



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

No. 163

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, October 6, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, rule and reign in our lives. Lord, we are gratefully aware that You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. We are further aware of our own unworthiness.

As our Senators labor today, make them extensions of Your power in our world. May they arrange their priorities according to Your will and view their challenges from an ethical and moral perspective. Help them to walk in Your way, that You may prolong their days and prosper their work. Lord, sustain them in moments of stress and tension by renewing their faith in You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 4, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James C.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

REMEMBERING DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tomorrow, the U.S. Senate will close in observance of the memorial of our late friend and colleague Senator Dianne Feinstein. It will be my honor—a sad, tearful, but great honor—to speak tomorrow at my friend Dianne's memorial. And I thank all my colleagues who will be in attendance. I know that it would mean the world to her for her colleagues to join in this one last goodbye.

I will have more to say tomorrow, but, over the past few days, I have been coming back to the same thought again and again: Dianne Feinstein was a public servant of uncommon integrity. Many of us here try our best to pursue the common good, but Dianne was on another level. When she thought something was right, when she had a cause she believed in, she pursued it until the end, until her cause endured.

I got to see it for myself when she championed the Assault Weapons Ban. The NRA launched horrible, vitriolic, arguably chauvinistic attacks, but she remained undeterred. She knew her cause was just, and she persisted, and, in the end, her cause won the day.

It will be a long, long time until the Senate sees someone as consequential as Dianne Feinstein again.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S4921

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. President, now, on a different note, across the way, yesterday, a small band of MAGA extremists plunged Congress into pandemonium. For the first time in American history, a Speaker of the House of Representatives has been removed from his position at the hands of radicals that he empowered from day one. What happened yesterday is a failure entirely of the House Republicans' own doing, a disaster in the making, to the great detriment of Congress and to the detriment of the American people.

Speaker Boehner, Speaker Ryan, and now Speaker MCCARTHY have all learned the same hard lesson: You cannot allow the hard right to run the House or the country. And all three of them were chased out by the MAGA right. You cannot allow a small band of MAGA extremists, which represent just a very small percentage of the views of the country, to tell the overwhelming majority of Americans what to do.

But Republicans' problems with MAGA extremism seep far deeper than any single leader. MAGA extremism is a poison that the House GOP has refused to confront for years, and until the mainstream House Republicans deal with this issue, the chaos will continue.

I thought House Republicans would have finally realized the dangers of MAGA extremism after what happened last fall, but, year after year, they end up making the same mistake, and it always leads to disaster. By now, I hope it is obvious: MAGA extremism is not good for House Republican leadership. It is not good for the GOP. It is not good for Congress. And MAGA extremism is disastrous for the country.

If MAGA Republicans had their way, they would take our country back all the way to the 19th century. They would turn the clock back radically on women's choice, on voting rights, on workplace protections, on education, on corporate greed, on the environment. They would disfigure our precious democracy, all for a handful of greedy, very wealthy people who just want to not have anything to do with the rest of us.

The MAGA agenda is a dark and dangerous vision of America, one most people overwhelmingly reject. Even so, they are the ones running the show right now in the House GOP.

We find ourselves in a dangerous situation. With about 40 days to go before the government shuts down, the House has ground completely to a halt. Until Republicans stop their infighting, the House can vote on no bills; no appropriations work can get done. If, God forbid, some national crisis were to occur that demands immediate action, the House would be unable—unable—to quickly respond.

So let me say this to the next Speaker of the House, whomever that may be: Think carefully about what happened to your predecessors before trying to coddle the hard right. Each of

your predecessors got burnt each time. I urge the next Speaker not to make the same mistake, not just for their own future but for the country's. Whomever the House elects as Speaker will not be able to ignore the realities of divided government, no matter what the hard right demands. The need for bipartisanship will not change. We will need bipartisanship to keep the government open. We will need it to finish the appropriations process. We will need it to make life better for the American people. For the good of the country, I urge my Republican colleagues in the House to, once and for all, accept that reality. If not, it is my fear—deep fear—that the chaos from yesterday is just the beginning.

CODEL

Mr. President, now on our codel to China, next week, I will lead a bipartisan delegation of Senators on a visit to China, Japan, and Korea. This will be my second time leading a congressional delegation as majority leader after our first visit, which went to India, Pakistan, Israel, and Germany.

Let me first thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for joining me on this visit: Senator CRAPO, ranking member of the Finance Committee; Senators CASSIDY, HASSAN, KENNEDY, and OSSOFF.

"Bipartisan" is our watch word in the Senate, and you can see that this delegation is no exception—three Democrats, three Republicans.

Our trip will be a visit to the most consequential region in the world, focusing on the issues of economic competition and security, on American national security, and on global leadership and advanced technology. Unlike recent delegations to China, I am proud that we will go as elected representatives of the American people, underscoring how serious Congress is about maintaining America's global leadership in the 21st century.

We will meet with government and business leaders from each country, with American Ambassadors and diplomats, and with American companies to hear from them about what they need to best succeed in Asia.

Our message to China will be clear but fair: The Chinese Government must work with us to ensure a level playing field so that U.S. businesses and American workers have the opportunity to compete fairly in decades to come.

So we will focus on the need for reciprocity in China for U.S. businesses, and we will focus on advancing America's national security interests and leadership in critical technologies.

I also look forward to having a direct, candid, and respectful conversation with Chinese leadership on the need to combat the distribution of fentanyl, on China's human rights record, regional security and stability, and on the need for cooperation where possible.

I thank all my colleagues for joining me on this bipartisan delegation to Asia, and I look forward to a construc-

tive trip where we can work together to advance America's interests and leadership on the world stage.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

KEVIN MCCARTHY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to begin today with a few words about my outgoing House counterpart, Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Shepherding an institution like the House of Representatives—every bit as stubborn and diverse as the Nation it represents—is a tall order. Getting a slim majority pointed in the same direction at any one time can seem like nothing short of a miracle. I have said before, in reference to my own position, that being leader of your party in the Senate is much like being the groundskeeper in a cemetery. Everybody is under you, but nobody is listening.

Of course, I doubt that KEVIN MCCARTHY has ever seen himself as above anyone else—not the son of a firefighter, not the grandson of immigrants who stood up his own small business and worked his way through school.

In the beginning of the Speaker's House career, it was clear to anyone paying any attention that he was a doer in the model of Teddy Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" and an idealist in the model of his fellow Californian, Ronald Reagan. Congressman MCCARTHY didn't shy away from worthwhile fights. In fact, he usually dove in headfirst. He didn't hesitate to get his hands dirty.

When the circumstances were tough, he drew on his faith, his family, and his belief in American exceptionalism. His Bakersfield roots kept him grounded. His beloved mother kept him apprised of kitchen table concerns with frequent calls about the price of gas. In other words, he had all the qualities of an effective representative and Speaker.

I am not sure anyone could have predicted just how much these qualities would come in handy over the past 9 months. Speaker MCCARTHY took office with a commitment to America. He insisted on restoring regular order. He made sure that the people's House was once again open to the American people. He took on the gravest challenge, a looming debt crisis, with single-minded determination.

The Speaker and I worked closely throughout his tenure, but I was particularly struck by his persistence. He literally willed the President of the United States to the negotiating table and kept coming back again and again until he had helped secure the Nation's full faith and credit.

Speaker MCCARTHY was a partner I could trust to be honest and candid and, without fail, optimistic. I am grateful for the enthusiasm he brought to our shared work and for the patriotic conservative convictions he wears on his sleeve.

Perhaps the most telling thing about this week's events in the House has been the way the Speaker handled them—with grace and with gratitude. Speaker MCCARTHY should be proud of what he and his team have accomplished on behalf of the American people over the past 9 months. He can rest assured that his colleagues—myself included—will continue to draw on his talents and optimism in the days that lie ahead.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, I spoke yesterday about the list of urgent and unfinished business Congress has to address in the coming weeks. We will start with resuming our work on full-year appropriations to invest in critical infrastructure, take care of America's farmers, and continue modernizing our military to contend with adversaries like China.

But we will also need to make progress on supplemental resources for safeguarding America's direct interest in Ukraine's defense, for helping communities pick up the pieces after natural disasters, for restoring security and sanity to our southern border and to the streets of our cities. The Nation is watching closely for progress on each of these priorities.

In the meantime, they are continuing to face the painful reality of Washington Democrats' historic inflation. Across the country, working families continue to report that soaring prices are their top concern. Among workers and small business owners alike, just 28 percent of Americans say they are satisfied with the state of the economy, and 59 percent disagree with the President's policies behind it.

Working Americans watched Washington Democrats pour trillions of taxpayer dollars into a wish list of liberal spending, driving up the prices of everything from groceries to housing. They watched the President's war on abundant American energy send home heating and gas prices, literally, through the roof.

Meanwhile, the wave of violent crime I spoke about yesterday isn't just terrorizing citizens, it is shutting down Main Street businesses. According to one recent retail industry survey, increased violence makes it harder for retail stores to maintain inventory and inhibits hiring and staff retention. Across the country, 45 percent of retailers are reporting that they reduced store opening hours in response, and 28 percent had to close stores outright.

Of course, these nightmares come on top of the thicket of Biden administration redtape that has already made it as hard as ever to create and sustain a business here in America.

Mr. President, this is Bidenomics in action. In the past week, a flurry of headlines have reported that even Democrats are beginning to worry that the President's decision to put his personal brand on this latest economy is turning out to be a political misstep. Well, it is a good thing they are finally recognizing what working Americans have known for almost 3 years now.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the specter of heavyhanded government regulation of the internet reared its ugly head once again last week with the Federal Communications Commission's announcement that it will consider a so-called net neutrality proposal at its October meeting coming up later this month.

So what is net neutrality? Well, at its most basic level, it is simply the idea that internet service providers shouldn't prioritize or block certain internet traffic at the expense of others. Understood in that way, it is a concept that enjoys broad support in both parties. But that is not what we are talking about with the Biden FCC's net neutrality proposal. Like the Obama FCC before it, the Biden FCC wants to assert broad new government powers over the internet using rules—get this—that were designed for telephone companies and monopolies back during the Great Depression.

This is a quote from FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel last week:

Today, there is no expert agency ensuring that the internet is fast, open and fair.

Proving once again that Democrats' faith in Washington experts is undying and that nothing scares a Democrat more than the thought of some aspect of society not being regulated by the Federal Government.

This is not the first time Democrats have sounded the alarm about the perils that await us if we don't let the Government regulate the internet with a heavy hand. In fact, back in 2015, the Obama FCC actually implemented the regulatory regime the Biden FCC is now considering imposing again. This opened the door to a whole new host of new internet regulations including—including—price regulations.

Unsurprisingly, broadband investment declined as a result. That was a problem for Americans generally who benefit when the United States is at the forefront of internet growth and expansion, and it was particularly bad news for Americans in rural States like my State of South Dakota.

Getting broadband to rural communities is already more challenging than

installing broadband in cities or suburbs, and the possibility of heavier regulations act as a further disincentive to expanding business. No big surprise there.

Fast forward to 2017, and the FCC under Chairman Pai voted to repeal—the heavyhanded internet regulations passed by the Obama FCC. The prospect of this repeal was greeted with near hysteria from Democrats. We were told that internet traffic would slow to a crawl, that innovation would be stifled, that our freedom of speech was threatened, and more. And in the wake of the repeal, none of the things that Democrats predicted came to pass. The internet as we know it not only survived, it thrived. Innovation flourished, the internet remained a vehicle for free and open discourse. And internet speeds not only didn't slow down, they got faster and faster.

During the pandemic, despite the explosive growth of internet usage, American networks had no problem keeping up with demand, delivering the reliable service that Americans have come to expect. Now contrast that with Europe—where internet regulation is much more heavyhanded—where they struggle to deal with increased internet usage. In fact, European service providers slowed internet speeds to maintain connectivity throughout the course of the pandemic. The United States is now a leader in adopting next-generation telecommunications services like 5G and advanced Wi-Fi, while Europe struggles to keep pace. But that may not last if the Biden FCC goes ahead with its net neutrality plans.

As I said, the last time a Democrat-led FCC put heavyhanded internet regulations in place, broadband investment declined. There is a good reason to believe that the same thing would happen this time. There is also substantial reason to be concerned that the Biden FCC's proposed regulatory regime would result in higher internet bills for Americans.

As FCC Commissioner Carr, a Republican appointee who opposes the Democrats' proposal, recently pointed out:

Since 2017, the prices Americans pay for Internet services have decreased on an inflation-adjusted basis. Meanwhile, the prices for utility-regulated services like electricity, water, and gas have increased over two times faster than the prices for Internet services. Monopoly regulations invariably lead to monopoly prices. In addition, Title II regulation opens the door to regulators adding new taxes and fees to consumers' monthly broadband bills.

That is from Brendan Carr's statement.

In addition to higher prices for consumers and decreased broadband investment, another consequence of the Biden's FCC's proposed new regulatory regime would be government interference in internet traffic. Ironically, given Democrats' professed concerns, it is precisely the net neutrality regime they are calling for that could imperil the free and open internet they claim to want.

Under the regulatory regime the Biden FCC wants to impose, the Federal Government would be allowed to block or prioritize internet traffic or otherwise interfere with the free flow of information. Think about that one.

Given, I would add, the Biden administration's demonstrated willingness to use its regulatory power to advance its social and environmental agenda, it is not hard to imagine the Biden administration using this proposed new regulatory power to shape Americans' internet experience for its own ends.

The Biden FCC should be focused on addressing real challenges such as continuing our efforts to close the digital divide and ensuring that every American has access to high-speed broadband; it should not be wasting time and money advancing a solution to a problem that does not exist.

Thanks, in substantial part, to the light-touch regulatory regime currently in place, the internet in the United States is thriving and bringing new benefits to American families and businesses. And if Democrats really want a free and open internet and to keep the United States at the forefront of broadband development, they will oppose the Biden FCC's heavyhanded power grab.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

UKRAINE

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, over the weekend, Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown. It is ridiculous that it got this close. While we avoided this disaster for now, I am disappointed that partisan dysfunction prevented Congress from extending U.S. support for Ukraine at such a critical time.

As Ukraine continues their counter-offensive and their most recent aid package is drawn down, we must work quickly to get Ukraine more of the weapons and support they need to beat Putin, because, make no mistake, that is what this is about—whether Vladimir Putin comes out the other side of this emboldened or defeated.

Our military leaders have made clear that China's and Russia's aggression are the top threats that we face. While President Xi of China watches, Putin has authorized cyber attacks against the United States and proven himself a war criminal willing to invade his Democratic neighbors and intentionally—intentionally—murder women and children and abduct Ukrainian youth from their parents in an effort to recreate the Soviet empire.

Whether Putin is successful in Ukraine has serious implications for U.S. national security. Up to this point, this invasion has been a massive strategic failure for him. He underestimated the courage and the fight of the Ukrainian people to defend their homeland, which I have seen firsthand in Kyiv. He also underestimated the will of the United States and our allies to quickly and effectively support Ukraine.

Over the course of the now 20-month war, we have sent Ukraine the equivalent of a small fraction of our yearly defense budget. This has included guns, artillery, ammunition, tanks, missile systems and more. It has also included the training on how to use and maintain these systems. Now, as it should be, this support has been carefully evaluated and targeted based on what Ukraine needs most on the battlefield. It is not a blank check. It is tracked closely. I have seen this myself during two visits to Poland and Ukraine. It has also had the impact of allowing us to modernize our own stockpiles.

Think about what this support means for our own national security. Russia's massive army is now a shadow of its former self. They have lost thousands of armored vehicles, tanks, and artillery pieces. They've lost hundreds of aircraft. They are experiencing the limits of their own power, and they have resorted to forced conscription of their own citizens to fill their ranks.

China is watching this, and they are witnessing the staying power and the strength of the coalition that we lead.

Ukraine is on the move, making steady progress in a counteroffensive to take back their country. Russia is losing.

Now is not the time to let up. It is time to push forward. A majority of Republicans and Democrats in both the House and Senate agree. We know that. So, while partisan dysfunction got in the way over the weekend, we have got to work together to extend the support that Ukraine needs. For the sake of Ukraine's freedom and our own national security, we must get this done—and quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first let me just say "Amen" to my friend and colleague from Arizona.

Mr. President, I would ask, first, unanimous consent that following my remarks, Senator SCHMITT be permitted to speak for 5 minutes and Senator CARDIN be permitted to speak for 5 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

REMEMBERING DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, as our dear colleague, Senator Dianne Feinstein, is lying in state in San Francisco today, the home where her leadership started for us and for the country, and as we prepare to remember her tomorrow in a special celebration of her life, I rise to pay tribute—tribute to an incredible leader and my dear friend, who dedicated her life to serving the people of California and the Nation.

Perhaps "leader" isn't strong enough. It is not a strong enough word. She wasn't just a leader. She was an American icon. She inspired generations of women to stand up and suit up and push our way into the halls of power that weren't particularly welcoming.

Like so many of us, she started in local government. Unlike many of us, her rise was sparked by tragedy. As president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, it was her job to announce the horrific assassination of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.

She was heartbroken. But she was also calm. She was determined. She vowed that her grieving city would recover and rebuild.

She was a crucial part of that rebuilding, serving as mayor for 9 years. In 1990, she ran for Governor and lost, but she picked herself back up and said she wasn't done serving her State.

In 1992, she ran for the Senate and won, joining five other groundbreaking women who changed the face of this institution forever.

Keep in mind that before 1992, there were no women's restrooms anywhere near the Senate Chamber. This is actually something we all noticed.

Through sheer determination and a lot of hard work, she rose to become the highest ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee and chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Through her leadership, she left her mark on this institution over and over again in so many ways. She was a fierce and courageous advocate for commonsense gun laws, as our Presiding Officer is as well, including the 1994 assault weapons ban signed into law by President Clinton. That legislation alone saved so many lives from gun violence during the 10 years that it was law. I so wish that it had been able to be continued permanently. She stood up for American values when she led the years-long investigation into allegations that the CIA had used torture against terrorism suspects. Despite CIA and White House objections, Senator Feinstein courageously chose to publicly release what is known as the torture report. It was such a historic moment that it was even turned into a major motion picture starring Adam Driver and Annette Bening as Senator Feinstein.

I will never forget sitting in this Chamber behind Senator Feinstein to show support for her courage that day. She spoke to the American people about the horrific details outlined in this report.

Senator John McCain, who understood the horrors of torture more than anyone, commended Senator Feinstein and her staff for the report and added this:

Our enemies act without conscience. We must not. This executive summary of the Committee's report makes clear that acting without conscience isn't necessary, it isn't even helpful, in winning this strange and long war we're fighting. We should be grateful to have that truth affirmed.

In response to the report, Senator Feinstein and Senator McCain's anti-torture amendment was included in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. The amendment restricted interrogation techniques to those authorized in the "Army Field Manual" and

required that the International Committee of the Red Cross have access to detainees in U.S. Government custody—a law that stands today.

Senator Feinstein was also a tireless champion for women, including the Violence Against Women Act, legislation to fight human trafficking, and our freedom to make our own reproductive health decisions. She was a leading voice for decades on behalf of our LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors. She fought to protect California's forests and water infrastructure.

Beyond her many, many accomplishments, she was also my friend, and I so enjoyed hearing the stories from colleagues in the last number of days about her.

Yes, Mr. President, I, too, have a seersucker suit, which she bought for each of us to make sure that the women of the Senate could participate in seersucker suit day.

Yes, I also have a piece of art. In addition to watercolors, she drew beautiful pictures with colored pencils, and I am so honored to have one of those hanging in my house.

Yes, Dianne also used to say: Are you staying in DC this weekend? Why don't you come over for dinner?

I was grateful for the times I was able to join her.

Dianne was always giving people, particularly all of us as women, items of hers that we admired. We had to be careful what we were admiring or we would end up getting one.

One day, I got the opportunity to return the favor in a very small way. We were on the floor, and Dianne said to me: I love your lipstick, the color of your lipstick. Where did you get it?

And I thought, aha, this is a moment for me to give Dianne something, as small as it was. So I came in a couple of days later with a package with several of the lipsticks she had admired, and the smile on her face was priceless.

She said: You don't have to do that.

I said: Yes, I do. You do so much for us every day that this is just a small token I can give in return.

Senator Feinstein once said this:

Women have begun to see that if I go through that doorway, I take everybody through it.

Today, I am remembering my friend for all of the barriers she broke, the glass ceiling she shattered, the doors she held open so that so many others could follow.

May her memory be a blessing to her family, to the people of California, and to all of us who are feeling her loss.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ADAM WAINWRIGHT

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise to honor a St. Louis great who, al-

though he has thrown his last pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals, has left a lasting impression on Cardinal Nation.

In 2003, the St. Louis Cardinals acquired Adam Wainwright, Ray King, and Jason Marquis in exchange for J.D. Drew and Eli Marrero. Little did we know the impact that trade would have on the Cardinals—the crown jewel of the National League, of course—for years to come.

Wainwright—or Waino, as we call him—just recently notched his 200th win, a huge milestone, which, by the way, in the game today may never be reached again. Starters just generally don't pitch that many games and don't get as many wins. So it is a big milestone. And he is retired from baseball now. He did that in front of thousands of fans at Bush Stadium.

But his career was more than just 200 wins; it was 18-plus years of just nasty curveballs and heart-stopping wins, years of camaraderie and postseason excellence, and countless memories for all of us Cardinals fans.

In his first full season in the majors with the Cardinals, Waino pitched in 61 games and boasted an impressive 3.12 ERA. It was in that first full season that he showed the ice in his veins that he became known for, as he became closer at the end of the season due to an injury to Jason Isringhausen.

In the bottom of the ninth in game 7 of the 2006 NLCS, Wainwright stood on the mound, bases loaded, with the mighty Carlos Beltran at the plate. Historically, Beltran had kind of owned the Cardinals, even back to his Astros days. You have two strikes on Beltran, and Wainwright kicked back and delivered a knockout curveball that Beltran watched all the way into Yadier Molina's glove. Strike three. The game was over. The series was over. In that moment, the Cardinals headed to the World Series, and St. Louis knew they had a star.

