSON
BRIG. GEN. KAREN A. BERRY
BRIG. GEN. BOBBY L. CHRISTINE
BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY L. COPELAND
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL A. DEGELOW
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH A. DINONNO
BRIG. GEN. TERRY L. GRISHAM
BRIG. GEN. DAVID L. HALL
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES D. HAUSMAN
BRIG. GEN. CINDY H. HAYGOOD
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIG. GEN. CORWIN J. LUSK
BRIG. GEN. JESSE M. MOREHOUSE
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. SCHEMENAUEER
BRIG. GEN. ISABEL R. SMITH
BRIG. GEN. CRAIG W. STRONG
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK C. THIBODEAU
BRIG. GEN. KATHERINE E. WHITE

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 21, 2023:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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 804:

To be general

GEN. ERIC M. SMITH

IN THE ARMY

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 703:

To be general

GEN. RANDY A. GEORGE

THE JUDICIARY

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