On a personal note, I know exactly where I was when that pitch was delivered. I was at a bar in Kirkwood, near my home. I was at the very last seat of that bar. For every clinching away game for the next 15 years, I and a couple of friends went back to that same place. It had some magic for a while. It ran out, as these things often do.

But it was a great moment and a great way to start his career with the Cardinals.

He would go on to secure the final out in the 2006 World Series with a strikeout by way of his signature 12-to-6 curveball—otherwise known as Uncle Charlie—becoming the only player to close out the World Series in the 21st century as a rookie and delivering a World Series championship that the Cardinals hadn't had since 1982.

Bolstered by his batterymate and self-professed “brother,” the legendary Yadier Molina, who retired last year, Wainwright delivered countless gems and showed up at the most crucial moments.

Wainwright tossed seven innings and won his first MLB start against the

Astros in April of 2007. While he was injured during the Cardinals' storybook run in 2011, he was a monumental presence in the clubhouse, as he was for over 18 years. He hit a home run on the first pitch of his first at bat in the majors. He pitched a complete game in the winner-take-all game 5 of the 2013 NLDS, fanning six and catapulting the Cardinals into another deep October run.

During the 2022 season that saw the return of Albert Pujols to St. Louis and the end of the Yadier Molina era, Wainwright and Molina set an alltime record for the most starts as a battery at 325. I am pretty sure that record will never be broken either.

Two of the most beloved St. Louis Cardinals, starting there as mere teammates, had an incredible run together, and they are best friends and St. Louis legends.

Although this season has been a difficult one for the Cardinals and not everything we had hoped for, we at least got to see Adam Wainwright reach one more milestone—200 wins—in his farewell season.

A three-time All-Star, a two-time World Series champion, a two-time Gold Glove, and a Silver Slugger, Wainwright's success on the mound is well-documented. But aside from all of those accomplishments on the field, he also shined as an ambassador for the city of St. Louis and the sport of baseball.

The 2020 Roberto Clemente Award winner, which is given to the player who best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, and community involvement, Wainwright had an unrivaled passion for our community in St. Louis and helping others. He founded a nonprofit in 2013, Big League Impact, which has since raised over \$8 million for a host of charitable organizations and foundations. He served as the unrelentingly optimistic beating heart of Cardinals teams that have seen stunning victories and heart-breaking losses.

Despite growing up in Georgia, Wainwright truly embodies what it means to be a St. Louis Cardinal and has served brilliantly as an ambassador for the beloved franchise—a franchise that is steeped in rich history, and some of the greatest players of all time have proudly worn the birds on the bat. It is a franchise that has won more World Series than any other, save the Yankees. I have been blessed, along with family members—my dad and my kids—to watch a lot of those greats over the years. Wainwright is undoubtedly one of those greats, not only for his prowess on the field but for his philanthropy and dedication to St. Louis off the field.

Today, I think I speak for all of Cardinal Nation when I say: Thank you, Waino. It has been a pleasure watching you all these years. Congrats on a fantastic career, and good luck in your next chapter.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, 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. 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.

NOMINATION OF BRENDAN ABELL HURSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Brendan Hurson to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

Born in Washington, DC, Judge Hurson received his B.A. from Providence College and his J.D. from the University of Maryland Carey School of Law. After clerking for Judge Margaret B. Seymour of the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, Judge Hurson began his legal career at Schulman, Hershfield, and Gilden, PA as an associate, where he worked on a variety of civil and criminal litigation matters on behalf of individuals, small businesses, and small to mid-size corporations. He then went on to work as an assistant Federal public defender in both Maryland and the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he appeared in court routinely, litigated substantive motions in close to 40 Federal cases, and tried 18 cases to verdict. In February 2022, Judge Hurson was appointed to serve as a U.S. magistrate judge for the same district to which he is nominated. In his time on the bench, he has written approximately 77 opinions.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Hurson “well qualified” to serve on the district court, and he has the strong support of Senators CARDIN and VAN HOLLEN.

Judge Hurson’s deep ties to the Maryland legal community, combined with his significant courtroom experience, make him an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

I thank my colleagues for supporting his nomination.

NOMINATION OF SUSAN KIM DECLERCQ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Susan DeClercq to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Ms. DeClercq received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from Wayne State University School of Law. After clerking for Judge Avern L. Cohn of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Ms. DeClercq worked at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meager & Flom, LLP as an associate, where she worked on a variety of matters, including white collar defense and commercial litigation. During her tenure at Skadden, she coauthored an amicus brief on behalf of Members of Congress in the 2003 Supreme Court case *Grutter v. Bollinger*, which considered the use of affirmative action policies in college admissions. She then went on to serve as a Federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for

the Eastern District of Michigan for 18 years, where she led substantial investigations and handled hundreds of cases at every stage of litigation, from inception to post-judgment.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. DeClercq “qualified” to serve on the district court, and she has the strong support of Senators Stabenow and Peters.

With more than two decades of litigation experience—the vast majority of which has been in government service—Ms. DeClercq is well positioned to handle the demands of the Eastern District of Michigan from day one.

I thank my colleagues for supporting her nomination.

NOMINATION OF BRENDAN ABELL HURSON

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the nomination of Brendan Hurson to be a U.S. district court judge for the District of Maryland. I urge my Senate colleagues to confirm his nomination.

I joined with Senator VAN HOLLEN to recommend Judge Hurson to President Biden. President Biden nominated Judge Hurson for this position in March of 2023. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I worked to establish a judicial selection committee in Maryland, including an open application process. In particular, we sought out a highly qualified and diverse application pool. Our committee interviewed several dozen applicants. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I then personally interviewed the finalists, those who were considered to be the top candidates, before making any recommendation to the White House.

I strongly agree with President Biden’s goal to nominate judges with excellent legal credentials from diverse backgrounds, from both a professional and demographic perspective. Today, we have such an example in this excellent nominee for this district court judgeship.

Judge Brendan Hurson lives in Baltimore and serves as a U.S. magistrate judge in Baltimore. He has been nominated to fill a current vacancy in the U.S. district court for the District of Maryland after the retirement of Judge George Hazel in February of 2023.

Judge Hurson received his undergraduate degree in 2000 from Providence College in Providence, RI, where he majored in public and community service studies with a minor in Black studies. After college, he served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in California as an advocate for poor and marginalized communities in San Francisco’s Tenderloin neighborhood. In 2005, Judge Hurson graduated Order of the Coif from the University of Maryland School of Law.

After completing a judicial clerkship, in 2007, Judge Hurson joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Baltimore, where he defended individuals charged with felonies and misdemeanor offenses in Maryland’s Federal court. He was named senior litigation counsel in 2015.

In 2017, Judge Hurson joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for

the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he represented people charged with violating Federal and territorial laws on the islands of St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Croix. In 2008, he returned to the Public Defender’s Office in Baltimore.

In February of 2022, Judge Hurson was sworn in as the U.S. magistrate judge and sits in Baltimore. As a sitting magistrate judge, he presides over both preliminary and criminal proceedings, civil lawsuits by consent of the parties, and also coordinates the District of Maryland’s Social Security appellate docket. Judge Hurson, therefore, brings a remarkable experience to this position, having served as a Federal public defender for over a decade and a half and now serving as a magistrate judge for over a year and a half.

If confirmed, Judge Hurson will continue to serve in the same Federal court where he now sits as U.S. magistrate judge and where he practiced as a public defender for many years.

The Judiciary Committee favorably reported Judge Hurson by a bipartisan vote in May of 2023, and the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary awarded Judge Hurson a unanimously “well-qualified” rating—its highest possible rating.

I was delighted to recommend the nomination of Judge Hurson to President Biden, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN. Judicial nominees must meet the highest standards of integrity, competence, and temperament. I am confident Judge Hurson will safeguard the rights of all Marylanders, uphold the Constitution and rule of law, and faithfully follow the judicial oath to “do equal right to the poor and to the rich.” Judge Hurson will serve the people of Maryland well.

Let me conclude by saying I know that public service is a family affair and sacrifice, and I particularly want to thank Judge Hurson’s family for agreeing to share him with the people of Maryland in the interest of public service.

I urge my colleagues to vote to confirm his nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON O’BRIEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the O’Brien 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted “nay.”

[Rollcall Vote No. 249 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Capito	Lujan	Sinema
Cardin	Manchin	Smith
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McConnell	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Murkowski	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Crapo	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Durbin	Padilla	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Paul	Wicker
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Reed	Young
Grassley	Ricketts	
Hassan	Risch	

NAYS—31

Barrasso	Ernst	Moran
Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Schmitt
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Budd	Johnson	Sullivan
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Cramer	Lee	Vance
Cruz	Lummis	
Daines	Marshall	

NOT VOTING—2

Hawley Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 176, Brendan Abell Hurson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Raphael G. Warnock, Mazie Hirono, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Mark Kelly, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Amy Klobuchar, Jeff Merkley, Alex Padilla, John Fetterman, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Brendan Abell Hurson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—2

Hawley Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The yeas are 54, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brendan Abell Hurson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:19 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON HURSON NOMINATION

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

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

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

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—3

Hawley Sanders Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 264 Susan Kim DeClercq, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Charles E. Schumer, Debbie Stabenow, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne

Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin.

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 Susan Kim DeClercq, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—2

Hawley
Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Susan Kim DeClercq, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN STAHLER

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to answer a simple but a complex question and, in doing so, to acknowledge and to honor the work of one of the most dedicated, gracious, thought-

ful, decent public servants I have ever known: my chief of staff, Jonathan Stahler.

The question I am answering is: Who is this man, this Jonathan Stahler; and why was I so blessed to have the years I have enjoyed, to serve alongside him; and what has his impact been on my office, my State, this Senate, and me?

After close to 18 years in the Senate—5 years with former Senator Bayh of Indiana and nearly 13 in my office—Jonathan is embarking on a new journey. He is headed to the north to serve at the United Nations as Chief of Staff to our Ambassadors there, and his last day with this institution and my team is fast approaching.

I have given other floor speeches. I have had other departing dedicated and talented staff. Jonathan hired nearly all of them. Jonathan, uniquely, among those I have thanked and honored, has played an absolutely central—a central—role in shaping my office, in transforming the culture, and in delivering a harmonious, productive, supportive team. He hired, mentored, and motivated great leaders. My team is immeasurably better because of Jonathan's values, his commitment to public service, and his focus on others.

Let's take a little biographical tour first. Jonathan is from Newton, MA, from a blessed State in New England—not Delaware but still a wonderful State—that has produced many talented members of this body. He received his degree from an outstanding institution—Washington University in St. Louis—where he studied political science and government.

And informed by the boundless optimism and idealism, the dedication to make right what is wrong about our Nation and to improve our world that his mother gave him as an animating spirit, he moved here 20 years ago to work for the Children's Defense Fund, a remarkable organization led by a talented woman, known as one of Washington's most effective and tireless antipoverty, antiracist, oriented toward progress, data-driven change organizations.

Having arrived here 20 years ago to begin that work, he then decided he was in love with this institution and started just a few years later, initially as a legislative correspondent for Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana. He rose to be an LA and then a deputy LD and was a well-trained, well-prepared legislative team leader when I arrived here late in 2010 having won a special election, looking for someone who could help shape my then-ill-formed legislative ideas.

I was fortunate enough to recruit and hire Jonathan Stahler to be my legislative director. It was one of the best choices I have made in my entire career.

As LD, Jon was famous for having an open-door policy, for welcoming anyone who needed time and a listening ear, comfort, encouragement, direction, reassurance. He built relation-

ships across the aisle. He listened to and often acted on some of my brilliant and insightful and talented legislative initiatives, and he also tolerated and often delivered on some of my whacky or whimsical insights or ideas.

In 2018, after 5 years in which he shaped and led and inspired my policy team, I was grateful he accepted my offer to become my chief of staff. And he realized that my world was more than just legislation: It was Delaware and Washington; it was international and domestic; it was personal and political. And I am so grateful for the contributions he has made.

To better understand why, I think it is best to know the family that shaped him and the values that anchor him.

His stepfather Harold, a lawyer in Boston, said that "For Jonathan, it was always a thrill to be involved in the work of the Senate and"—this is one of his great traits—"he never lost a sense of wonder and enthusiasm about his job."

No matter how late in the night, no matter how inconvenient or grinding the schedule, no matter how concerning the antics in the other Chamber or even occasionally here, Jonathan never lost that sense of wonder at this place.

Stepsister Lizzie suggested that a passion for politics might have started before he arrived here. In fact, "In high school," she recounted, "Jonathan had a life-sized cardboard cutout of Bill Clinton in his room—perhaps the earliest indication of where his career may land."

Jake, his stepbrother, said that Jonathan is also, in addition to passionate about politics, in the personal, he is dedicated. He is "an incredible uncle who keeps his promises," taking a niece to Disney World and going to enormous lengths to deliver on a kindergarten speech.

Jonathan's remarkable, big-hearted mother, Dale, was a powerful force in his life—kind and giving, someone who listened and made folks feel like they were the most important person in the room, a counselor and a guide. She was an important presence in our office and, I know, a central feature in his life, and we all miss her.

"Dale had a way of making every single person she met . . . feel like they were the center of the universe—a characteristic," Lizzie said, "Jonathan has mastered."

His Aunt Barbara shared with us that "Dale was immensely proud of the work Jon was doing. Dale was passionate about politics, too, and" as I said, ". . . cared about making things better."

She would be so proud of Jonathan's service and legacy here, as are we all.

Let me also give some feedback, if I can, from his colleagues in the office—those who he served with for years—and what they had to say about their boss, their chief of staff.

"Jonathan," one colleague said, "is one of the most self-effacing, humble

individuals.” Not just in Washington but in our world. “His dedication to supporting others—his endless supply of energy and empathy . . . is remarkable.”

I will ratify this one: “He was here for the right reasons—he wanted to serve. He saw each day as [a chance] to solve problems.”

Another said, “Jonathan was always willing to provide some ‘chain momentum’ by chiming-in on an email thread in order to ensure we moved toward the desired outcome.”

I regret I have rarely provided chain momentum.

Another former colleague said that Jonathan is the rarest of specimens in DC: “authentic, empathetic, smart, funny, and a great softball player. The proverbial 5-tool player.”

Another trusted colleague said, “Jonathan has a keen ability to know what a person needs before they themselves know it. Whether that be guidance, laughter, cheering up, strategy, or a ‘full cone,’—a ‘full cone of silence,’ apparently, ‘to listen.’”

And I would say that Jonathan fights harder for others than he does for himself. That is the very definition of servant leadership.

As we were talking through family and colleague memories, I was reminded that you have never seen Jonathan more focused and determined than when asked by his niece to present about government to a fifth grade class. He went supersonic. He had a whole series of conversations with her to discuss his vision. This is a fifth grade class, I will remind you. He brushed up on specific policy knowledge, and he put together an interactive PowerPoint for 10-year-olds and held several practice runs with staff to ensure his delivery was the best possible for his niece.

While I may make light of it, that sort of intensity, that sort of heartfelt dedication to family, is one of his most charming qualities.

Trinity is one of his most beloved colleagues, our deputy chief. Whenever a niece or nephew of Trinity’s would visit our office, Jonathan would inevitably offer some fun or unexpected behind-the-scenes experience in the Capitol Complex.

And he was not just serious and heartfelt but also fun, dedicated to team-building through things like paintball competitions or trips to the DC car show—apparently without the Senator.

He also had some quirks. Jonathan is fond of asking about what the dew point is rather than the temperature in order to assess the proper attire for an event, something with which I was unfamiliar.

Although incredibly unsafe and unwise, he prefers, frequently, to use a scooter, whenever possible, and never missed a chance to connect with the most infamous of Delawareans, one James Francis Paoli, a denizen of the Starboard in Dewey.

Jonathan, gradually, through Jim’s tutelage, has become not just tolerant of but a true fan of Orange Crush at Friday morning breakfast.

Jonathan was, in some ways, a superhero of this place. He used his chief of staff powers for good, whether it was an urgent passport matter to save a family vacation or someone who needed access to lifesaving medical care. He always made time to do the little things that make a big impact for staff and constituents and sometimes the big things that can literally change the course of a life.

He enjoyed sharing everything, from embassy events to, literally, tours of the Capitol Dome conducted in person.

As I mentioned before, his mother was a trained therapist, and, from that, Jonathan gained really important tools. One well known to the practitioners of the dark arts of organizational development is the Myers-Briggs test. Jonathan is a Myers-Briggs expert. He uses it as his decoder ring to better understand his colleagues and, even on occasion, me.

Jonathan is an INFP. I am an ENFP. To those of you who have endured the rigors of Myers-Briggs testing, you know that is enough in common that we are both “diplomats,” individuals known for their empathy, passionate idealism, and diplomatic skills, which I hope will serve him well in New York.

Jonathan knew that I get energy by talking to people—extrovert—and that I make decisions about issues by talking to people. As his family and friends will tell you, Jonathan is someone who doesn’t, who prefers text messages and rarely, if ever, answers a ringing phone. In fact, you would often find him with noise-canceling headphones on in his office, a very polite but very real “do not disturb” signal. We often say he isn’t always there when you call, but he is always on time.

Jonathan also has exceptionally good taste in whiskey, something we have enjoyed together on a few occasions, and I, hopefully, look forward to enjoying again tonight.

We went through many different periods, many different chapters here in the Senate, in my home State, and in our lives. We comforted each other on the loss of our parents. We consoled each other when a bill failed. And we celebrated together when legislation made it to the President’s desk.

In the very long period that was the pandemic, when so many of the offices of the Senate and so much of the work, the business that happens here, the steady parade of constituents, and the constant noise in the halls dimmed, quieted, Jonathan and a small group gathered day after day after day, dedicated to be that 224-A team that carried us through the pandemic. And I will never forget some of those long but very good days together.

Some say being a Senate chief of staff is the highest calling of any public servant here. Being a chief, frankly, is a very demanding, often thankless

job that requires 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, attending to the demands of constituents, the needs of staff, and, yes, the whims of Members and the challenges that they so often create, sometimes daily.

Jonathan has given so much to our team, to our office, to his colleagues, and to me. He is and has been the ideal chief of staff.

I have been incredibly lucky, Jonathan, to have your guidance and support for 13 years together and to work through, together, times that were interesting, grave, genuinely scary, sometimes fun, sometimes hysterical, and certainly historic.

We have had times of concern and alarm, of hope and optimism, and overall of accomplishment. It has been a long and sometimes strange trip together, but, Jonathan, you should be confident in the team you built, the culture you have cultivated, the LD whom you have helped mentor and bring along to succeed you, and the remarkable legacy of accomplishment you are leaving behind.

The heartfelt idealism, the overbrimming optimism, the determination to make a difference that first brought you to this our Nation’s Capital—you leave this place with those qualities undimmed, that capability strengthened, and that forward trajectory made more sure.

As Juliet says to Romeo, in Shakespeare—I think it is act II, scene II—“Parting is such sweet sorrow.” It is an ancient but modern way to remind us that good-byes are painful.

But this is not good-bye. This is good luck. This is: Know that you go with my thanks and the blessings of my office and my family and my State for your next chapter of public service.

Our Ambassador in New York, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and the entire team at our U.N. Ambassador’s office will be blessed to have you, and I am excited for your new adventure to serve alongside another great public servant.

My office, my State, our Senate, and our Nation are immeasurably better because of your kindness, your generosity, and your dedication to public service, and I cannot thank you enough.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday, the Republican leader of the Senate came to the floor to give a speech relative to the issue of crime in America, and he was fairly specific as he outlined examples of violent crimes that were taking place across the Nation. He, of course, included in his litany the city of Chicago, talking about the car thefts that were occurring in that city and other felonious assaults in New York City and the like.

He concluded his remarks—the Republican Senate leader did—by saying:

American families deserve to feel safe in their homes and in their neighborhoods and

certainly in the Nation's Capital. It shouldn't take another assault, carjacking, or homicide to convince local leftwing leaders to start actually doing their jobs.

I come to the floor to discuss doing your job and reducing crime in America. I come here once again to discuss the Senate's need to quickly confirm two pending U.S. attorney nominees: Rebecca Lutzko, to the Northern District of Ohio, and April Perry, to the Northern District of Illinois.

I have come to the floor three times in the past 2 weeks to request unanimous consent for the Senate to take up and confirm these pending U.S. attorney nominees who are being stopped by one junior Senator from Ohio.

Keep in mind that both of these nominees, for the State of Ohio and for the State of Illinois, have gone through extensive vetting and extensive efforts to determine whether or not they were prepared and qualified for the job—and it is a big job. They would be the leading U.S. criminal prosecutors in their area and have responsibilities that we know are substantial.

Each time I have come to the floor to ask to give the opportunity to these two young people to lead the U.S. Attorney's Office, Senator VANCE of Ohio has come up with a different explanation of why he is blocking their confirmation. It appears that he is not certain in his own mind as to the issue on a daily basis.

As I stated last week, for almost 50 years, the Senate has confirmed U.S. attorney nominees, from both political parties, by either a voice vote or unanimous consent after they have been reported by the Judiciary Committee.

Just look back to the previous Trump administration. In the 115th and 116th Congress, 85 of President Trump's U.S. nominees moved through the Judiciary Committee, and Senate Democrats allowed all 85—every single one of them—to be confirmed by a voice vote or by unanimous consent.

Why would we automatically give to a President of the United States their U.S. attorneys, their representatives of the Department of Justice and the Nation? Because we understand the critical role that U.S. attorneys play in our justice system.

Just take a look at the law, title 28 of the U.S. Code, section 547. It states that "each United States attorney, within his district, shall prosecute for all offenses against the United States of America."

Leader MCCONNELL regularly comes to the floor to assert that Republicans are really tougher on crime than Democrats. The obstacles that Senate Republicans have created to confirming Federal prosecutors, and especially Senator VANCE's actions over the last 2 weeks, show what an empty argument that is.

Senate Republicans are literally moving the goalposts in the Senate and blocking the confirmation of law enforcement officers who lead our Nation's efforts to prosecute violent

crime and protect our communities from drug traffickers, gun violence, terrorism, and so many other crimes.

Is it important in the State of Ohio, where the junior Senator hails from, as it is important in Illinois, to deal with fentanyl deaths? It most certainly is. We understand that thousands of Americans are dying each year because of this deadly narcotic.

Who is fighting them? Leading the fight is our Federal Government and the Department of Justice. We are dealing with an international drug cartel hailing out of Mexico. We are dealing with an effort to take over drug and narcotics control of the United States, Europe, and beyond. Certainly, we need more than local law enforcement to deal with it.

So whom do we put on the case? The Department of Justice. Why is that important? It is important because we need to have the men and women serving in that Department of Justice who are doing this job every single day.

Earlier this year, the Senator from Ohio explained why he is doing this, why he is stopping the appointment of well-qualified and vetted criminal prosecutors in the Department of Justice. Here is what he said:

I will hold all Department of Justice nominations . . . we will grind the Justice Department to a halt.

"Grind the Justice Department to a halt"—really? Is that what you want to leave as your legacy in the U.S. Senate, that somehow you managed to diminish the Department of Justice's effort to keep America safe, to keep neighborhoods safe, to stop the spread of narcotics? Is that something you brag about back home? I don't think so.

The average American hopes and prays that someone in Washington is working late at night, lights on, trying to make sure that there is less crime in America. They trust us to do our jobs, and one of them is to make sure the Department of Justice has the men and women they need to be led properly and to be effective.

The junior Senator from Ohio campaigned for this job in Congress, in the U.S. Senate, on the fact that he was tough on crime. He said:

Americans deserve safety. They won't get it if politicians . . . keep attacking police officers instead of violent criminals.

I would think he would recognize that U.S. attorneys are too important to be used as political footballs to make some headline or make some tweet, or whatever it happens to be. I would think he would recognize that he is blocking highly qualified nominees who have significant experience as Federal prosecutors and who have qualifications and leadership abilities to serve with distinction.

According to the junior Senator from Ohio, the Justice Department has been "weaponized"—a favorite word of the right—simply because former President Trump has been indicted for multiple felonies. So this is retribution. In

order to punish the Department of Justice for any part of it—prosecuting or indicting the former President—the Senator from Ohio wants to stop prosecutors—criminal prosecutors—from going to work in Chicago and Cleveland.

What is he going to do about the pending case in New York? There has to be a way for him to stop the Department of Justice, the work by the State of New York, the work by their attorney general. The former President is being sued—I can use the term "prosecuted," but sued—in court for his business dealings in New York, and he has a case pending in Georgia. What is the junior Senator in Ohio going to do to punish Georgia for having the temerity of indicting the former President as well?

There is simply no basis in reason, fact, or law for what he is doing. The Justice Department under the Biden administration has made a point of demonstrating its independence, focusing on investigating and prosecuting criminal activity, regardless of an individual's political affiliation.

Attorney General Merrick Garland has even appointed special counsels to handle the investigations of the current President and the former President to ensure their independence.

Last week, Senator VANCE came to the Senate floor and stated:

[M]y objection is not specific to the qualifications of the particular individuals that have been nominated.

He explicitly said this in reference to both these nominees. So he is not questioning whether they are qualified for the job; he is just angry because the former President has been indicted by the Department of Justice.

In response, I offered the junior Senator from Ohio the opportunity to end his obstruction and to keep his promise to support law enforcement by allowing us to schedule confirmation votes on four pending U.S. attorneys—exactly what he said in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD he wanted. He agreed to it. He released his objection to all four nominees on the condition that we hold rollcall votes on them. He did this publicly in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and privately. He had said that while he couldn't speak for his colleagues in the Senate who may object to some on the floor, he would no longer object.

Last week, we held votes on two of those U.S. attorney nominees. But then Senator VANCE changed his mind again. Overnight, he decided he actually does object to even holding a confirmation vote on the two nominees—Rebecca Lutzko to be the U.S. attorney in Cleveland, OH, and April Perry to be the U.S. attorney in Chicago, IL.

Over the last few weeks, Senator VANCE offered explanation after explanation on why he is doing exactly what he promised not to do when he ran for office. He promised he would "fight the criminals—not the cops." He has introduced a resolution in the Senate that calls on "all levels of government to

ensure that law enforcement officers receive the support and resources needed to keep all communities in the United States safe.”

Now he has the chance to support law enforcement. Instead, he comes to the Senate floor three times to undermine the U.S. Attorney’s Office—even one in his own State that he represents here in the Senate. These are officers responsible for prosecuting drug cartels, sex traffickers, and other violent criminals.

Senator VANCE himself has said that Americans will not be safe if politicians keep attacking our law enforcement officers. I fear he is proving that as right.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 314 and 315; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to address a few points that my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois, made. I will restate a few of the things I have said.

First of all, he made much about my hold policy being focused on Donald Trump. And, of course, I do think it is preposterous—banana republic stuff—that the President of the United States is trying to throw his opponent in jail in the middle of a Presidential election.

But this isn’t just about Donald Trump. This is about a pro-life father of seven who was harassed and arrested in front of his children like a common criminal. This is about parents who are investigated by the FBI for peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights at school board meetings. This is about a Department of Justice that seems far more interested in politics than in justice.

So long as that is true, Senator, I will certainly continue to implement my hold policy.

I want to say a second thing, which is that all I am asking for—all I am asking for—is that my distinguished colleague from Illinois or any other Senator invoke cloture, force a cloture vote, and then force a vote on the Senate floor. I understand that is not easy for a Senate that votes one to four times per day, but the American people—most of them have much harder jobs than we do. I think sticking our thumbs in the air or down to the ground is not too much to ask for people who—as my distinguished colleague said, we asked for this job. We ran for this job. We work pretty hard for this job. I think expecting us to vote on cloture and vote on these nominees on the record is not too much to ask.

Third point that I will make: I have come to really appreciate and look forward to these exchanges with my colleague from Illinois. I will say this, that I think his criticism and I think his concern come from a very legitimate place. He has made this argument a number of times, the argument that there is something unprecedented about what I am doing.

What is it—85 nominees were approved during the Trump administration through unanimous consent or whatever the number is—I don’t know; I am going off of memory here—and now we have somehow stopped it, we have changed it.

Well, certainly I have changed it. I have changed it because the Department of Justice has changed. When Donald Trump was President, he was not trying to throw Joe Biden in prison. Joe Biden is President, and he is threatening to throw not just Donald Trump but a whole host of political opponents in prison. That is unprecedented. That is a new thing. Therefore, the way we respond to it must be unprecedented as well.

I acknowledge something the Senator from Illinois is pointing out here. In years past, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have made an argument that most of my fellow conservatives don’t agree with but I do agree with. It is that for the Department of Justice or any local law enforcement to work—whether it is State, Federal, or county, city—it needs to have legitimacy; it needs to have the trust of the people.

I have talked to a number of people just in the last few months who have told me that they have witnessed things in their community, but they wouldn’t call the Department of Justice because they don’t trust the Department of Justice.

I know Senator DURBIN and others might say: Well, look, you are a conservative Republican from Ohio. Of course you talk to the sorts of people who are skeptical of the Department of Justice.

But I would ask him to extend the same courtesy to my voters that I would extend to all voters across this country whether they like me or not.

When people don’t believe that law enforcement can be trusted, public safety will suffer. Our Democratic colleagues have made this argument in the past, speaking about other prosecutors and other communities, and I actually think they are right. Whether you agree with the reasons why a given community is mistrustful of law enforcement, mistrust of law enforcement destroys one of the foundations of the Republic. You cannot have application of law if the people don’t trust the people who are doing the application. That is what is different about the situation we find ourselves in.

I don’t like that the Department of Justice has become what it has become. I don’t like—again, set aside President Trump. I am pro-Trump. A

number of my colleagues are anti-Trump. Set aside the concerns about the Presidential election. What about parents who are protesting at their school board meetings for their kids? Should they be investigated by the FBI? Since they are being investigated by the FBI, doesn’t that suggest that something is broken at the leadership of the Department of Justice? I think the answer is yes, and I think that answer threatens the foundation of law enforcement and equal justice under the law in this country.

I will continue the hold policy so long as a broken Department of Justice cares more about politics than it does justice. Because of that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Can you imagine what the family in Chicago who is concerned about narcotics and fentanyl deaths in their neighborhood thinks about this argument that somehow there is a grievance and people are mad about some of the things done by the Department of Justice?

Trust me, under the previous administration as well as this administration, as an attorney and a Senator, I can find things to object to. But to deny to the city of Cleveland and the Northern District of Ohio a U.S. attorney to lead their office to stop sex trafficking—that is a political statement this Senator believes is appropriate, that he is going to stop a nomination for someone to move into the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Chicago and lead the effort to stop the narcotics in our community or the trafficking of thousands and thousands and thousands of guns each year from neighboring States, and he is going to hold up that person because he objects to the way they treated former President Trump? For goodness’ sake, that is what is wrong with this country, and that is what is wrong with this Senate.

When one Senator can stop the appointment of a well-qualified individual with no questions asked about her ability to handle the job, either in Cleveland or in Chicago, and to do that because he has a political grievance—I hope I never get to that point, and I hope other Members of the Senate will think twice.

We need to function as a government that is effective and provides safety for the people we are sent here to represent. Having this snit over some political grievance and holding up the effective appointment of prosecutors to do their job is inappropriate.

I will continue to come to the floor and plead the case for safety in the neighborhoods.

Before anyone else decides to come to the floor in the future on the Republican side and criticize crime in the city of Chicago, for goodness’ sake, try to explain to the Senator from Ohio that there is a connection between criminal prosecution and crime.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk briefly to the Senate today about two issues. With respect to the first issue, I suppose I am talking to my people back in Louisiana as much as I am talking to my colleagues in the U.S. Senate.

This is New Orleans. This is the Mississippi River, which, as you know, runs through New Orleans. Much of southeast Louisiana, including but not limited to the city of New Orleans, gets its drinking water from the Mississippi River. Of course, the Mississippi River is freshwater, and the Mississippi River is long, wide, and mighty.

The Mississippi River's source is the northern part of our State. It drains a number of other rivers. This is the southern portion of the Mississippi River. In New Orleans, it kind of meanders around and shifts to the east before it hits south again into the Gulf of Mexico, which is, of course, saltwater.

You probably never thought about this, Mr. President. Perhaps you have. Most people haven't. Why doesn't saltwater—the Mississippi River runs into the gulf, which is saltwater, and the gulf is a big area. Why doesn't saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico flow up the Mississippi River? That would be a good question.

The reason is pretty simple. As I said, the Mississippi River is long, big, wide, and mighty, and it drains a good portion of the United States. When the Mississippi River is at normal levels, it flows very, very quickly and fast, and it keeps the saltwater down here in the Gulf of Mexico at bay.

But sometimes the Mississippi River gets low, and it flows less swiftly, and that is the situation right now. When that happens—it has happened I think five times in the last three centuries—sometimes saltwater actually comes up from the gulf into the Mississippi River, which is a problem for my people in southeast Louisiana, including but not limited to New Orleans, because they rely on the Mississippi River for their drinking water because it is freshwater.

This red line represents the saltwater intrusion. Saltwater is creeping up the Mississippi River just like a thermometer. We know, based on historical evidence, that it is not likely to go all the way up the Mississippi River, but that doesn't solve our problem in Louisiana because we depend on the Mississippi River for drinking water. If it gets far enough up the Mississippi River—"it" meaning the saltwater—then we have a real problem in southeast Louisiana.

As I say, in the last 25 years, this has happened four times—in 1999, 2002, 2022, and it is happening this year as we speak. I think the time that it happened before was in 1888, if I recall correctly.

I am an optimist who worries. I am worried about this because about 1 million of my 4.6 million people in my

State depend on this river for drinking water, and we are in the middle of watching the saltwater come up the river, and we don't think it is going to stop coming up the river until sometime around, I don't know, the end of October maybe. We could be wrong.

But I want the Senate and I want my people to understand that their local, their State, and their Federal governments are dealing with this problem.

First, I want to thank President Biden. President Biden declared a disaster declaration, which allows us to get the assistance of FEMA, and I am very, very grateful for that.

No. 2, our Corps of Engineers is involved. They are very able people. Our Corps of Engineers, below the city of New Orleans, has built an underwater dam. That is what it looks like. It is like a dam. They call it a sill. I call it a dam or a levee. It is under the water. It is down below New Orleans.

Well, why in the world would the Corps of Engineers do that? Because saltwater is heavier than freshwater and when the saltwater comes up the Mississippi River, it is not coming at the top; it is coming at the bottom.

And the Corps of Engineers in a place called Myrtle Grove below New Orleans—by the way, Myrtle Grove is also known for its great fishing, wonderful fishing, and really good people. But at the area in the river next to Myrtle Grove, the corps is coming in, and they built an underwater dam.

Now, that is not going to stop all the saltwater. It is just going to slow it down and stop some of it. So some of the saltwater, despite this dam, is still flowing north, headed toward New Orleans. The corps is talking about, if necessary, adding an additional 25 feet to the underwater dam.

Right now, the underwater dam is about 55 feet. We add another 25 feet. The river at that level or at this point is about 90 feet. And they are leaving a hole in the dam, in case you were wondering, for ships to come through.

No. 3, the Corps of Engineers and FEMA are both prepared, if necessary, to deliver us freshwater, if we need it, by barge. And if you ever wonder about the might of the Federal Government and particularly our Corps of Engineers—again, I can't thank them enough—they can deliver up to 36 million gallons of freshwater a day. So thank you, Corps of Engineers, and I want my people back home to know that, so they won't be worried.

Also, looking on the bright side—put that back up for me will you, Henson—by the way, Mr. President, with me today are two of my colleagues from my office, Mr. Henson Webre and Mr. Christian Amy. I want to thank them for their help.

Again, this is New Orleans. Here is the saltwater creeping up. Not everybody in New Orleans and in the New Orleans area and Southeast Louisiana gets their water from the Mississippi River. Some people have well water. So that is a plus.

Some facilities in New Orleans have also started installing what is called reverse osmosis filtration machines to take the saltwater out of the freshwater. And we in government stand ready and willing to advise facilities of the right to do that.

The other thing we are talking about doing—we are trying to not do this except as a last resort because it is so expensive—as you see here, the red is the saltwater; the blue is the freshwater. Folks who live down here by the saltwater and can't get water out of the Mississippi because it is too salty, we are thinking about building pipelines this direction, going north sort of along the river to get freshwater from a point in the river further up north and take it through those pipelines down south where we need it.

Now, that is expensive. It is being looked at by local governments, being looked at by the State government. We are in discussions with the Federal Government about it. It will be a last resort because it is so expensive, and I hope that the saltwater intrusion can stop. We can stop it.

Frankly, what is causing this is we are having a drought, and there is not enough water in the Mississippi River. If we could get a little rain up north, that will add to the volume of the river, and it will flow more quickly, and it will push that saltwater out.

The final thing, I want my people to understand what we are doing. This is Southeast Louisiana. It is sort of the toe of the boot. Further up here in Louisiana, we have built a minidam. We call it the Old River Control structure on the Mississippi River, and we divert some of the water out of the Mississippi River into another river in Louisiana called the Atchafalaya River.

In fact, we do that pursuant to a statute passed by Congress which says that 70 percent of the water at this point, which is way up here, has to be diverted—or kept in the Mississippi River, but 30 percent is diverted further west to the Atchafalaya River.

Why do we do that? Because the corps decided years and years and years ago, that river at that point is so strong and so mighty and moving so quickly and so swiftly and that if we did not divert some of that water, the Mississippi would change course and, instead of flowing through Baton Rouge and New Orleans, it would change course and flow this way to the gulf. So years ago, the corps said, We need to take some water out.

The corps is thinking about opening that dam up, if necessary, at the Old River Control structure and putting some of that water back into the Mississippi River that it is diverting right now to increase the flow of the river, which will, of course, push the saltwater back out.

So I appreciate, Mr. President, the Senate's patience in allowing me to explain this. As I say, I want to thank President Biden for his declaration. I

want to thank FEMA. I want to thank the Corps of Engineers.

I don't want my people to worry. Your folks in government have pounced on this issue like a ninja, and I am not saying we have it solved, but we are doing everything we can to get us through this.

INDEPENDENT AND OBJECTIVE OVERSIGHT OF
UKRAINIAN ASSISTANCE ACT

Second issue, I will try to be brief. Mr. President, as you know, we have spent over \$100 billion to help Ukraine defeat Vladimir Putin, whose thirst for blood we now know is legendary. He has the same—"he" meaning Vladimir Putin—has the same thirst for blood that Stalin did. We have spent over a hundred billion dollars helping Ukraine. Some people think we have spent too much. Some people think we need to spend more. Some people think we shouldn't have spent their money there at all. Some people think we ought to spend less.

This is America. You know, opinions are kind of like bellybuttons; everyone has one. Some are innies; some are outies. But everybody has one, and you are entitled to share it in America.

The Senate is going to be debating Ukraine soon, as you know, Mr. President. But regardless of how you feel about beating back Putin and whether you think that is in America's national security interest and whether you agree with me that Putin is a pirate—he is a gangster—wherever you stand on that, there is one thing we all ought to be able to agree on: This hundred billion dollars plus—it is actually around \$113 billion—and that is not just money for arms. That is also money for humanitarian aid and money to keep the government of Ukraine running. And that money, that \$113-plus billion didn't just fall from heaven. We thank heaven for it. But it came out of people's pockets. Those people are called the American taxpayers.

And one thing—regardless of what you think about Ukraine—I think we can all agree on is that we have to watch that money like a hawk. We cannot allow it to be stolen. We cannot allow it to be wasted.

Now, Mr. President, I know you have had this experience in life because I know you are a wise man. Nothing in this world makes it easier to resist temptation than a proper upbringing, a strong set of values, and witnesses. And we need more witnesses, and I am talking about an inspector general.

Senator SINEMA and I have a bill; it is called the Independent and Objective Oversight of Ukrainian Assistance Act. All this bill does, it says, Mr. President—not our Mr. President here in the Senate, President Biden—appoint an inspector general to watch this money like a hawk.

And that inspector general would have to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. President picks; we confirm. And that inspector general would give periodic reports to the President, to the

Congress, and to the American people on a weekly basis, if they would like, about its audits of this money and who has been stealing, if anyone, and who has been calling.

Now, let me make two quick points. President Zelenskyy is also fighting corruption, and there has been some corruption in Ukraine. You would expect there to be, frankly, when you are spending \$100-plus billion. And President Zelenskyy—I am proud of him—he has fired the people that he has caught, and they are prosecuting others. So he is watching.

I also want to be fair. Right now, the inspector general from the Department of Defense and an Agency called USAID and the Department of State, they say they are auditing the money, and I am not saying they are not. I am not saying they are not. But have any of you heard from them? I haven't.

I know they had one meeting where they came up here at their convenience to talk to us, and a bunch of us couldn't go. We were in hearings or something. But they haven't been giving periodic reports to the American people. And I am not saying they are doing a bad job. I am not saying that. What I am saying is that we don't need a cluster of Agencies involved here turning into a cluster of another description. Just like we did in Afghanistan, we need one inspector general, one woman or man, that we can hold responsible, appointed by the President, confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The inspector general at the Department of Defense and the inspector general of the State Department, the inspector general at USAID can work under the people's inspector general, under Senator SINEMA and I's bill. But we need one person—one person—to hold accountable, just like we did in Afghanistan. And the American people, regardless of how they feel about the funding in Ukraine, and the Members of the U.S. Senate, regardless of how they feel about the war in Ukraine—surely, we can agree that we will all rest easily—or at least easier if we follow the money.

Now, I tried to pass this bill once, Mr. President, and I want to be fair. Some of my Democratic colleagues opposed it, but some of my Republican colleagues opposed it, too. And some of them were quiet about how they opposed it, but I know who they are. I love them, but I know what they were up to. They were taking orders from the Department of Defense because the Department of Defense—bless their hearts—they don't want any of us intruding on their turf.

They say, We have got this. Well, let me tell you something. There is one Agency in the Federal Government that has never been audited. One Agency in the Federal Government that has never been audited. Guess which one? The Department of Defense. The Department of Defense.

Now, I am not saying that is the fault of the inspector general there

now, but he needs to start with his own Department and let Senator SINEMA and I pass this bill. We are trying to help him, not hurt him. We are trying to give him some help. So that is what our bill will do.

I am not giving up. "I will be back," as I said the other day, just like the Terminator, on another issue. This is something that all Senators can agree on, regardless of our position on Ukraine, that this money shouldn't be wasted.

I am going to say it again. Nothing makes it easier to resist temptation than a proper upbringing and a strong set of values and witnesses.

Senator SINEMA's bill and my bill will provide those witnesses, those auditors, those inspectors general that we need.

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, according to news reports, September was another recordbreaking month at the southern border. My State, of course, has 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico so we are bearing the brunt and have borne the brunt of this flow of humanity, this humanitarian crisis, which has created now a public safety crisis as a result of unrestrained illegal immigration.

News reports are that more than 260,000—more than a quarter of a million—more than a quarter of a million migrants crossed the border last month, making it the busiest month on record. I know sometimes it is hard to grasp the immensity of these numbers, but let me put it another way. It is an average of 8,600 migrants coming to the United States every day. Of course, when they come to Texas or Arizona or California, they don't stay there. That is why you are hearing from the Governor of Illinois, the Governor of New York, the mayor of New York City, talking about the impact on their States and their cities.

Of course, we all know that the fentanyl crisis, which is part and parcel of this open border, has taken the lives of 71,000 Americans last year alone. We know where the precursors come from. They come from China. We know where it is manufactured—in Mexico—and then it comes across the border. The business model of the cartels is flood the border with people, divert the attention of the Border Patrol who have to engage in pushing paper and processing these migrants. Meanwhile, the unprotected border allows for the surge of drugs across the border, and they end up in all 50 States and in every community.

So it is an average of 8,600 migrants per day, but we have seen surges up to 11,000 people a day, and it isn't going to get any better unless something changes. Former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson once warned that even 1,000 migrants a day overwhelm the system. We are now operating at more than 8½ times that pace, on average.

When migration levels are so high, it impacts all of our missions at the border, even those that have nothing to do with migration. Law enforcement, as I said, shifted from the frontlines. Instead of stopping dangerous drugs, many agents find themselves pushing paper and changing diapers because we have seen 300,000 unaccompanied children come across the border since President Biden took office.

Unfortunately, as the New York Times has documented, in at least 85,000 instances, when Health and Human Services—the Office of Refugee Relocation—made a wellness call to the sponsors for those children, there was no answer and no followup by the administration. So the administration can't tell you whether they are being trafficked for sex or whether they are being forced to work in dangerous jobs, whether they are getting healthcare, whether they are going to school. They just can't tell you, and they, frankly, don't care. They say: It is not our job anymore once we place them with sponsors.

This is up to the Child Protective Services in each of our States. As the Presiding Officer knows, all of our States are seeing tremendous caseloads in their Child Protective Services, and they can't handle what they have now much less the thousands more coming each day.

Under President Biden's leadership, the crisis at the border just gets worse. As I said, we have hit a record of 260,000 a month. The United States has pretty much broken every record on the books at the border and broken those records again. The busiest days, years, months at border crossings have all happened under President Biden's watch. With each day that passes, the border crisis is affecting the safety and security of our country, and the White House refuses to accept any responsibility or to change anything about the way they operate or to reach out or to even receive suggestions or have a willingness to meet to try to solve the problem. They just show no interest.

The President and his administration act like their hands are tied and they can't do anything, but that is simply false. In the 1990s, President Clinton signed a law establishing what is called expedited removal. It allows the Border Patrol to detain and quickly remove illegal immigrants. Expedited removals have been utilized by Republican and Democratic administrations over the years. It is a powerful deterrent, and what we lack now is any sense of deterrence.

I learned with interest today that the mayor of New York is making a trip to

Central and South America to give the message: Don't come. Don't come to the United States. Don't come to New York City.

Of course, that voice is lost among the images on TV that demonstrate that people who do come can successfully make their way to the border and into the country. Of course, then there are people who successfully make it and call their relatives back home and say: I made it. You can, too. Come.

So there is no deterrence, but there would be if we used the law that President Clinton signed which allows for expedited removal, because not all of the people coming to the border are claiming asylum, but they are being paroled in the nomenclature of our immigration laws. They are being released into the interior of the United States without even claiming any legitimate basis for being here.

President Biden has the authority to conduct expedited removals today. He had that authority from day one, but he refuses to utilize it. Rather than stand up new facilities or hire more personnel to make the expedited removal process function, the Biden administration has simply been releasing people into the interior of the country at an unprecedented pace.

CBS News reports that the Department of Homeland Security has released most migrants into the interior in recent months, instructing them to undergo immigration court proceedings which are years away. One of the New York newspapers recently reported that in order to get a hearing in an immigration court in New York, it could take up to 10 years.

The administration has engaged in catch-and-release on an unprecedented scale, and communities across our country are paying the price. Their children are being stolen by fentanyl. Their streets and sidewalks are filled with migrants who have nowhere to go. Their city budgets are being wrecked by a crisis that should be managed by the Federal Government.

I have often asked myself, what is it going to take for President Biden to care and do something about this crisis? He seems unfazed by the more than 6 million border crossings that have happened since he became President, not to mention the 1.5 million "got-aways."

He seems unconcerned that this crisis serves as a perfect diversion for the drug cartels that are trafficking fentanyl and other deadly drugs into the United States. He seems unbothered by the fact that the administration has lost track of hundreds of thousands of migrant children, including countless kids who we know are being exploited for child labor.

Thanks to President Biden's neglect, the border needs far more resources than ever. We need more agents; we need more detention space; more physical barriers; more immigration judge teams; and more flexibility to remove individuals who have no legitimate claim to remain in the United States.

I will give you an example of where one small tweak in our asylum practices could change a lot. It could send a message that you can't come unless you have a legitimate claim. It involves something like what is known as safe third country transit.

For example, about a year and a half ago, Del Rio, TX—a small town of 35,000 people—had 15,000 Haitians show up. You can imagine the chaos and the burden just of trying to take care of the basic human needs of that many people at one time. Well, it turns out these Haitians did not come from Haiti, at least not directly. They had been living in South America. But because they knew that they could show up at the border, say the magic words, and then be released into the interior of the country, only to be told to show up for an immigration court hearing years in the future, they knew they could beat the system. They knew how to exploit the system.

Well, neither little cities like Del Rio nor, apparently, big cities like New York City have the infrastructure or the ability to manage this many migrants in a fair, orderly, or humane way. But given the administration's complete lack of interest in solving the problem, the only thing I know to do is for Congress to act. We need Democrats and Republicans to try to work this out.

I have worked on immigration issues the whole time I have been in the Senate, and, believe me, it is one of the most frustrating topics to work on that I can imagine. But I don't think we have any choice but to keep trying. This should be a point of agreement among our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. After all, the impact of this crisis is now being felt far beyond the southern border.

The majority leader's home State of New York is overwhelmed, they say, by the burden of the migrant crisis even though Texas and Arizona, for example, have had millions of people come across our borders. Now Mayor Adams of New York City is crying uncle when 10,000 people show up in New York City. The Governor of New York and the mayor of New York City have sounded the alarm over the devastating impact of this crisis.

The majority whip's home of Illinois is feeling the burden too. Governor Pritzker recently made similar comments to the Governor of New York and to the mayor of New York City. The situation has become so untenable that hundreds of migrants have begun sleeping on the floors of police stations and the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

Cities more than 1,000 miles away from the southern border are overwhelmed by the unbearable weight of President Biden's border crisis. Thanks to his failed policies, every State has now become a border State. No community is immune to the consequences of the security failures at the southern border, including communities where I

have met with the parents of young people who lost their lives by consuming fentanyl, by taking a pill that they thought was innocuous but that had just enough fentanyl to take their lives.

We know where it is coming from, and it is a result of the failure to control the borders. There is nothing safe, orderly, or humane about the status quo; and our colleagues across the aisle need to work with us to fix it. This is now a nationwide disaster that affects every State and every community in America, and I hope we can rely on the courage and the leadership of the Members of the U.S. Congress to take action.

Border security is national security. It is not just a problem in my State or in Arizona or in New Mexico or in California. We need to be clear-eyed about the vulnerabilities at the border and what the ramifications of an open border are, and then we need to take decisive action to address them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF SUSAN KIM DECLERCQ

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to strongly support the nomination of Susan DeClercq, whom President Biden nominated to serve as the U.S. District judge for the Eastern District of Michigan; and we will be having that vote shortly.

One of the things that people consistently say about Ms. DeClercq is how warm and personable she is. She is, in a word, kind, but don't let that fool you. She can go toe-to-toe with anyone in the courtroom. Ms. DeClercq is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University School of Law.

Her first job out of law school was serving as a clerk to U.S. District Judge Avern L. Cohn. Judge Cohn was a force of nature who spent 40 years on the Federal bench, retiring at age 95. He was a bit gruff, but he had an open mind and an open heart—two attributes Ms. DeClercq has carried throughout her career that spans the public and the private sectors.

Currently, she is director and counsel for special investigations at Ford Motor Company. Before that, she spent 18 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan in a variety of leadership roles, including as Chief of the Civil Division.

She has fought to protect people's civil rights over and over and over again—an example: a Michigan family that was literally kicked out of a restaurant because their children suffered from a genetic skin disease. She successfully represented an auxiliary firefighter, a U.S. Army reservist who was denied a promotion, which was extended to coworkers with less experience, after he returned from Active Duty in Afghanistan.

In all of her cases, she has won the respect of everyone in the courtroom. As one Michigan lawyer said: If I had

to lose to anybody in litigation, I am glad it was Ms. DeClercq.

It is worth noting that, if confirmed, Susan DeClercq will be Michigan's first Federal judge of East Asian descent. Susan DeClercq is an outstanding nominee who received bipartisan support during her cloture vote earlier today.

I urge my colleagues to support her confirmation.

I yield the floor, and I would ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

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

VOTE ON DECLERCQ NOMINATION

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

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—6

Graham	Menendez	Romney
Hawley	Risch	Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). 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 Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am back for now the 290th time to urge this Chamber to act on climate change. I have my trusty graphic here, which after nearly 300 of these is getting a little battered.

This evening, I would like to talk about two things: First is the grim parade of climate-driven disasters the United States and the world has experienced over the last several months. Then, our hearings in the Budget Committee on the enormous budgetary and economic dangers caused by fossil fuel emissions.

Let's start with the unprecedented warming the world is experiencing. This June was the hottest June on record. Then July became the hottest month on record. Then August became the hottest August and the second hottest month on record, and September was just declared the hottest September on record and by the largest margin.

Here is what that looks like when you compare it to previous years. We have popped out of the zone of previous experience.

So 2023 will almost certainly become the hottest year on record, with the first significant chance that global average temperature will hit 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than the preindustrial average. Exceeding that 1.5 degree-Celsius point will expose us to dangerous tipping points, things like ice sheet collapses that could cause dozens of feet of sea level rise.

More than 6,500 daily heat records were broken in cities and towns across the United States this summer. Phoenix experienced a record 55 days this year with temperatures above 110 degrees, with a 31-day streak. People who fell on Phoenix pavement required medical attention for burns. The Midwest experienced its worst drought in over a decade, with huge swaths of the Midwest, Southwest, and the South still under the most severe drought designation.

Extreme drought in Hawaii set the conditions for its lethal wildfire. In Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania, storms triggered deadly floods. Florida's gulf coast was hit by Hurricane Idalia, which intensified rapidly over warmed-up waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Wind speeds increased almost 55 miles per hour in just a 14-hour window.

Around the world, Europe baked; China hit record high temperatures; Italy suffered its worst flooding in a century; and more than 21,000 Libyans are dead or missing after massive flooding. Recordbreaking fires ravaged Greece and Canada.

Canada's fires burned an area roughly the size of Oklahoma.

The smoke. Here is the annual acreage of Canadian wildfires, and here is this year. Top year before, down here. This is what we got last year. The smoke from these fires blanketed the eastern seaboard for weeks. Here in Washington, doctors said that breathing the smoke-choked air was worse than smoking a half pack of cigarettes. New York looked like this.

The list of unprecedented, record-breaking, and worst in history climate events goes on and on. These disasters seen separately fail to capture the full scale of the problem. When you look at them together, you see that we are creating a climate for our own habitation unlike any in the history of humankind.

We are increasingly testing the limits of human habitability on this planet, and it will worsen if we don't act—which brings us to the Budget Committee. Set aside the destruction of lives and livelihoods, the 250,000 deaths around the world each year caused by fossil fuel emissions. Look just at the financial havoc.

Last year, weather-related damage in the United States topped \$165 billion, the third costliest year on record. This year, we have had 23 separate billion-dollar climate disasters already, and that is just counting direct, physical damage. Just now, in the CR, we had to add \$16 billion in disaster relief funds, and that is only a stopgap. Failing at our climate responsibilities is immoral, but it is also irresponsible, fiscally irresponsible.

So the Budget Committee did a deep dive into the fiscal costs and risks of climate change. Across 10 Budget Committee hearings already this year, central bankers, financial experts, economists, insurance executives, political leaders, and other responsible experts described increased budget costs and systemic risks looming over the U.S. economy.

What is "systemic"? Systemic means that the damage spreads beyond the immediately affected sector and cascades throughout the economy. Remember 2008 when a meltdown in the mortgage market cascaded through the economy and brought the Great Recession? Between October 2008 and April 2009, 700,000 Americans lost their jobs every month. American households lost \$17 trillion in wealth. The Federal Government's debt grew by \$5 trillion from lost revenues. Our economy still carries the scars.

And in one of our Budget hearings, a former chief economist from Freddie Mac said that climate change could cause a crash in coastal property values that would be just as bad. Just as bad.

Sea level rise and worse coastal storms are on their way to making more than a trillion dollars in coastal real estate uninsurable and, therefore, unmortgageable, and that is when you get that crash—not when the water pours in across your doorstep, but when 30-year mortgages won't cover

your property because that risk of the water coming over the doorstep is so foreseeable.

And it is not just coastal property either, we heard. There is a whole separate risk from wildfires that a similar death spiral occurs for Western property values, and we had a hearing on that.

The other systemic threat we had a hearing about is that the fossil fuel industry is artificially propped up, both by massive political subsidies and crooked international cartel pricing and that, as inevitably declining demand for its products occurs, that, in turn, will cause a dash for the exits—when other countries that pump enormous amounts of oil and gas abandon the cartel pricing, sell it for what they can get, the dash for the exits. When that happens, it will strand hundreds of billions of dollars in fossil fuel assets in what is called a carbon-bubble collapse.

Each of these three systemic risks is well documented. Each could create a massive economic crash. And added to that is the steady, relentless cost increases, the climate inflation from insurance prices, from lost and damaged infrastructure, from increased healthcare needs, and from climbing food prices as increased temperatures, higher sea levels, and precipitation anomalies break up world food supply patterns. We have had hearings on those, too.

At our very first hearing, a former governor of the banks of England and Canada and a former Director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office and Goldman Sachs former head of risk management all underscored the economic urgency of solving climate change and the foreseeable hit of climate change on public budgets. They all suggested that a price on carbon so polluters pay for harms they cause would be fiscally and economically responsible.

One Republican member of the committee embraced a domestic price on carbon and noted that a carbon border adjustment—a tariff on imports from carbon-intensive economies such as China's—would use market forces to decarbonize the global economy. I couldn't agree more. I have had that bill in the Senate for years, a carbon price with a border tariff.

A later hearing brought conservative support for that kind of climate action from former Australian Conservative Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and former Republican Majority Leader Bill Frist. Up against our serious, nonpartisan, and knowledgeable witnesses—among them witnesses with real fiduciary obligations and real economic stakes with every motive to get it right—the Republican witnesses often spouted fossil fuel disinformation, often funded by dark money industry front groups.

We heard some beauties—one witness, a former mouthpiece of the tobacco industry, stated that secondhand

smoke was not a public health issue because lung cancer and emphysema are not contagious, like that is the problem. One witness produced cherry-picked and misleading testimony so easily refuted that even the fossil fuel friendly Montana Attorney General dropped her off his witness list in the youth climate case he was defending, a trial that the young plaintiffs won against the State of Montana, by the way.

Another witness informed us that sea level rise was nothing to worry about because New York, Miami, and Boston will all just move.

Republican witnesses spouted the usual debunked falsehoods, that renewable energy is expensive, that the fossil fuel industry isn't subsidized, that the science around climate change is uncertain, that transitioning to clean energy will be bad for the economy. It is all nonsense, and they say it anyway.

One witness even tried to accuse the financial services sector of having a conflict of interest behind what she called its climate alarmism. But then she had to admit, under examination, that the fossil fuel industry was the one with the economic incentive to minimize climate dangers and shouldn't be trusted as a reliable source.

Many of the Republican witnesses have made careers out of being industry shills, sheltered in a fossil fuel funded array of front groups like the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, and the Heritage Foundation just to be trotted out for hearings like these.

Well, our hearings began in February, and they got very often this response from the other side. But let us take a look at what we warned about and what happened since.

Well, first of all, there is that accelerating cascade of climate disasters that I discussed at the beginning of the speech, so I won't relitigate that.

Let us go on to insurance. Our hearings in February and March warned of turbulence ahead in the insurance industry. These predictions are already coming true—hearings in February and March. By July, insurers were exiting or reducing exposure in California, Florida, Texas, and Louisiana markets, and reinsurers exited Iowa—all citing exposure to climate-related losses. In Florida, homeowners' premiums have spiked to nearly four times the national average with a 40-percent increase this year predicted.

There are already signs that insurance affordability and availability are beginning to disrupt Florida's real estate market, exactly as foretold in our hearings, and I doubt Florida's State insurance fund is solvent.

And don't think it is just Florida. Here is where climate risks are hitting home insurance markets. A lot of it is along the coast here, where hurricanes and sea level rise and increased storm and tide damage is putting homeownership at risk. You will notice that the

entire State of Florida is covered. But then out here, you get into wildfire-adjacent areas where the wildfire risk is already causing problems in the home insurance markets.

In the face of these risks, all across the country, up against truly distinguished witnesses, real grownups who know what they are talking about, whose warnings are already coming true, Republicans frequently put up fossil fuel front group mouthpieces, paid not to understand the facts. Sadly, it is a sign that fossil fuel mischief persists. So in our 11th hearing, we showed how the fossil fuel industry has known for almost seven decades about these dangers they deny.

As early as the 1950s, industry scientists left records of their warnings about climate change. They were measuring and predicting it. Industry scientists were measuring and predicting it, and they knew their fossil fuel products were causing it.

In 1977, Exxon Senior Scientist James Black told Exxon's management committee—I am quoting him here.

There is general scientific agreement that the most likely manner in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide release from the burning of fossil fuels.

Nineteen seventy-seven, that is what Exxon's scientists told Exxon's management. Well, other scientists noticed it, too. And Congress began pursuing legislation that would have addressed climate dangers. Big Oil responded with billions of dollars in fossil fuel funded disinformation, lobbying, and dark money election spending. They are still at it, as the more preposterous witnesses attested by their presence. It wasn't always so. During my first years here in the Senate, climate legislation was bipartisan. John McCain ran for President on a serious climate platform.

But in January 2010, the Citizens United decision set loose a barrage of political spending by the fossil fuel industry. Worse, the Court allowed that spending to be secret, to hide the identity of the spender. The fossil fuel industry was ready with unlimited dark money and—with the secret threats and promises that the ability to spend unlimited dark money allows you to make.

And between the spending and the threats and the promises, the fossil fuel industry snuffed out bipartisanism on climate like that. From January of 2010, the date of Citizens United forward, no Republican has gotten on a serious climate bill in the Senate.

Collectively, fossil fuel interest through trade organizations and through their dark money front groups have spent billions of dollars that we know of so far on ads, on lobbying, on campaign contributions, and on super PACs.

Super PACs, by the way, didn't exist before Citizens United. That monstrosity is a creation of Citizens United and dark money. The delay in climate

action that those billions of dollars bought has directly caused the economic perils that our hearings have spotlighted. Organizations like the Cato Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, by 2021 had received over half a billion dollars from fossil fuel and other dark money interests.

This is the web of various fossil fuel-funded front groups, with the bulk of the funding unidentified. That is the dark money blob in the middle of this web.

Here are some of the key groups into which political money flowed to support climate denial and climate skepticism. Political money flowed through anonymizing intermediaries into Republican super PACs. Lobbyists from industries and trade associations crawled around this building. They spent a fortune.

But for all the billions that they spent, this political and propaganda effort was a bargain—a corrupting bargain but a bargain. The International Monetary Fund calculates, using a peer-reviewed procedure, that we subsidize fossil fuels by \$760 billion—billion—annually in the United States alone. Seven hundred and sixty billion dollars is the subsidy the IMF points out that the fossil fuel industry floats on in this country.

So let's say the fossil fuel industry spent \$7.6 billion on political influence and secret corruption schemes every year. They would be pocketing a subsidy dollar for every political-influence penny that they spent if they protected their \$760 billion subsidy. It is the best money they could possibly spend. It is more rewarding than drilling for oil.

But while corrupting Congress may have been a bargain for them, the price of a corrupted Congress was very high for everyone else. We lost an essential decade from the Citizens United decision in January of 2010 and our passage of the IRA—the first serious piece of climate legislation passed by Congress.

More than \$10 trillion of our national debt stems from the 2008 financial crisis—a warned-of economic shock—and the COVID pandemic—another warned-of shock. Those trillions of “shock debt” amount to 40 percent of our total national debt. Climate disruption shocks are looming, predicted, clearly predicted, just like climate change and its consequences were predicted, clearly predicted. Now, as we have seen, the climate change consequences are here. The shocks are still looming.

I will close by saying that the threat from climate change to the Federal budget is probably the least of our climate worries as we think about the damage we are doing to the natural systems that have made Earth habitable for humankind; as we think about new diseases and dangers and destruction; as we think about wars and suffering as resources shift and global scarcity replaces global abundance; as we think about the lost species, the

lost places of beauty, the lost natural harmonies, the lost human traditions, the trout stream you can't teach your granddaughter to fish at because the trout aren't there. By some measures, the money is the least of it.

But here in Mammon Hall, we seem to care most about the money. So our Budget Committee hearings have made clear that warnings abound of what droughts, floods, wildfires, and heated, rising seas will do economically to American families and businesses and to our Federal budget.

The long-predicted damage has already begun. It has gone beyond science predictions. It is now within the fiduciary horizons of businesses that are having to report to shareholders on climate risks because it has become so real and so immediate that their fiduciary obligations demand that reporting. That is why the fossil fuel industry cooked up this whole phony anti-ESG show that they have put on to try to push back against the fiduciary obligations that so many corporations are feeling obliged to meet.

These looming, systemic, economy-wide threats are real. Nothing says that it is going to be either the coastal crash or the wildfire crash or the carbon bubble crash. Nothing says that all three can't happen.

If we are to be serious about debt and about deficits and about federal spending, we better damn well be serious about climate change. It is, as my trusty old graphic says, time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, first, I want to commend my colleague from Rhode Island. No one has been more accurate and more farseeing about climate change than SHELDON WHITEHOUSE.

When he first came to the Senate, it was a technical issue that scientists debated. Now it is an issue we are confronting because of his efforts, and it is also an issue we are confronting because we see it.

We are in the midst of a crisis. He foresaw it. He has dedicated himself to addressing it. I am just very proud to be his colleague in this Senate.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, tonight, I rise to discuss the state of the war in Ukraine and the vital importance of our support for the Ukrainian people.

While we could all breathe a sigh of relief that the House GOP didn't shut the government down last week, we need to move quickly to restore the military and humanitarian assistance that the House stripped out of the 47-day stopgap funding bill. At a minimum, we need to provide the full amount of Ukraine assistance requested by the administration. It is not just that we have a moral obligation to assist Ukraine; it is in our national security interest to do so.

I can't begin to understand the political infighting and intrigue that are occurring within the Republican majority in the House, and I certainly can't explain why GOP leaders allowed a small cadre of their caucus to effectively veto assistance to Ukraine. What I do know is that Ukrainians are at a crucial point in their fight against Russia, and they need our help.

Ukraine will soon enter another difficult winter, and we know Russia will target its energy and civilian infrastructure without regard for innocent civilians.

In a letter to congressional leaders last Friday, Michael McCord, the Comptroller for the Department of Defense, wrote that "the [Department of Defense] has exhausted nearly all available security assistance funding for Ukraine."

Under Secretary McCord added:

Without additional funding now, we would have to delay or curtail assistance to meet Ukraine's urgent requirements, including for air defense and ammunition that are critical and urgent now as Russia prepares to conduct a winter offensive and continues its bombardment of Ukrainian cities.

We cannot let that happen.

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

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

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2023.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER JEFFRIES: I write to express the Department of Defense's deep concern with the absence of security assistance funding for Ukraine in the continuing resolution (CR) being considered in the House, H.R. 5525, or any similar continuing resolution that might be proposed. The Department of Defense (DoD) is anxious to avoid a lapse in appropriations, but it is important that a CR protect our security interests and uphold our commitments and our values.

As you know, the Department has been providing vital security assistance to Ukraine since Russia's unprovoked invasion in February 2022, thanks to the bipartisan support of Congress. It is just as vital today that we continue that support.

Today, DoD has exhausted nearly all available security assistance funding for Ukraine. We are already out of funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, one of the two security assistance tools we have.

The other funding tool we need are those funds provided to replenish our military's inventories for the weapons and supplies we've provided to support Ukraine in their fight via drawdown. We have only \$1.6 billion remaining of the \$25.9 billion Congress has provided. We have already been forced to slow down the replenishment of our own forces to hedge against an uncertain funding future. Failure to replenish our military services on a timely basis could harm our military's readiness.

Without additional funding now, we would have to delay or curtail assistance to meet Ukraine's urgent requirements, including for air defense and ammunition that are critical and urgent now as Russia prepares to conduct a winter offensive and continues its bombardment of Ukrainian cities. For exam-

ple, a lack of USAI funding now will delay contracting actions that could negatively impact the Department's ability to purchase essential additional 155mm artillery and critical munitions essential for the success of Ukraine's Armed Forces.

This ammunition is critical to sustaining Ukraine's Armed Forces, including for their ongoing counteroffensive. An inability to ensure timely procurement and deliveries could undermine essential Ukrainian operations to retake additional territory or defend against potential future Russian offensives.

It would also affect our ability to support Ukraine's land forces, including obstacle breaching equipment, sustainment of previously provided small Unmanned Aerial Systems, systems to detect, analyze, and locate adversary signals, and demolitions equipment. It would affect training, maintenance and sustainment of the equipment we have previously provided, exportability efforts, spare parts, and other activities to ensure the Ukrainian Armed Forces receive a full capability.

A funding cutoff would also send a negative signal to our defense industrial base, which we have asked to step up munitions production across the country, resulting in increased defense capacity and higher employment. We cannot afford to throw that progress away. In fact, we are counting on it to implement our National Defense Strategy. It is important to note that from workers supporting Stinger and AMRAAM manufacturing in Arizona to factories producing components for Patriot interceptors and GMLRS in Arkansas, this funding is strengthening the American economy and creating hundreds of new American jobs.

Some have suggested that the Department could still execute the mission and support Ukraine's needs if we were given permission to transfer funds from inside a short-term CR from our own needs to fund more security assistance. I want to be clear, the Department does not support that approach, which will create unacceptable risk to us. Under a CR, the Department will be operating at a level approximately \$25 billion below our budget request for FY2024, which was and is consistent with the Fiscal Responsibility Act funding levels.

The bottom line is we cannot sustain adequate levels of Ukraine assistance with transfer authority alone.

Delays to additional funding would also be perceived by Ukraine as a sign of wavering U.S. support and likely as a betrayal of our previous commitments. Allies and partners are also unlikely to sustain their increased level of support without clear, continuing U.S. leadership. As you know, Secretary Austin successfully engages over 50 nations every month to press for sustained support. It is crucial that the U.S. continues to lead this global coalition, and we need the resources to underwrite our leadership role.

The Department appreciates your leadership on this vital matter, and I am sending an identical letter to the Speaker of the House as well as the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders.

MICHAEL MCCORD.

Mr. REED. I must point out that our support is the leading edge of worldwide support. Our NATO allies have stepped forward, and countries around the globe understand that this battle between democracy and freedom and autocracy and inhumanity must be won.

President Zelenskyy came to this very building 2 weeks ago to ask for our support. He received overwhelming

bipartisan promises from Members of both the Senate and the House. Of course, I was proud to pledge my support, and I know nearly all of my Senate colleagues were also.

It is shameful that on the heels of that visit, after looking President Zelenskyy in the eye and promising to stand with him, our House colleagues decided to strip all Ukraine funding from their continuing resolution. That decision contradicts the will of the majority of Congress and the American people, and it breaks faith with the people of Ukraine, who are in a battle to preserve their nation and their lives. And their battle is our battle. Their battle against unprovoked aggression by Putin against a democratic neighbor is a battle that we must ensure they can win because he won't stop there.

We can't allow the obstinacy of a few Members of the House of Representatives to force a cruel deal on those who least deserve it—the Ukrainian people.

As I said, this conflict matters not just to Ukraine but to our own security here at home. It is clear that if Putin succeeds in Ukraine, he will not stop. He made this clear years ago when he talked about that his mission in life, his sole, overwhelming preoccupation, was to recreate the Russian Empire—the Balkans, parts of Poland, Moldova, Georgia. He is very clear.

It is ironic in history how dictators can be so clear about what they want to do but ignored by people who should stand up to them. Hitler was very explicit in "Mein Kampf" on what his goal was. Yet world leaders appeased him. Will we appease Putin and cut off aid to the Ukrainians? If we do, it will be our problem.

He will seek to destabilize other countries in the region, including our NATO allies. If that happens, under article 5 of NATO, we have a legal and moral obligation to go to their aid. That means the blood that will be shed is not Ukrainian blood but the blood of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, guardians, and coastguardsmen. The cost of that, in my view, is priceless.

Our job in some respects is to ensure by our actions here that we continue lowering the probability that American men and women in our service will suffer and die in action. If we renege on our commitment to Ukraine, that probability will go up, not down, and we will regret it immensely.

We have seen colleagues on the other side speak out, but they have to speak out more vigorously.

Leader MCCONNELL said recently:

With Ukraine bravely defending its sovereignty and eroding Russia's capacity to threaten NATO, it is not the time to ease up. . . . Helping Ukraine retake its territory means weakening one of America's biggest strategic adversaries without firing a shot.

Leader MCCONNELL is right about that, and I admire his forceful and courageous support of the Ukrainian people.

Remember, also, China is watching how the democratic nations of the

world respond to Russia. In considering a potential invasion of Taiwan, President Xi is scrutinizing Putin's playbook and the international response, and he has seen things that are potentially encouraging, particularly if the international community simply gives up and allows Ukraine to fall.

The conclusion he likely will draw is that, if I engage and I am persistent enough for long enough, then the political whims in the United States and across the globe will fall behind and they will give up and I will succeed.

The credibility of the U.S. deterrent is only as strong as our actions. Our would-be partners around the world are also watching closely at what we are doing. Will we have their backs if they are attacked? We must show that we are a steadfast ally, not hamstrung by the whims of fringe politicians. Again, our adversaries would see themselves empowered as our alliances dissolve because there is no confidence or a lack of confidence in the United States.

This is especially true when we consider how the Ukrainians have proven, time and time again, that, given the right support, they are entirely capable of defeating the assaults launched against them, and there are a number of reasons for this.

First and foremost is the incredible courage and fighting skill of the Ukrainian people as well as the inspirational leadership of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. I had the opportunity, like so many of my colleagues, to travel to Kyiv earlier this year and was deeply moved by the Ukrainians' bravery and commitment to defending their homeland.

Second is the remarkable statesmanship of President Biden. His administration has forged a unified response, leading the worldwide condemnation of Putin and providing enormous military, economic, and humanitarian support for Ukraine. I doubt if anyone in this Senate, in the weeks before the invasion of Ukraine, would have predicted that NATO would rally as it has to support the Ukrainians; that allies across the globe would dig into their stocks of munitions and transfer them to the Ukrainians; that the whole world would be, in some respects, moved by the actions of our country in standing up and inspiring others to join with us.

We also benefited from 8 years of training of Ukrainian forces, starting in 2014. In fact, I had the first opportunity to meet General Cavoli, our Supreme Allied Commander, when he was a brigadier general in Lviv training Ukrainian soldiers. That training was manifested as they repulsed the Russian assault. It was squad leaders and company commanders and young battalion commanders who had been trained by us and our allies who were able to outfight, outmaneuver, and outthink their Russian adversaries, and they continue to do that.

Finally, Putin's assault has faltered from the inept performance of his own

forces. The war has exposed a poorly led and poorly trained Russian Army with corrupt leadership at every level, poor tactics and communication and inept logistics. But people learn from adversity. The Russians are learning, and they are beginning to understand the limitations of their forces. So they are putting them in trenches; they are fortifying the battlefield; they are minimizing any maneuver that they must do because that is a complicated military operation. Then they are throwing in thousands and thousands of poorly trained but still well-armed soldiers.

So we can't assume that their poor performance will last forever. That is another reason we have to continue our support and give our Ukrainian allies all the help they need.

Now, Putin assumed, I believe, that his actions, his quick assault on Kyiv, would drive a wedge within the international community; that we would dither; that we would debate; that we would do nothing. Well, he was badly mistaken. As I indicated before, with the leadership of President Biden and Secretary Blinken and others, NATO has shown a remarkable unity and resolve. And we can't overstate the scale of this importance; that countries that before were unenthusiastic, let me say, about military operations, suddenly began to provide equipment, support, training, raised their budgets, and do so to assist the people of Ukraine.

Also, something that goes unstated by so many is that our European allies are also giving tremendous aid to civilian populations that have been displaced and aid to the budget of Ukraine. If you look on a per capita basis of the GDP—I should say the basis of percentage of the GDP—we are not the most generous benefactor of Ukraine; it is the Baltic nations. So this is an unusual worldwide commitment of sacrifice, of resources, in which we are the leader, but many other nations are giving as much, if not more.

Now, Putin, I think, believes he can wait us all out. He can wait for the supplies to be exhausted by the Ukrainians. Oh, and by the way, if we take away our resources, those supplies will be quickly exhausted. But we cannot validate this viewpoint as the Ukrainians have fought too hard and suffered too much to be left alone on the battlefield, to be abandoned.

And just as the Ukrainians have learned and adapted on the battlefield, the effort to aid and equip their security forces has evolved as we have gone forward. Throughout the war, the Biden administration has calibrated our assistance to Ukraine, calibrated in a very difficult situation. We have allies that were somewhat reluctant to move weapons systems in. We have allies that are signatories to the treaty against the use of cluster munitions, which we had to take into account. We have to negotiate between multiple parties that don't have precisely the

same viewpoint as we have, but yet we have been able to consistently support, train, equip, and provide the resources necessary for the Ukrainian forces to begin their counteroffensive, which they did weeks ago; to continue their fight through this winter and position them, we hope, for a decisive action as soon as possible.

We have committed tremendous amounts of security assistance, including advanced air defense systems equipment, and we remain keen that we look ahead to provide the most modern weapons systems that the Ukrainians can use. Many people forget the training that is necessary to use sophisticated weapons systems. Many people forget that the key to maneuver operations is a rather sophisticated coordination between ground forces, heavy armored forces, artillery support, air support when available. All of these things are not something that one just does naturally. It takes training. It takes repeated attempts. Fortunately, for us, the Ukrainians are so dedicated to their country that they are committing their all to use our equipment effectively.

I will also note that the supplemental funding that we have brought has allowed us to invest more money and create more jobs right here in the United States as U.S. defense industry partners ramp up production to meet Ukraine's needs and to backfill our own munitions supplies.

Indeed, what we have found is, really, a new type of warfare. We had become accustomed for decades to have complete air superiority when we fought, to have precision weapons that were so accurate that the battles we fought were weeks: Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, the first phase of the battlefield in Afghanistan. So we didn't think we needed a large-scale munitions production. The type of warfare we are seeing now, which very well might be the type of warfare we encounter in the future, requires an industrial base that can provide adequate ammunition, an adequate supply of equipment. We have started that process. One aspect is multiyear contracts now for munitions so that there is a demand that producers understand and will fulfill.

Now, some have said our response has been too slow and that we should have given more weaponry or better weaponry, et cetera. Well, those people who have criticized the President about their claims of slowness should be outraged at the House, which is demanding we stop it all. They should raise their voices now, strongly, emphatically, to tell the House: We must have Ukrainian aid approved, and we must do it quickly.

Throughout the war in Ukraine, President Biden has led the United States and the international community with admirable resolve. Congress must send a strong message to Putin that Americans continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine

and that we are committed to supporting them as they fight bravely to defend their homeland.

The simple truth is that their battle is our battle. If they lose, Americans lose, and the likelihood that our young men and women will be called upon to enter the fray increases dramatically. We must support our Ukrainian allies. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 309.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer L. Hall, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 309, Jennifer L. Hall, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 297.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julia Kathleen Munley, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 297, Julia Kathleen Munley, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Jeanne Shaheen, Chris Van Hollen, Mark Kelly, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 53.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karla Ann Gilbride, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 53, Karla Ann Gilbride, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Peter Welch, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher Murphy, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Mazie K. Hirono.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, October 4, be waived.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I just filed on three nominations, and that will take us through Tuesday afternoon, October 17.

We will also return to the consideration of the minibuses, which includes MILCON-VA, Transportation-HUD, and Agriculture. We are working in good faith, together with our colleagues, to get the minibuses done as soon as possible.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

REMEMBERING KAREN MCGINNIS

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant and an icon of the Tri-Cities community. Last month, my good friend Karen McGinnis passed away. For 20 years, Karen served as the founding director of a critically important worker training facility, the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response, HAMMER, Federal Training Center, at the Hanford site in my home State of Washington.

Born in Nevada and raised in Oregon, Karen made her way to my alma mater, Washington State University, where she received her master's degree in agricultural economics in 1980. She went on to work at the Hanford site for almost her entire career, serving various Hanford contractors for 40 years,

including two decades as the director of the HAMMER training center. This is where I had the great fortune to cross paths with Karen.

Karen and I worked together from the get-go, along with Sam Volpentest, to plan, fund, and build HAMMER. I was so proud to stand with Karen and Sam at the groundbreaking for HAMMER in 1995, and I still have the shovel from that event in my office today. It serves as a reminder of what just a few people with a real passion to make a difference can accomplish—and if anyone had passion for this effort, it was Karen. Her work was essential to getting HAMMER off the ground and growing it into the world-class worker training center that it is today.

Beyond founding HAMMER, one of Karen's crowning achievements was the many, many partnerships she was able to forge. She brought Federal, State, and local agencies together with organized labor, Tribal governments, contractors and management, safety professionals, and community leaders to form a coalition that made HAMMER flourish. Her leadership earned HAMMER the Federal Government's top safety award through the Star Program of the Voluntary Protection Program. Karen was also honored with a Special Achievement Award for her role in getting there, and she was later appointed to sit on the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, FLETC, Advisory Board. Her leadership and coalition-building ensured that workers at the Hanford site and emergency responders around the world continue to receive the training they need to remain safe on the job today. Their work is dangerous—but vital. Without HAMMER, the Hanford cleanup mission would not have the trained workers necessary to continue making progress safely.

Ultimately, the entire safety culture at Hanford can be traced back to Karen's leadership, her dedication and infectious optimism, and her ability to bring people together. Former AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka recognized her work as one of the most important partnerships between labor and management in the country. I find it hard to disagree. Her incredible leadership and dedication to protecting workers' health and safety was essential in making HAMMER into a globally recognized worker training facility.

Not only did Karen build HAMMER, she also established the professional culture for worker safety, Tribal relationships, and collaboration between labor, contractors, and Federal programs. And she didn't stop there; she went on to develop the next generation of workers so that the worker-trainers of the future could lead the way. Now, there is an army of HAMMER champions ensuring that Congress, DOE, contractors, and national labor leaders recognize just how important this facility is.

I also have to say, as someone who knows a little about this: Karen didn't

take the easy road. She entered a profession dominated by men at the time—and she didn't just get by, she thrived as a pioneer in the field. Karen earned the respect of her colleagues, and importantly, she opened doors and broke glass ceilings so that other women could follow in her path.

Karen McGinnis was truly one-of-a-kind, a natural leader whose dedication, boundless energy, and wisdom touched many lives. She helped build something extraordinary at the Volpentest HAMMER Federal Training Center. Karen had as strong of a moral compass as you can find, and when she knew she was in the right, she did not take "no" for an answer. As for me personally, I knew that any time Karen came to my office—or anytime I visited her in the better Washington—she came ready to work, ready to help people, and ready to solve problems. Hanford workers and so many other people around the world are better off today because of Karen's vision, her tireless work, and her dedication to their safety and well-being.

Karen McGinnis has made a tremendous impact on the Tri-Cities community, Washington State, and our entire Nation. Today, I join with others in the State of Washington and across the world in recognizing Karen for her many years of service. She is dearly missed.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS RULES OF PROCEDURE AND MEMBERSHIP AND JURISDICTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the Committee on Foreign Relations has adopted rules and subcommittees governing its procedures and membership for the 118th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator RISCH, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of both be printed in the RECORD.

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

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

(Adopted September 27, 2023)

RULE 1—JURISDICTION

(a) Substantive—In accordance with Senate Rule XXV.1(j)(1), the jurisdiction of the committee shall extend to all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries.
2. Boundaries of the United States.
3. Diplomatic service.
4. Foreign economic, military, technical, and humanitarian assistance.
5. Foreign loans.
6. International activities of the American National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.
7. International aspects of nuclear energy, including nuclear transfer policy.
8. International conferences and congresses.

9. International law as it relates to foreign policy.

10. International Monetary Fund and other international organizations established primarily for international monetary purposes (except that, at the request of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, any proposed legislation relating to such subjects reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations shall be referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs).

11. Intervention abroad and declarations of war.

12. Measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad.

13. National security and international aspects of trusteeships of the United States.

14. Ocean and international environmental and scientific affairs as they relate to foreign policy.

15. Protection of United States citizens abroad and expatriation.

16. Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally.

17. Treaties and executive agreements, except reciprocal trade agreements.

18. United Nations and its affiliated organizations.

19. World Bank group, the regional development banks, and other international organizations established primarily for development assistance purposes.

The committee is also mandated by Senate Rule XXVI.1(j)(2) to study and review, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to the national security policy, foreign policy, and international economic policy as it relates to foreign policy of the United States, and matters relating to food, hunger, and nutrition in foreign countries, and report thereon from time to time.

(b) *Oversight*.—The committee also has a responsibility under Senate Rule XXVI.8(a)(2), which provides that "... each standing committee ... shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, and execution of those laws or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the committee."

(c) *"Advice and Consent" Clauses*.—The committee has a special responsibility to assist the Senate in its constitutional function of providing "advice and consent" to all treaties entered into by the United States and all nominations to the principal executive branch positions in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy.

RULE 2—SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) *Creation*.—Unless otherwise authorized by law or Senate resolution, subcommittees shall be created by majority vote of the committee and shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the committee directs. Legislative measures or other matters may be referred to a subcommittee for consideration in the discretion of the chairman or by vote of a majority of the committee. If the principal subject matter of a measure or matter to be referred falls within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee, the chairman or the committee may refer the matter to two or more subcommittees for joint consideration.

(b) *Assignments*.—Assignments of members to subcommittees shall be made in an equitable fashion. No member of the committee may receive assignment to a second subcommittee until, in order of seniority, all members of the committee have chosen assignments to one subcommittee, and no member shall receive assignments to a third subcommittee until, in order of seniority, all members have chosen assignments to two subcommittees.

No member of the committee may serve on more than four subcommittees at any one time.

The chairman and ranking member of the committee shall be *ex officio* members, without vote, of each subcommittee.

(c) *Hearings*.—Except when funds have been specifically made available by the Senate for a subcommittee purpose, no subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations shall hold hearings involving expenses without prior approval of the chairman of the full committee or by decision of the full committee. Hearings of subcommittees shall be scheduled after consultation with the chairman of the committee with a view toward avoiding conflicts with hearings of other subcommittees insofar as possible. Hearings of subcommittees shall not be scheduled to conflict with meetings or hearings of the full committee.

The proceedings of each subcommittee shall be governed by the rules of the full committee, subject to such authorizations or limitations as the committee may from time to time prescribe.

RULE 3—MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

(a) *Regular Meeting Day*.—The regular meeting day of the Committee on Foreign Relations for the transaction of committee business shall be on Wednesday of each week, unless otherwise directed by the chairman.

(b) *Additional Meetings and Hearings*.—Additional meetings and hearings of the committee may be called by the chairman as he may deem necessary. If at least three members of the committee desire that a special meeting of the committee be called by the chairman, those members may file in the offices of the committee their written request to the chairman for that special meeting. Immediately upon filing of the request, the chief clerk of the committee shall notify the chairman of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the chairman does not call the requested special meeting, to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the committee may file in the offices of the committee their written notice that a special meeting of the committee will be held, specifying the date and hour of that special meeting. The committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the clerk shall notify all members of the committee that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour.

(c) *Hearings, Selection of Witnesses*.—To ensure that the issue which is the subject of the hearing is presented as fully and fairly as possible, whenever a hearing is conducted by the committee or a subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the ranking member of the committee or subcommittee may select and call an equal number of non-governmental witnesses to testify at that hearing.

(d) *Public Announcement*.—The committee, or any subcommittee thereof, shall make public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any meeting or hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least seven calendar days in advance of such meetings or hearings, unless the chairman of the committee, or subcommittee, in consultation with the ranking member, determines that there is good cause to begin such meeting or hearing at an earlier date.

(e) *Procedure*.—Insofar as possible, proceedings of the committee will be conducted without resort to the formalities of parliamentary procedure and with due regard for the views of all members. Issues of procedure which may arise from time to time shall be resolved by decision of the chairman, in consultation with the ranking member. The chairman, in consultation with the ranking member, may also propose special

procedures to govern the consideration of particular matters by the committee.

(f) *Closed Sessions*.—Each meeting and hearing of the Committee on Foreign Relations, or any subcommittee thereof shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or hearing or series of meetings or hearings by the committee or a subcommittee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in paragraphs (1) through (6) would require the meeting or hearing to be closed followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or hearing or series of meetings or hearings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct; to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person, or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or government regulations.

A closed meeting or hearing may be opened by a majority vote of the committee.

(g) *Staff Attendance*.—A member of the committee may have one member of his or her personal staff, for whom that member assumes personal responsibility, accompany and be seated nearby at committee meetings and hearings. The chairman or ranking member may authorize the attendance and seating of such a staff member at committee meetings and hearings where the member of the committee is not present.

Each member of the committee may designate members of his or her personal staff for whom that member assumes personal responsibility, who holds, at a minimum, a top secret security clearance, for the purpose of their eligibility to attend closed sessions of the committee, subject to the same conditions set forth for committee staff under Rules 12, 13, and 14.

In addition, the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate, if they are not otherwise members of the committee, may designate one member of their staff for whom that leader assumes personal responsibility and who holds, at a minimum, a top secret security clearance, to attend closed sessions of the committee, subject to the same conditions set forth for committee staff under Rules 12, 13, and 14.

Staff of other Senators who are not members of the committee may not attend closed sessions of the committee.

Attendance of committee staff at meetings and hearings shall be limited to those designated by the staff director or the minority staff director.

The committee, by majority vote, or the chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking member, may limit staff attendance at specified meetings or hearings.

RULE 4—QUORUMS

(a) *Testimony*.—For the purpose of taking sworn or unsworn testimony at any duly scheduled meeting a quorum of the committee and each subcommittee thereof shall consist of one member of such committee or subcommittee.

(b) *Business*.—A quorum for the transaction of committee or subcommittee business, other than for reporting a measure or recommendation to the Senate or the taking of testimony, shall consist of one-third of the members of the committee or subcommittee, including at least one member from each party.

(c) *Reporting*.—A majority of the membership of the committee, including at least one member from each party, shall constitute a quorum for reporting any measure or recommendation to the Senate. No measure or recommendation shall be ordered reported from the committee unless a majority of the committee members is physically present, including at least one member from each party, and a majority of those present concurs.

RULE 5—PROXIES

Proxies must be in writing with the signature of the absent member. Subject to the requirements of Rule 4 for the physical presence of a quorum to report a matter, proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the committee. However, proxies shall not be voted on a measure or matter except when the absent member has been informed of the matter on which he is being recorded and has affirmatively requested that he or she be so recorded.

RULE 6—WITNESSES

(a) *General*.—The Committee on Foreign Relations will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the committee.

(b) *Presentation*.—If the chairman so determines, the oral presentation of witnesses shall be limited to 10 minutes. However, written statements of reasonable length may be submitted by witnesses and other interested persons who are unable to testify in person.

(c) *Filing of Statements*.—A witness appearing before the committee, or any subcommittee thereof, shall submit an electronic copy of the written statement of his proposed testimony at least 24 hours prior to his appearance, unless this requirement is waived by the chairman and the ranking member following their determination that there is good cause for failure to file such a statement.

(d) *Expenses*.—Only the chairman may authorize expenditures of funds for the expenses of witnesses appearing before the committee or its subcommittees.

(e) *Requests*.—Any witness called for a hearing may submit a written request to the chairman no later than 24 hours in advance for his testimony to be in closed or open session, or for any other unusual procedure. The chairman shall determine whether to grant any such request and shall notify the committee members of the request and of his decision.

RULE 7—SUBPOENAS

(a) *Authorization*.—The chairman or any other member of the committee, when authorized by a majority vote of the committee

at a meeting or by proxies, shall have authority to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials. At the request of any member of the committee, the committee shall authorize the issuance of a subpoena only at a meeting of the committee. When the committee authorizes a subpoena, it may be issued upon the signature of the chairman or any other member designated by the committee.

(b) *Return*.—A subpoena, or a request to an agency, for documents may be issued whose return shall occur at a time and place other than that of a scheduled committee meeting. A return on such a subpoena or request which is incomplete or accompanied by an objection constitutes good cause for a hearing on shortened notice. Upon such a return, the chairman or any other member designated by him may convene a hearing by giving 4 hours notice by telephone or electronic mail to all other members. One member shall constitute a quorum for such a hearing. The sole purpose of such a hearing shall be to elucidate further information about the return and to rule on the objection.

(c) *Depositions*.—At the direction of the committee, staff is authorized to take depositions from witnesses.

RULE 8—REPORTS

(a) *Filing*.—When the committee has ordered a measure or recommendation reported, the report thereon shall be filed in the Senate at the earliest practicable time.

(b) *Supplemental, Minority and Additional Views*.—A member of the committee who gives notice of his intentions to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final committee approval of a measure or matter, shall be entitled to not less than 3 calendar days in which to file such views, in writing (including by electronic mail), with the chief clerk of the committee, with the 3 days to begin at 11:00 p.m. on the same day that the committee has ordered a measure or matter reported. Such views shall then be included in the committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the committee report may be filed and printed immediately without such views.

(c) *Roll Call Votes*.—The results of all roll call votes taken in any meeting of the committee on any measure, or amendment thereto, shall be announced in the committee report. The announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor and votes cast in opposition to each such measure and amendment by each member of the committee.

RULE 9—TREATIES

(a) *General*.—The committee is the only committee of the Senate with jurisdiction to review and report to the Senate on treaties submitted by the President for Senate advice and consent to ratification. Because the House of Representatives has no role in the approval of treaties, the committee is therefore the only congressional committee with responsibility for treaties.

(b) *Committee Proceedings*.—Once submitted by the President for advice and consent, each treaty is referred to the committee and remains on its calendar from Congress to Congress until the committee takes action to report it to the Senate or recommend its return to the President, or until the committee is discharged of the treaty by the Senate.

(c) *Floor Proceedings*.—In accordance with Senate Rule XXX.2, treaties which have been reported to the Senate but not acted on before the end of a Congress “shall be resumed

at the commencement of the next Congress as if no proceedings had previously been had thereon.”

(d) *Hearings*.—Insofar as possible, the committee should conduct a public hearing on each treaty as soon as possible after its submission by the President. Except in extraordinary circumstances, treaties reported to the Senate shall be accompanied by a written report.

RULE 10—NOMINATIONS

(a) *Waiting Requirement*.—Unless otherwise directed by the chairman and the ranking member, the Committee on Foreign Relations shall not consider any nomination until 5 business days after it has been formally submitted to the Senate.

(b) *Public Consideration*.—Nominees for any post who are invited to appear before the committee shall be heard in public session, unless a majority of the committee decrees otherwise, consistent with Rule 3(f).

(c) *Required Data*.—No nomination shall be reported to the Senate unless (1) the nominee has been accorded a security clearance on the basis of a thorough investigation by executive branch agencies; (2) the nominee has filed a financial disclosure report and a related ethics undertaking with the committee; (3) the committee has been assured that the nominee does not have any interests which could conflict with the interests of the government in the exercise of the nominee's proposed responsibilities; (4) for persons nominated to be chief of mission, ambassador-at-large, or minister, the committee has received a complete list of any contributions made by the nominee or members of his immediate family to any Federal-election campaign during the year of his or her nomination and for the 4 preceding years; (5) for persons nominated to be chiefs of mission, the report required by Section 304(a)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 on the demonstrated competence of that nominee to perform the duties of the position to which he or she has been nominated; and (6) the nominee has provided the committee with a signed and notarized copy of the committee questionnaire for executive branch nominees.

RULE 11—TRAVEL

(a) *Foreign Travel*.—No member of the Committee on Foreign Relations or its staff shall travel abroad on committee business unless specifically authorized by the chairman, who is required by law to approve vouchers and report expenditures of foreign currencies, and the ranking member. Requests for authorization of such travel shall state the purpose and, when completed, a full substantive and financial report shall be filed with the committee within 30 days. This report shall be furnished to all members of the committee and shall not be otherwise disseminated without authorization of the chairman and the ranking member. Except in extraordinary circumstances, staff travel shall not be approved unless the reporting requirements have been fulfilled for all prior trips. Except for travel that is strictly personal, travel funded by non-U.S. Government sources is subject to the same approval and substantive reporting requirements as U.S. Government-funded travel. In addition, members and staff are reminded to consult the Senate Code of Conduct, and, as appropriate, the Senate Select Committee on Ethics, in the case of travel sponsored by non-U.S. Government sources.

Any proposed travel by committee staff for a subcommittee purpose must be approved by the subcommittee chairman and ranking member prior to submission of the request to the chairman and ranking member of the full committee.

(b) *Domestic Travel*.—All official travel in the United States by the committee staff

shall be approved in advance by the staff director, or in the case of minority staff, by the minority staff director.

(c) *Personal Staff Travel*.—As a general rule, no more than one member of the personal staff of a member of the committee may travel with that member with the approval of the chairman and the ranking member of the committee. During such travel, the personal staff member shall be considered to be an employee of the committee.

(d) *PRM Travel*.—For the purposes of this rule regarding staff foreign travel, the officially-designated personal representative of the member pursuant to rule 14(b), shall be deemed to have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as members of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RULE 12—TRANSCRIPTS AND MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE

(a) *General*.—The Committee on Foreign Relations shall keep verbatim transcripts of all committee and subcommittee meetings and hearings and such transcripts shall remain in the custody of the committee, unless a majority of the committee decides otherwise. Transcripts of public hearings by the committee shall be published unless the chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking member, determines otherwise.

The committee, through the chief clerk, shall also maintain at least one copy of all materials provided to the committee by the Executive Branch; such copy shall remain in the custody of the committee and be subject to the committee's rules and procedures, including those rules and procedures applicable to the handling of classified materials.

Such transcripts and materials shall be made available to all members of the committee, committee staff, and designated personal representatives of members of the committee, except as otherwise provided in these rules.

(b) *Classified or Restricted Transcripts or Materials*.—

(1) The chief clerk of the committee shall have responsibility for the maintenance and security of classified or restricted transcripts or materials, and shall ensure that such transcripts or materials are handled in a manner consistent with the requirements of the United States Senate Security Manual.

(2) A record shall be maintained of each use of classified or restricted transcripts or materials as required by the Senate Security Manual.

(3) Classified transcripts or materials may not leave the committee offices, or SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center, except for the purpose of declassification or archiving, consistent with these rules.

(4) Extreme care shall be exercised to avoid taking notes or quotes from classified transcripts or materials. Their contents may not be divulged to any unauthorized person.

(5) Subject to any additional restrictions imposed by the chairman with the concurrence of the ranking member, only the following persons are authorized to have access to classified or restricted transcripts or materials:

(A) Members and staff of the committee in the committee offices or in SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center;

(B) Designated personal representatives of members of the committee, and of the majority and minority leaders, with appropriate security clearances, in the committee offices or in SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center;

(C) Senators not members of the committee, by permission of the chairman, in the committee offices or in SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center; and

(D) Officials of the executive departments involved in the meeting, hearing, or matter,

with authorization of the chairman, in the committee offices or SVC-217 of the Capitol Visitors Center.

(6) Any restrictions imposed by the committee upon access to a meeting or hearing of the committee shall also apply to the transcript of such meeting, except by special permission of the chairman and ranking member.

(7) In addition to restrictions resulting from the inclusion of any classified information in the transcript of a committee meeting or hearing, members and staff shall not discuss with anyone the proceedings of the committee in closed session or reveal information conveyed or discussed in such a session unless that person would have been permitted to attend the session itself or is a member or staff of a relevant committee or executive branch agency and possess an appropriate security clearance, or unless such communication is specifically authorized by the chairman, the ranking member, or in the case of staff, by the staff director or minority staff director. A record shall be kept of all such authorizations.

(c) *Declassification.*—

(1) All noncurrent records of the committee are governed by Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and by S. Res. 474 (96th Congress). Any classified transcripts or materials transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration under Rule XI may not be made available for public use unless they have been subject to declassification review in accordance with applicable laws or Executive orders.

(2) Any transcript or classified committee report, or any portion thereof, may be declassified, in accordance with applicable laws or Executive orders, sooner than the time period provided for under S. Res. 474 if:

(A) the chairman originates such action, with the concurrence of the ranking member;

(B) the other current members of the committee who participated in such meeting or report have been notified of the proposed declassification, and have not objected thereto, except that the committee by majority vote may overrule any objections thereby raised to early declassification; and

(C) the executive departments that participated in the meeting or originated the classified information have been consulted regarding the declassification.

RULE 13—CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

(a) *General.*—The handling of classified information in the Senate is governed by S. Res. 243 (100th Congress), which established the Office of Senate Security. All handling of classified information by the committee shall be consistent with the procedures set forth in the United States Senate Security Manual issued by the Office of Senate Security.

(b) *Security Manager.*—The chief clerk is the security manager for the committee. The chief clerk shall be responsible for implementing the provisions of the Senate Security Manual and for serving as the committee liaison to the Office of Senate Security. The staff director, in consultation with the minority staff director, may appoint an alternate security manager as circumstances warrant.

(c) *Transportation of Classified Material.*—Classified material may only be transported between Senate offices by appropriately cleared staff members who have been specifically authorized to do so by the security manager.

(d) *Access to Classified Material.*—In general, Senators and staff undertake to confine their access to classified information on the basis of a “need to know” such information related to their committee responsibilities.

(e) *Staff Clearances.*—The chairman, or, in the case of minority staff, the ranking member, shall designate the members of the committee staff whose assignments require access to classified and compartmented information and shall seek to obtain the requisite security clearances pursuant to Office of Senate Security procedures.

(f) *PRM Clearances.*—For the purposes of this rule regarding security clearances and access to compartmented information, the officially-designated personal representative of the member (PRM) pursuant to rule 14(b), shall be deemed to have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as members of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(g) *Regulations.*—The staff director is authorized to make such administrative regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this rule.

RULE 14—STAFF

(a) *Responsibilities.*—

(1) The staff works for the committee as a whole, under the general supervision of the chairman of the committee, and the immediate direction of the staff director, except that such part of the staff as is designated minority staff shall be under the general supervision of the ranking member and under the immediate direction of the minority staff director.

(2) Any member of the committee should feel free to call upon the staff at any time for assistance in connection with committee business. Members of the Senate not members of the committee who call upon the staff for assistance from time to time should be given assistance subject to the overriding responsibility of the staff to the committee.

(3) The staff's primary responsibility is with respect to bills, resolutions, treaties, and nominations and other matters within the jurisdiction of the committee. In addition to carrying out assignments from the committee and its individual members, the staff has a responsibility to originate suggestions for committee or subcommittee consideration. The staff also has a responsibility to make suggestions to individual members regarding matters of special interest to such members.

(4) It is part of the staff's duty to keep itself as well informed as possible in regard to developments affecting foreign relations and national security and in regard to the administration of foreign programs of the United States. Significant trends or developments which might otherwise escape notice should be called to the attention of the committee, or of individual Senators with particular interests.

(5) The staff shall pay due regard to the constitutional separation of powers between the Senate and the executive branch. It therefore has a responsibility to help the committee bring to bear an independent, objective judgment of proposals by the executive branch and when appropriate to originate sound proposals of its own. At the same time, the staff shall avoid impinging upon the day-to-day conduct of foreign affairs.

(6) In those instances when committee action requires the expression of minority views, the staff shall assist the minority as fully as the majority to the end that all points of view may be fully considered by members of the committee and of the Senate. The staff shall bear in mind that under our constitutional system it is the responsibility of the elected members of the Senate to determine legislative issues in the light of as full and fair a presentation of the facts as the staff may be able to obtain.

(b) *Personal Representatives of the Member (PRM).*—Each Senator on the committee shall be authorized to designate one personal staff member as the member's personal rep-

resentative of the member and designee to the committee (PRM) that shall be deemed to have the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as members of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations where specifically provided for in these rules.

(c) *Restrictions.*

(1) The staff shall regard its relationship to the committee as a privileged one, in the nature of the relationship of a lawyer to a client. In order to protect this relationship and the mutual confidence which must prevail if the committee-staff relationship is to be a satisfactory and fruitful one, the following criteria shall apply, unless staff has consulted with and obtained, as appropriate, the approval of the Senate Ethics Committee and advance permission from the staff director (or the minority staff director in the case of minority staff):

(A) members of the staff shall not be identified with any special interest group in the field of foreign relations or allow their names to be used by any such group; and

(B) members of the staff shall not accept public speaking engagements or write for publication in the field of foreign relations.

(2) The staff shall not discuss their private conversations with members of the committee without specific advance permission from the Senator or Senators concerned.

(3) The staff shall not discuss with anyone the proceedings of the committee in closed session or reveal information conveyed or discussed in such a session unless that person would have been permitted to attend the session itself or is a member or staff of a relevant committee or executive branch agency and possesses an appropriate security clearance, or unless such communication is specifically authorized by the staff director or minority staff director. Unauthorized disclosure of information from a closed session or of classified information shall be cause for immediate dismissal and may, in certain cases, be grounds for criminal prosecution.

RULE 15—STATUS AND AMENDMENT OF RULES

(a) *Status.*—In addition to the foregoing, the Committee on Foreign Relations is governed by the Standing Rules of the Senate, which shall take precedence in the event of a clear inconsistency. In addition, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the committee with respect to certain matters, as well as the timing and procedure for their consideration in committee, may be governed by statute.

(b) *Amendment.*—These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by a majority of the committee, provided that a notice in writing (including by electronic mail) of the proposed change has been given to each member at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken. However, rules of the committee which are based upon Senate rules may not be superseded by committee vote alone.

JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

(Excerpted from Rules of the Committee)

RULE 1—JURISDICTION

(a) *Substantive.*—In accordance with Senate Rule XXV.1(j)(1), the jurisdiction of the Committee shall extend to all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries.
2. Boundaries of the United States.
3. Diplomatic service.
4. Foreign economic, military, technical, and humanitarian assistance.
5. Foreign loans.
6. International activities of the American National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

7. International aspects of nuclear energy, including nuclear transfer policy.

8. International conferences and congresses.

9. International law as it relates to foreign policy.

10. International Monetary Fund and other international organizations established primarily for international monetary purposes (except that, at the request of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, any proposed legislation relating to such subjects reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations shall be referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs).

11. Intervention abroad and declarations of war.

12. Measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad.

13. National security and international aspects of trusteeships of the United States.

14. Ocean and international environmental and scientific affairs as they relate to foreign policy.

15. Protection of United States citizens abroad and expatriation.

16. Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally.

17. Treaties and executive agreements, except reciprocal trade agreements.

18. United Nations and its affiliated organizations.

19. World Bank group, the regional development banks, and other international organizations established primarily for development assistance purposes.

The Committee is also mandated by Senate Rule XXV.1(j)(2) to study and review, on a comprehensive basis, matters relating to the national security policy, foreign policy, and international economic policy as it relates to foreign policy of the United States, and matters relating to food, hunger, and nutrition in foreign countries, and report thereon from time to time.

(b) *Oversight*.—The Committee also has a responsibility under Senate Rule XXVI.8, which provides that “. . . each standing Committee . . . shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, and execution of those laws or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee.”

(c) *“Advice and Consent” Clauses*.—The Committee has a special responsibility to assist the Senate in its constitutional function of providing “advice and consent” to all treaties entered into by the United States and all nominations to the principal executive branch positions in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS MEMBERSHIP AND JURISDICTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES
(September 27, 2023)

(The chairman and ranking member of the full committee are ex officio members of each subcommittee on which they do not serve as members.)

(Subcommittees are listed in the order of chairmen's seniority within the full committee.)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS, AND BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, *Chairman*, TIM KAINE, CORY A. BOOKER, CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, BILL HAGERTY, *Ranking Member*, PETE RICKETTS, TED CRUZ, RAND PAUL.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee's responsibilities include all matters involving State Department, USAID, Millennium Challenge Cor-

poration, and Peace Corps management and international operations, bilateral international development policy, and bilateral foreign assistance. This jurisdiction includes the general oversight responsibility for management and operations of the Department of State, USAID, the U.S. Agency for Global Media, and the Foreign Service, as well as public diplomacy matters. This subcommittee will have responsibility for reviewing the budget and operations of the State Department and USAID.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

JEANNE SHAHEEN, *Chairman*, CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, TAMMY DUCKWORTH, BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, PETE RICKETTS, *Ranking Member*, RAND PAUL, JOHN BARRASSO, MARCO RUBIO.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee deals with all matters concerning U.S. relations with the countries in Europe and the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and regional intergovernmental organizations like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (except the states of Central Asia that are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism). This subcommittee's regional responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region, including matters relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

In addition, this subcommittee has global responsibility for regional security cooperation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA, CENTRAL ASIA AND COUNTERTERRORISM

CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, *Chairman*, BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, JEANNE SHAHEEN, TIM KAINE, CORY A. BOOKER, TODD YOUNG, *Ranking Member*, MITT ROMNEY, TED CRUZ, MARCO RUBIO.

Jurisdiction:

This subcommittee deals with all matters concerning U.S. relations with the countries of the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, and Central Asia, as well as regional intergovernmental organizations. This subcommittee's regional responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region, including matters relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

In addition, this subcommittee has global responsibility for counterterrorism matters.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

TIM KAINE, *Chairman*, JEFF MERKLEY, BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, JEANNE SHAHEEN, CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, MARCO RUBIO, *Ranking Member*, TED CRUZ, TODD YOUNG, TIM SCOTT.

Jurisdiction:

This subcommittee deals with all matters concerning U.S. relations with the countries of the Western Hemisphere, including Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, Cuba, and the other countries in the Caribbean, as well as the Organization of American States. This subcommittee's regional responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region, including matters relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

In addition, this subcommittee has global responsibility for transnational crime, traf-

ficking in persons (also known as modern slavery or human trafficking), global narcotics flows, civilian security, democracy, human rights, and global women's issues.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

CORY A. BOOKER, *Chairman*, CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, JEFF MERKLEY, BRIAN SCHATZ, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, TIM SCOTT, *Ranking Member*, TODD YOUNG, RAND PAUL, JOHN BARRASSO.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee deals with all matters concerning U.S. relations with countries in Africa (except those, like the countries of North Africa, specifically covered by other subcommittees), as well as regional intergovernmental organizations like the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States. This subcommittee's regional responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region, including matters relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

In addition, this subcommittee has global responsibility for health-related policy, including disease outbreak and response.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, *Chairman*, JEFF MERKLEY, BRIAN SCHATZ, TAMMY DUCKWORTH, CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, MITT ROMNEY, *Ranking Member*, TIM SCOTT, BILL HAGERTY, PETE RICKETTS.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee deals with all matters concerning U.S. relations with the countries of East Asia and the Pacific as well as regional intergovernmental organizations like the Association of South East Asian Nations and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. This subcommittee's regional responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region, including matters relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

In addition, this subcommittee has global responsibility for international cybersecurity and space policy.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

TAMMY DUCKWORTH, *Chairman*, CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, BRIAN SCHATZ, JEANNE SHAHEEN, TIM KAINE, JOHN BARRASSO, *Ranking Member*, MITT ROMNEY, BILL HAGERTY, RAND PAUL.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee's responsibilities include general oversight responsibility for U.S. multilateral international development policy, multilateral foreign assistance, and all U.S. mandatory and voluntary contributions to international organizations and relationships with such entities, including the U.N. and its affiliated agencies. The subcommittee's responsibilities also include matters related to international monetary policy, including U.S. participation in international financial institutions and trade organizations, U.S. foreign economic policy, including export enhancement and trade promotion, international investment, international trade, protection of intellectual property, and technology transfer, as well as international energy policy and environmental policy, including matters related to the oceans and the Arctic.

REMEMBERING DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, Senator Dianne Feinstein served the State of California in the Senate for over three decades. During that time, she emerged as a leading figure in the fight against America's use of torture on terrorist suspects and exposed the CIA's inappropriate spying on Congress.

One of her legacies will be her investigation into the torture of suspected terrorists after 9/11. She did what Congress is supposed to do: hold the executive branch accountable to the Constitution, to our laws, and to the American people. Her efforts culminated in a report over 6,000 pages long documenting a plethora of disturbing interrogation practices. When the report was released, Senator Feinstein stated, "I came to the conclusion that America's greatness is being able to say we made a mistake, and we are going to correct it and go from there."

Although Senator Feinstein was generally an ally of the intelligence community and the surveillance state, she declared war on the CIA and accused the Agency of improperly accessing a Senate computer network to tamper with her inquiry into the detention and interrogation program.

An investigation proved Senator Feinstein correct. The CIA's Inspector General concluded that employees improperly accessed—spied—on the Senate Intelligence Committee's network. Then-CIA Director John Brennan, who initially declared that the CIA "wouldn't do that" and called the accusation "beyond the scope of reason," apologized to Senator Feinstein for infiltrating her committee's computer network.

My colleagues would do well to emulate Senator Feinstein by demanding an end to unconstitutional surveillance, defending the separation of powers, and learning to adopt a healthy suspicion of the intelligence community.

REMEMBERING JACK H. LUCAS

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I am honored to pay tribute to the memory of a true American hero, Jacklyn "Jack" Harrell Lucas.

Jack, a long-time resident of Mississippi, and the youngest marine to ever receive the Medal of Honor, left an indelible mark on American history. During the Battle of Iwo Jima, Jack jumped between two live grenades to shield three of his fellow marines from the explosion. This act of heroism caused him significant injuries. Even after his time in the military, Jack continued to inspire generations through his commitment to veterans' causes and his advocacy for those who suffered in service to their country. Jack Lucas took his final salute on June 5, 2008, in Hattiesburg, MS, leaving behind his wife, their five children, and a legacy of patriotism and service to this Nation.

On October 7, 2023, the Navy will commission its first Arleigh Burke Flight III guided-missile destroyer. DDG-125 will bear the name of this distinguished son of Mississippi, Jack. H. Lucas. The USS *Jack H. Lucas* was built at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, MS, further highlighting Mississippi's commitment to the defense of the United States.

Jack's heroism will continue to inspire generations of Americans for years to come. As we reflect upon the life of Jack H. Lucas, let us honor his memory by dedicating ourselves to upholding the principles for which he so bravely fought.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MARYBETH CLARE

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise today to acknowledge MaryBeth Clare for her significant contributions to the Mountain Home Air Force Base and Idaho's blind community through the AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program, a partnership with the National Industries for the Blind—NIB—and a network of agencies, give individuals who are blind an opportunity for employment. Employment creates a sense of purpose through hard work and independence. Every individual should have the opportunity to feel this sense of fulfillment, regardless of a disability.

MaryBeth Clare has been a familiar face at the AbilityOne Base Supply Center at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Mountain Home, ID, for more than 3 years. She does not let her loss of vision hinder her creativity or innovation on the sales floor. MaryBeth has made notable efforts to feature AbilityOne products in the store, increasing sales significantly during her time on the base. MaryBeth's hard work has led her to be named a NIB Winner of the 2023 Peter J. Salmon Direct Labor Employee of the Year Award. This honor is well earned.

I commend MaryBeth for her hard work and service at the Mountain Home Air Force Base. You make Idaho proud. •

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 Committee on The Judiciary.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today, October 4, 2023, she had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

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

S. 2795. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5110. An act to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify that the prohibition on the use of Federal education funds for certain weapons does not apply to the use of such weapons for training in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 4, 2023, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

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

S. 2795. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-2365. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Child Nutrition Program Integrity" (RIN0584-AE08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2366. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cypermethrin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 11407-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2367. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the Army Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) and qualifying Middle Tier of Acquisition (MTA) programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2368. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "A Plan to Supplement Existing Defense Acquisition University Software and Cybersecurity Acquisition Training Curricula; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2369. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; South Carolina; New Source Review Updates" (FRL No. 10011-03-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2370. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; FL: Noninterference Demonstration for Removal of CAIR and Obsolete Rules in the Florida SIP" (FRL No. 10387-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2371. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Disapproval; Texas; Contingency Measures for the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Areas" (FRL No. 10903-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2372. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; KY; Redesignation of the Northern Kentucky Portion of the Cincinnati, OH-KY 2015 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment" (FRL No. 10011-03-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2373. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Jersey; Redesignation of the Warren County 1971 Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 11226-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2374. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fifteenth Annual Report on Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action: FY 2022"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2375. A communication from the Chief of Legal, External Affairs, and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Government Ethics, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2376. A communication from the Chair, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's annual submission regarding agency compliance with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and revised Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2377. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, four legislative proposals aimed at improving the Office's ability to deliver serv-

ices to agencies and employees as well as establishing processes to enable agencies to better recruit and retain a highly skilled federal workforce; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2378. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance" (RIN1660-AB14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2379. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Streamline GSA Commercial Contract Clause Requirements" (RIN3090-AK09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2380. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled "To amend Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184) to clarify how the H-1B visa cap is counted, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2381. A communication from the Director of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Establishment of Temporary Special Use Area for Coral Nursery" (RIN0648-BM58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2382. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Winters Highlands Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2383. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services" (Docket No. EP 542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-76. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, New Jersey opposing H.R. 3557 and urging the United States Congress to not pass this legislation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1573. A bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1624. A bill to require certain civil penalties to be transferred to a fund through which amounts are made available for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

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.

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. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 3009. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds and resources for congressional travel to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3010. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of medical nutrition therapy services for individuals with eating disorders under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VANCE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 3011. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of State from issuing a passport, passport card, or Consular Report of Birth Abroad that includes the unspecified (X) gender designation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 3012. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to provide for insurance for noninterest-bearing transaction accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3013. A bill to permanently authorize the exemption of aliens working as fish processors from the numerical limitation on H-2B nonimmigrant visas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3014. A bill to establish requirements for the Federal Trade Commission with respect to certain rules related to automotive retailing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3015. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to address telework for Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3016. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the clean vehicle credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VANCE, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 3017. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to repeal prohibitions relating to freedom of access to clinic entrances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. THUNE)):

S. 3018. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the National Labor Relations Act to clarify the standard for determining whether an individual is an employee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 3019. A bill to develop and disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about Native American and Tribal Histories; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BUDD, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3020. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the charitable mileage rate with the business travel rate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3021. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently extend certain in-home cardiopulmonary rehabilitation flexibilities established in response to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 3022. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 3023. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and maintain a training program for Department of Agriculture personnel and third-party providers on the rapidly evolving methodologies, science, and practices of biological soil health management systems on agricultural land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3024. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants available to States to inform Medicaid enrollees, SNAP participants, and low-income residents of potential eligibility for the Affordable Connectivity and Lifeline programs of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3025. A bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on

onshore wind and solar; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3026. A bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on offshore wind leasing; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3027. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the energy credit for qualified fuel cell property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 3028. A bill to continue in effect certain Executive orders imposing sanctions with respect to Iran, to prevent the waiver of certain sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran until the Government of Iran ceases to attempt to assassinate United States officials, other United States citizens, and Iranian nationals residing in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 3029. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 3030. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to expand the ability to use testing the waters and confidential draft registration submissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3031. A bill to amend the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act to extend the time period for the submission of claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3032. A bill to amend the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act to authorize assistance for damage resulting from the Cerro Pelado Fire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3033. A bill to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3034. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide guidance and enhanced technical assistance for States seeking to establish a restaurant meals program under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3035. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for gender transition in minors; to the

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3036. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3037. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow early childhood educators to take the educator expense deduction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 3038. A bill to improve manning and crewing requirements for certain outer Continental Shelf vessels, vehicles, and structures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3039. A bill to protect access to kratom; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BUDD):

S. Res. 395. A resolution recognizing the contributions of the Montagnard indigenous tribespeople of the Central Highlands of Vietnam to the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, and condemning the ongoing violation of human rights by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 396. A resolution designating the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 397. A resolution designating October 16, 2023, and October 16, 2024, as "World Food Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. REED, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 398. A resolution designating the week of September 25 through September 29, 2023, as "National Clean Energy Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs.

SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 399. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 1 through October 7, 2023, as "National 4-H Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 400. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Dianne Feinstein, the late Senator for the State of California; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 401. A resolution honoring the life, legacy, and contributions of James William Buffett; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. DAINES):

S. Res. 402. A resolution designating October 26, 2023, as the "Day of the Deployed"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 403. A resolution recognizing the 10th anniversary of the USA Rice-Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship Partnership; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 404. A resolution designating October 4, 2023, as "Energy Efficiency Day" in celebration of the economic and environmental benefits that have been driven by private sector innovation and Federal energy efficiency policies; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KING, and Mr. VANCE):

S. Res. 405. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 30, 2023, as "National Veterans Suicide Prevention Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. KELLY):

S. Con. Res. 21. A concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to Latina women in comparison to men; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 154

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 154, a bill to prevent the theft of catalytic converters and other precious metal car parts, and for other purposes.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 204, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 396

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 396, a bill to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

S. 414

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

S. 532

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 532, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) 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. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor 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 Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) 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. 1021

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1021, a bill to prohibit the Export-Import Bank of the United States from providing financing to persons with seriously delinquent tax debt.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to designate Mexican cartels and other transnational criminal organizations as foreign terrorist organizations and recognizing the threats those organizations pose to the people of the United States as terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 1119, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 1269

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1269, a bill to reduce the price of insulin and provide for patient protections with respect to the cost of insulin.

S. 1288

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1288, a bill to ensure that contractors of the Department of Agriculture comply with certain labor laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr.

KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply additional payments, discounts, and other financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1673

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1673, a bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1706

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

S. 1729

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1729, a bill to facilitate nationwide accessibility and coordination of 211 services and 988 services in order to provide information and referral to all residents and visitors in the United States for mental health emergencies, homelessness needs, other social and human services needs, and for other purposes.

S. 1736

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

S. 1761

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1761, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the exception for de minimis payments by third party settlement organizations.

S. 1863

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1863, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2003

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2003, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State to provide additional assistance to Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and other sovereign assets of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 2277

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2277, a bill to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2323

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2323, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to improve supply chain resiliency for critical drug products with vulnerable supply chains and ensure that reserves of critical drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients are maintained to prevent supply disruptions in the event of drug shortages or public health emergencies.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2606

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2606, a bill to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to render available to certain long-term residents of the United States the benefit under that section.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2641, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 2647

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2647, a bill to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER) 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. 2829

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2829, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 2860

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2860, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 2901

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 2932

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to State Medicaid agencies, public housing agencies, Continuums of Care, and housing finance agencies on connecting Medicaid beneficiaries with housing-related services and supports under Medicaid and other housing resources, and for other purposes.

S. 2940

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2940, a bill to require a comprehensive report that contains a strategy for United States involvement in Ukraine.

S. 2988

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2988, a bill to establish a Green New Deal for public schools.

S. 2989

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to provide for eligibility for E-1 and E-2 non-immigrant visas for nationals of Iceland.

S. 3008

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3008, a bill to provide back pay to Federal contractors, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 42

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

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors 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.J. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Niger that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution commemorating the fifth anniversary of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi and calling for accountability.

S. RES. 362

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 362, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the constitutional right of State Governors to repel the dangerous ongoing invasion across the United States southern border.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3024. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants available to States to inform Medicaid enrollees, SNAP participants, and low-income residents of potential eligibility for the Affordable Connectivity and Lifeline programs of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. 3024

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 "Promoting Access to Broadband Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY AND LIFE-LINE ENROLLMENT OUTREACH GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—The term "covered individuals" means—

- (A) Medicaid enrollees;
- (B) SNAP participants; and
- (C) low-income residents.

(3) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term "covered program" means—

(A) the Affordable Connectivity Program established under section 904(b) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(b)), or any successor program; and

(B) the Lifeline program established under subpart E of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(4) ELIGIBLE-BUT-NOT-ENROLLED.—The term "eligible-but-not-enrolled" means, with respect to an individual, that the individual is eligible for, but is not enrolled in, a covered program.

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term "Indian tribe" in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(6) LOW-INCOME.—The term "low-income" means a gross annual income that qualifies a household for participation in a covered program.

(7) MEDICAID ENROLLEE.—The term "Medicaid enrollee" means, with respect to a State, an individual enrolled in the State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or a waiver of that plan.

(8) REACH.—The term "reach" means, with respect to an individual, to inform the individual of potential eligibility for a covered program and to provide the individual with information about the covered program, as described in subsection (e).

(9) SNAP PARTICIPANT.—The term "SNAP participant" means an individual who is a member of a household that participates in the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(10) STATE.—The term "State" means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each Indian Tribe.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish a competitive program to make

grants available to States to inform covered individuals of potential eligibility for a covered program.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may only award a grant under this section to a State that submits an application at such time, in such form, and with such information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(2) MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED.—An application submitted by a State under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of covered individuals in the State;

(B) a plan for the activities that the State will conduct using grant funds, including a list of each agency within the State that will assist in carrying out those activities; and

(C) an estimate of the percentage of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in the State who will be reached by those activities.

(d) SELECTION.—

(1) MINIMUM OF 5 STATES.—The Commission shall award grants under this section to not fewer than 5 States.

(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall give favorable consideration—

(A) to States that have higher numbers of covered individuals; and

(B) to States proposing, in the plans submitted under subsection (c)(2)(B), to conduct activities that have the potential to reach higher percentages of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in those States, as determined by the Commission, taking into consideration the estimates submitted under subsection (c)(2)(C).

(3) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall, to the maximum extent practicable, select States from different geographic regions of the United States.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this section shall use grant funds, in accordance with the plan included in the application of the State under subsection (c)(2)(B), to—

(A) inform covered individuals and organizations or agencies that serve those individuals, as the case may be under the terms of the grant awarded to the State, of potential eligibility for a covered program;

(B) provide those covered individuals with information about covered programs, including—

- (i) how to apply for a covered program; and
- (ii) a description of the prohibition on more than 1 subscriber in each household receiving a service provided under a covered program; and

(C) partner with nonprofit and community-based organizations to provide those covered individuals with assistance applying for a covered program and information about product and technology choices.

(2) MULTIPLE STATE AGENCIES.—A State that receives a grant under this section may provide grant funds to 1 or more agencies located within the State, as identified under subsection (c)(2)(B), to carry out the activities under the grant.

(f) OUTREACH TO STATES REGARDING GRANT PROGRAM.—Before accepting applications for the grant program established under this section, the Commission shall conduct outreach to States to ensure that States are aware of the grant program and how to apply for a grant under the grant program.

(g) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.

(h) ENFORCEMENT.—A violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be treated as a violation of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et

seq.) or a regulation promulgated under such Act. The Commission shall enforce this section and the regulations promulgated under this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(i) EXEMPTIONS.—

(1) CERTAIN RULEMAKING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to a regulation promulgated under this section or a rulemaking proceeding to promulgate such a regulation.

(2) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT REQUIREMENTS.—A collection of information conducted or sponsored under the regulations required under this section shall not constitute a collection of information for the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”).

(j) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after establishing the grant program under this section, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of individuals notified of covered program eligibility by States receiving grants under this section;

(B) the number of new applicants to a covered program from States receiving grants under this section, including the number of those applicants who enrolled in a covered program; and

(C) the cost-effectiveness of the grant program established under this section.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for the first 5 full fiscal years beginning after the establishment of the grant program under this section.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TO STATES TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL LIFELINE ELIGIBILITY VERIFIER.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a State that, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, submits to the Commission an application for a grant under this section containing such information as the Commission may require.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish a program to provide a grant, from amounts appropriated under subsection (e), to each eligible entity for the purpose described in subsection (c).

(c) PURPOSE.—The Commission shall make a grant to each eligible entity for the purpose of establishing, renewing, reestablishing, or maintaining or amending a connection between the databases of the eligible entity that contain information concerning the receipt by a household, or a member of a household, of benefits under a program administered by the eligible entity (including any benefit provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)) and the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier so that the receipt by a household, or a member of a household, of benefits under the benefits program—

(1) is reflected in the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier; and

(2) can be used to verify eligibility for—

(A) the Lifeline program established under subpart E, part 54, of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation; and

(B) the Affordable Connectivity Program established under section 904(b) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(b)), or any successor program.

(d) DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Commission establishes the program under subsection (b), funds provided under each grant made under such subsection shall be disbursed to the eligible entity receiving such grant.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 395—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MONTAGNARD INDIGENOUS TRIBESPEOPLE OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, AND CONDEMNING THE ONGOING VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 395

Whereas the Montagnards are an indigenous tribespeople living in Vietnam's Central Highlands region;

Whereas the Montagnards were driven into the mountains by invading Vietnamese and Cambodians in the 9th century;

Whereas French Roman Catholic missionaries converted many of the Montagnards in the 19th century and American Protestant missionaries subsequently converted many to various Protestant denominations;

Whereas, during the 1960s, the United States Mission in Saigon, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and United States Army Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets, trained the Montagnards in unconventional warfare;

Whereas an estimated 61,000 Montagnards, out of an estimated population of 1,000,000, fought alongside the United States and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces against the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong;

Whereas the Central Intelligence Agency, United States Special Forces, and the Montagnards cooperated on the Village Defense Program, a forerunner to the War's Strategic Hamlet Program, and an estimated 43,000 Montagnards were organized into “Civilian Irregular Defense Groups” (CIDGs) to provide protection for the areas around the CIDGs' operational bases;

Whereas, at its peak, the CIDGs had approximately 50 operational bases, with each base containing a contingent of two United States Army officers and ten enlisted men, and an ARVN unit of the same size, and each base trained 200 to 700 Montagnards, or “strikers”;

Whereas another 18,000 Montagnards were reportedly enlisted into mobile strike forces,

and various historical accounts describe a strong bond between the United States Special Forces and the Montagnards, in contrast to Vietnamese Special Forces and ARVN troops;

Whereas the lives of thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces were saved as a result of the heroic actions of the Montagnards, who fought loyally and bravely alongside United States Special Forces in the Vietnam War;

Whereas, after the fall of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975, thousands of Montagnards fled across the border into Cambodia to escape persecution;

Whereas the government of the reunified Vietnamese nation, renamed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, deeply distrusted the Montagnards who had sided with the United States and ARVN forces and subjected them to imprisonment and various forms of discrimination and oppression after the Vietnam War ended;

Whereas, after the Vietnam War, the United States Government resettled large numbers of Montagnards, mostly in North Carolina, and an estimated several thousand Montagnards currently reside in North Carolina, which is the largest population of Montagnards residing outside of Vietnam;

Whereas the Socialist Republic of Vietnam currently remains a one-party state, ruled and controlled by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), which continues to restrict freedom of religion or belief, movement, land and property rights, and political expression;

Whereas officials of the Government of Vietnam have forced Montagnards to publicly denounce their religion, arrested and imprisoned Montagnards who organized public demonstrations, and mistreated Montagnards in detention;

Whereas some Montagnard Americans have complained that Vietnamese authorities either have prevented them from visiting Vietnam or have subjected them to interrogation upon re-entering the country on visits;

Whereas the Department of State's 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (in this resolution referred to as the “2022 Human Rights Report”) documents that not all members of ethnic minorities were able to engage in decisions affecting their lands, cultures, and traditions, even though ethnic minority group members constituted a sizeable percentage of the population in certain areas, including the Northwest, the Central Highlands, and portions of the Mekong Delta;

Whereas the 2022 Human Rights Report states that although Vietnamese law prohibits violence and discrimination against ethnic minorities, such social discrimination was longstanding and persistent, including in the Central Highlands;

Whereas the 2022 Human Rights Report documents that Vietnamese authorities monitored, harassed, and intimidated members of certain ethnic minority groups, particularly ethnoreligious minorities in the Central and Northwest Highland;

Whereas the 2022 Human Rights Report documents that Vietnamese authorities used national security laws to impose lengthy prison sentences on members of ethnic minorities for their connections to overseas organizations the government claimed espoused separatist aims;

Whereas the 2022 Human Rights Report documents that land expropriation and preferential government treatment for non-indigenous residents in these areas was common, despite the government previously allocating land to ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands;

Whereas the Department of State's 2022 International Religious Freedom Report documents that Montagnard Christians reported

being summoned, arrested, and fined by police in Dak Lak Province related to inquiries about legally registering their religious group, commemorating International Religious Freedom Day in 2021, and communication with international diplomatic missions and religious freedom nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas the Department of State's 2022 International Religious Freedom Report documents accounts from a Montagnard Christian in Gia Lai Province that during the year, he was interrogated by police, detained, and beaten multiple times while authorities repeatedly demanded that he renounce affiliation with his church, including an incident in which police burned his Bible and other religious materials, placed the embers on his face, and hung him from the ceiling and beat him with a stick for hours;

Whereas the Department of State's 2022 International Religious Freedom Report documents that police prevented Montagnard Christians from gathering during important religious holidays such as Easter and Christmas or forced them to take down their decorations for Christmas;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) references in its 2023 Annual Report many reports of local authorities harassing members of unregistered Montagnard Protestant groups, disrupting and banning their peaceful religious activities, interrogating and threatening them with imprisonment, imposing heavy fines, and coercing them to denounce and leave their denominations and instead join state-controlled Protestant organizations;

Whereas the 2023 USCIRF Report documents many reports of local authorities harassing members of unregistered Montagnard Protestant groups, disrupting and banning their peaceful religious activities, interrogating and threatening them with imprisonment, imposing heavy fines, and coercing them to denounce and leave their denominations and instead join state-controlled Protestant organizations;

Whereas the 2019 USCIRF Report documents that one-quarter of prisoners of conscience were minority religious groups, including Montagnard Christians;

Whereas the 2019 USCIRF Report estimates that 10,000 individuals in the Central Highlands are refused ID cards, household registration, and birth certificates by local authorities in retaliation for refusing to renounce their faith;

Whereas USCIRF has recommended every year since 2002 that Vietnam be designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) due to "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom"; and

Whereas, on November 30, 2022, in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Secretary of State placed Vietnam on the Special Watch List (SWL) for having engaged in or tolerated "severe violations of religious freedom"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of the Montagnards who fought loyally and bravely with United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and who continue to suffer persecution in Vietnam as a result of this relationship;

(2) condemns ongoing actions by the Government of Vietnam to suppress basic human rights and civil liberties for all its citizens;

(3) calls on the Government of Vietnam to allow human rights groups access to all regions of the country and to end restrictions of basic human rights, including the right for Montagnards to practice their Christian

faith freely, the right to land and property, freedom of movement, the right to retain ethnic identity and culture, and access to an adequate standard of living; and

(4) urges the President and Congress to develop policies that support Montagnards and other marginalized ethnic minority and indigenous populations in Vietnam and reflect United States interests and commitment to upholding human rights and democracy abroad.

SENATE RESOLUTION 396—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 8, 2023, AS "NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK"

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 396

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service administers the National Wildlife Refuge System to conserve, manage, and, where appropriate, restore fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of current and future generations;

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Pelican Island in Florida;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and has grown to include 568 national wildlife refuges, 38 wetland management districts, and 5 marine national monuments with units located in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses more than 850,000,000 acres of unique habitats and ecosystems, including tropical and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, remote islands, and marine areas, and spans 12 time zones from the United States Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges support approximately 800 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 1,100 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide protection to more than 380 threatened species and endangered species;

Whereas 65 national wildlife refuges were established to conserve species considered to be threatened or endangered under Federal standards, including the American crocodile, California condor, Devil's Hole pupfish, and Antioch Dunes evening primrose;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal lands that support waterfowl habitat;

Whereas, since 1934, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund has generated more than \$2,000,000,000 and enabled the conservation of more than 6,300,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas national wildlife refuges protect and conserve climate-resilient habitats that support biodiversity and provide nature-based solutions;

Whereas more than 180 national wildlife refuges conserve marine, coastal, and Great Lakes habitats, helping to protect communities by reducing the risk of storm-surge flooding, especially in low-lying floodplain and coastal areas;

Whereas many national wildlife refuges are managed to reduce wildfire risk by thinning

overgrown forests and removing invasive species;

Whereas meaningful engagement and proactive collaboration with Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native organizations, and the Native Hawaiian community is an integral aspect of the co-stewardship of our shared natural resources, including National Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters;

Whereas important cultural and historic resources are protected on national wildlife refuges, including—

(1) archaeological sites detailing the lives of Native Americans and early colonists at Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia;

(2) World War II sites in the Pacific, from Attu in Alaska to Midway Atoll in the Hawaiian Islands; and

(3) the remains of the home of the father of Harriet Tubman at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland;

Whereas Tribal consultation is a cornerstone of historic preservation on national wildlife refuges where cultural resources and traditional sacred spaces are important to Native American Tribes, including Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada, where the Nuwuvu people finalized a plan with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to respect and showcase ancient petroglyphs;

Whereas national wildlife refuges use a range of management tools, including fire management, invasive species control, water management, wildlife health assessments, inventory and monitoring species, facility condition assessments, 5-year infrastructure project plans, and other tools to conserve habitat and ensure opportunities for public access and recreation;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including sustainable hunting and fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System receives nearly 68,000,000 annual visits that—

(1) generate more than \$3,200,000,000 for local economies; and

(2) support 41,000 jobs;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System hosts more than 42,000,000 annual birding and wildlife observation visits;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas, for every dollar appropriated to the National Wildlife Refuge System, an average of approximately 5 dollars is returned to local economies;

Whereas 436 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 378 units have fishing programs that support, respectively, more than 2,600,000 hunting visits and more than 8,600,000 fishing visits annually;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas more than 15,000 volunteers and approximately 180 national wildlife refuge "Friends" organizations contribute approximately 818,000 volunteer hours annually, the equivalent of 400 full-time employees, and provide an important link between national wildlife refuges and local communities;

Whereas 101 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System are within 25 miles of cities and suburbs where 80 percent of individuals in the United States live;

Whereas, through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service works to dismantle barriers that have blocked underserved communities from full and equal participation in outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation;

Whereas the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program fosters strong new conservation coalitions, educates and employs youth, engages communities, builds trust in government, and connects individuals with nature;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds to explore, connect with, and preserve the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, national wildlife refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as National Wildlife Refuge Week;

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as “National Wildlife Refuge Week”;

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation, the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, and wildlife-dependent recreational uses;

(4) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, and interpretation, as well as environmental education;

(6) finds that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(7) recognizes the important work of urban national wildlife refuges in welcoming racially and ethnically diverse urban communities that were long excluded, including work—

(A) to foster strong new conservation coalitions;

(B) to provide education and employment opportunities to youth;

(C) to improve communities;

(D) to build trust in government; and

(E) to connect individuals with nature;

(8) recognizes the commitment of the National Wildlife Refuge System to engagement, relationships, knowledge-sharing, and co-stewardship of National Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters with Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native organizations, and the Native Hawaiian community;

(9) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(10) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(11) expresses the intent of the Senate—

(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to support the management of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 397—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 16, 2023, AND OCTOBER 16, 2024, AS “WORLD FOOD DAY”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 397

Whereas hunger and malnutrition are daily facts of life for hundreds of millions of people around the world;

Whereas women and children suffer the most serious effects of hunger and malnutrition;

Whereas millions of children die each year from hunger-related illness and disease;

Whereas many people suffer permanent physical or mental impairment because of vitamin or protein deficiencies;

Whereas those in rural areas experience disproportionate levels of hunger;

Whereas the severity and frequency of food insecurity remained unacceptably high in 2022, represented by—

(1) the 2,400,000,000 people, nearly 30 percent of the global population, who experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2022, an increase of 391,000,000 compared to 2019;

(2) the more than 3,100,000,000 people, over 40 percent of the global population, who were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022, an increase of 134,000,000 compared to 2019; and

(3) the approximately 735,000,000 people who faced hunger in 2022, an increase of 122,000,000 compared to 2019;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of demonstrating humanitarian concern for the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas there is an ever-increasing concern in the United States and in other countries about threats to the future food supply, including—

(1) misuse and overuse of land and water;

(2) loss of biological diversity;

(3) erosion of genetic resources on a global scale; and

(4) transboundary pests and diseases, such as the desert locust for plants and anthrax for livestock;

Whereas the world community increasingly and consistently calls upon the United States to resolve food problems stemming from natural- and human-made disasters by providing humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United States—

(1) plays a major role in the development and implementation of international food and agricultural trade standards and practices; and

(2) recognizes the positive role that the global food trade can play in enhancing human nutrition and alleviating hunger;

Whereas, although progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in the United States, certain groups remain vulnerable to malnutrition and related diseases;

Whereas the conservation of natural resources, the preservation of biological diversity, and strong public and private agricultural research programs are required for the United States to—

(1) remain food secure;

(2) continue to aid the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

(3) assist in building a more resilient global food system; and

(4) preserve and sustain our forests, land, oceans, and waterways;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development of agricultural innovation and technology aimed at enhancing the improved production, safety, and quality of the world food supply, and the United States must continue to maintain that role;

Whereas private voluntary organizations and businesses working with national governments and the international community is essential in the search for ways to increase food production in developing countries and improve food distribution to hungry and malnourished people;

Whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (referred to in this preamble as the “FAO”) is mandated to lead global efforts to address food and nutrition security issues;

Whereas the member nations of the FAO have unanimously designated October 16 of each year as “World Food Day”;

Whereas the FAO has worked to organize activities and efforts on “World Food Day” in more than 130 countries to promote awareness of and action for people suffering from hunger and malnutrition;

Whereas past observances of “World Food Day” have been supported—

(1) by proclamations of Congress, the President, the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States; and

(2) by programs of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal departments and agencies;

Whereas private voluntary organizations and community leaders are participating in planning “World Food Day” observances in 2023 and 2024, and a growing number of these organizations and leaders are using “World Food Day” as a focal point for year-round programs; and

Whereas the people of the United States can express their concern for the plight of hungry and malnourished people throughout the world by studying, advocating, and taking action: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 16, 2023, and October 16, 2024, as “World Food Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the days with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 398—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, AS “NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. REED, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 398

Whereas, across the United States, clean and readily abundant forms of energy are powering more homes and businesses than ever before;

Whereas clean energy generation is readily available from zero- and low-emissions sources;

Whereas the clean energy sector is a growing part of the economy and has been a key

driver of economic growth in the United States in recent years;

Whereas technological innovation can further reduce costs, enhance reliability, and increase deployment of clean energy sources;

Whereas the report of the Department of Energy entitled "United States Energy & Employment Report 2023" found that, at the end of 2022, the energy and energy efficiency sectors in the United States employed approximately 8,100,000 individuals;

Whereas the scaling of affordable and exportable clean energy is essential to reducing global emissions;

Whereas clean energy jobs contribute to the growth of local economies; and

Whereas innovative clean energy solutions and clean energy jobs are part of the energy future of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 25 through September 29, 2023, as "National Clean Energy Week";

(2) encourages individuals and organizations across the United States to support commonsense solutions that address the economic, environmental, and energy needs of the United States in the 21st century;

(3) encourages the Federal Government, States, municipalities, and individuals to invest in affordable, clean, and low-emitting energy technologies;

(4) supports reliable and affordable energy for the people of the United States; and

(5) recognizes the role of entrepreneurs and small businesses in ensuring the leadership of the United States in the global energy marketplace and in supporting low-cost, clean, and reliable energy in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 399—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 7, 2023, AS "NATIONAL 4-H WEEK"

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCHE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 399

Whereas 4-H is the largest youth development organization in the United States, supporting nearly 6,000,000 young people across the country;

Whereas 4-H helps young people become confident, independent, resilient, and compassionate leaders;

Whereas 4-H is delivered by the Cooperative Extension System, a community of more than 110 land-grant universities across the United States that provides experiences for young people to learn through hands-on projects in the important areas of health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement;

Whereas the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture serves as the Federal partner of 4-H in collaboration with land-grant universities, the Cooperative Extension System, and the National 4-H Council;

Whereas National 4-H Week showcases the incredible ways that 4-H provides opportunities for all young people and highlights the remarkable members of 4-H in all 50 States and across the globe who work each day to make a positive impact on other individuals;

Whereas the 4-H network of nearly 600,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals provides caring and supportive mentoring to all members of 4-H, helping members to grow into true leaders, entrepreneurs, and visionaries; and

Whereas members of 4-H will celebrate "National 4-H Week" during the week of October 1 through October 7, 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 1 through 7, 2023, as "National 4-H Week";

(2) recognizes the important role of 4-H in youth development and education; and

(3) encourages all citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact the organization and members have made and continue to make by empowering young people with the skills needed to lead for a lifetime.

SENATE RESOLUTION 400—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DIANNE FEINSTEIN, THE LATE SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCHE, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 400

Whereas Dianne Feinstein was born on June 22, 1933, in San Francisco, California;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein graduated from Convent of the Sacred Heart High School in 1951 and from Stanford University in 1955;

Whereas, while at Stanford University, Dianne Feinstein established the first chap-

ter of Young Democrats and was elected student body vice president, the highest office a woman could hold at that time;

Whereas, in 1960, California Governor Pat Brown, having read a paper about criminal justice that Dianne Feinstein wrote as a fellow at the Coro Foundation in San Francisco, California, named her to the California Women's Board of Terms and Parole, the first position in public service she would hold;

Whereas, on November 5, 1969, Dianne Feinstein was first elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and, having received the most votes, became the first female President of the Board;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein became the first female mayor of San Francisco, California, on November 27, 1978, a position to which she was subsequently re-elected twice;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein, in the face of tremendous personal loss, demonstrated great strength and leadership in helping unite and heal San Francisco, California, in the aftermath of the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, after the White Night riots and the Jonestown massacre, through the AIDS crisis, and through multiple assassination attempts on her own life;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein saved the famed cable cars of San Francisco, California, and secured funding to rebuild the system in time for the 1984 Democratic National Convention held in San Francisco;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein became the first woman to represent the State of California in the Senate when she was elected on November 3, 1992, in what became known as the "Year of the Woman", and, with former Senator Barbara Boxer, formed the first pair of female Senators to represent any State in the history of the United States;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein was re-elected to the Senate by the people of the State of California 5 more times, including in 2012 when she received the most popular votes for any Senate candidate in the history of the United States;

Whereas, while serving in the Senate, Dianne Feinstein became—

(1) one of the first women to serve on the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the first woman to lead her party on the Committee;

(2) the first woman to chair the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate;

(3) the first woman to preside over a presidential inauguration; and

(4) the first woman to chair the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

Whereas, in response to numerous tragic acts of gun violence in the State of California and across the United States, Dianne Feinstein became a leading proponent of efforts to address gun violence, including through the passage of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act (commonly referred to as the "Federal Assault Weapons Ban") (subtitle A of title XI of Public Law 103-322; 108 Stat. 1996);

Whereas the singular leadership and determination of Dianne Feinstein led to the enactment of legislation to preserve millions of acres of land in the State of California, from the redwoods of Headwaters Forest to San Francisco Bay and Lake Tahoe;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein devoted particular attention to protecting the California desert and was the driving force behind the establishment of Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave National Preserve, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, the Mojave Trails National Monument, the Sand to Snow National Monument, and the Castle Mountains National Monument;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein demonstrated incredible courage and tenacity in spearheading the 5-year, 6,700-page report by the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate on the Detention and Interrogation Program of the Central Intelligence Agency, and in the enactment of subsequent legislation with former Senator John McCain to prohibit the future use of interrogation techniques described in that report;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein led congressional efforts to secure marriage equality, end LGBTQ discrimination, defend reproductive rights, combat violence against women, protect victims of trafficking, reform our health care system, provide immigration benefits for agricultural workers, increase fuel economy standards, improve the safety of personal care products, address nuclear waste storage, fund breast cancer research, counter illicit narcotics, enhance cybersecurity information sharing, increase resources to fight wildfires, and manage the water supply system of the State of California;

Whereas, on March 28, 2021, Dianne Feinstein became the longest-serving Senator to represent the State of California;

Whereas, on November 5, 2022, Dianne Feinstein became the longest-serving female Senator in the history of the United States;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein never truly stopped being Mayor of her beloved San Francisco, California;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein inspired generations of women to break barriers and seek positions of leadership, to find common ground in order to get things done for the people they represent, and to serve with grace, strength, and integrity;

Whereas Dianne Feinstein was a beloved sister, wife, mother, and grandmother; and

Whereas the State of California and the United States have lost a trailblazing lawmaker and dedicated public servant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Dianne Feinstein, the late Senator for the State of California; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of Dianne Feinstein; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Dianne Feinstein.

SENATE RESOLUTION 401—HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES WILLIAM BUFFETT

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 401

Whereas, James William “Jimmy” Buffett was born on Christmas Day, 1946, in Pascagoula, Mississippi, the first of James Delaney Buffett, Jr., and Mary Lorraine Peets Buffett’s three children;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett grew up in Mobile, Alabama, attending grade school at St. Ignatius Catholic School and the McGill Institute, an all-boys school, where he served as an altar boy;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett acquired a love of music, sailing, and aviation, a child of the sights and sounds of south Mississippi;

Whereas, in 1964, Mr. Buffett attended Auburn University for one year, was initiated

into Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Epsilon-Nu Chapter, learned how to play the guitar from a fellow student, and then transferred to Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, Mississippi;

Whereas, in 1966, Mr. Buffett transferred to the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and, in 1969, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in history and journalism;

Whereas, in 1970, Mr. Buffett moved to Nashville, Tennessee, carrying with him his dream to be a country singer and releasing his first album, “Down to Earth”;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett pioneered his own “Gulf and Western” genre of music, blending country, folk, and pop to celebrate life by the sea;

Whereas, in 1975, Mr. Buffett formed his touring group of singers and songwriters, The Coral Reefer Band;

Whereas, in 1977, Mr. Buffett released the hit song, “Margaritaville,” and his first platinum album, “Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes”;

Whereas, in 2003, Mr. Buffett received his first Country Music Award for his song, “It’s 5 o’clock Somewhere”;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett contributed songs to the films “Summer Rental,” “Fast Times at Ridgemont High,” “Urban Cowboy,” and “FernGully: The Last Rainforest”;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett appeared in films and television shows, including “Repo Man,” “Hook,” “Sesame Street,” “Hawaii Five-O,” “Jurassic World,” “NCIS: New Orleans,” and “The Beach Bum”;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett’s commercial success brought “Gulf and Western” into mainstream country music, shaping the styles of stars like Kenny Chesney, Alan Jackson, and Zac Brown;

Whereas, along the way, Mr. Buffett opened the first Margaritaville Café on Duval Street in Key West, Florida, which was so successful it led to 23 Margaritavilles, one JWB Prime Steak and Seafood, and seven 5 o’clock Somewhere Bar and Grills;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett extended his business activity, investing in beer brands, partnering with casino companies, owning sports teams, releasing a video game, and building retirement communities, among other endeavors;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett had a third career as a writer, authoring best-selling books, including—

(1) “Tales from Margaritaville”;

(2) “Where is Joe Merchant”;

(3) “A Pirate Looks at Fifty”;

Whereas, over the course of his 50-year recording career, Mr. Buffett gave life to over 30 studio albums that sold over 20,000,000 copies worldwide;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett was nominated twice for Grammy Awards by the Recording Academy of the United States;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett’s entrepreneurial spirit created thousands of jobs and led to levels of financial success rare among musicians;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett’s songs, restaurants, and stories resonated with generations of grateful fans, “Parrotheads,” and casual listeners alike;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett offered escapist experiences that helped fans worldwide delight in life’s simple pleasures;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett was philanthropic, giving his time, finances, and music to support the troops of the United States, disaster relief efforts, conservation activities, and more;

Whereas, Mr. Buffett died on September 1, 2023, and is preceded in death by his parents, Mary Lorraine Peets Buffett and James Delaney Buffett, Jr.; and

Whereas, Mr. Buffett is survived by his wife, Jane Slagsvol Buffett, and three chil-

dren, Cameron Marley Buffett, Sarah Delaney Buffett, and Savannah Jane Buffett: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of James William “Jimmy” Buffett for his contributions to music, his State, and his country;

(2) extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Buffett; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Buffett as a token of the United States Senate’s respect and admiration for his life’s work.

SENATE RESOLUTION 402—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 26, 2023, AS THE “DAY OF THE DEPLOYED”

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 402

Whereas more than 2,000,000 individuals serve as members of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the reserve components of the Armed Forces;

Whereas several hundred thousand members of the Armed Forces have served in more than 200 countries in every region of the world;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed to the area of operations of the United States Central Command since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas, for nearly 20 years following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, members of the Armed Forces deployed throughout Afghanistan, and their service and bravery helped protect the United States from further terrorist attacks;

Whereas the United States is kept strong and free by the loyal military personnel from the total force of the Armed Forces, which includes the Active Duty components, the National Guard, and the Reserves, who protect the precious heritage of the United States through their declarations and actions;

Whereas the United States remains committed to providing the fullest possible accounting for personnel missing from past conflicts ranging from World War II through current day conflicts;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces serving at home and abroad have courageously answered the call to duty to defend the ideals of the United States and to preserve peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces are called upon to be deployed on short notice to support, reassure, and defend allies and partners of the United States, and to deter adversaries around the world;

Whereas the United States remains committed to easing the transition from deployment abroad to service at home for members of the Armed Forces and the families of the members;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty, courage, and sacrifice;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make important and significant sacrifices for the United States; and

Whereas the Senate has designated October 26 as the “Day of the Deployed” since 2011: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 26, 2023, as the “Day of the Deployed”;

(2) honors the deployed members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the families of the members;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the Armed Forces, wherever the members serve, past, present, and future; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the “Day of the Deployed” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 403—RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USA RICE-DUCKS UNLIMITED RICE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP

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

S. RES. 403

Whereas the USA Rice-Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship Partnership (referred to in this preamble as the “Rice Stewardship Partnership”) is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2023;

Whereas the Rice Stewardship Partnership is a unique collaboration between an agricultural commodity group and a conservation organization that has led to historic outcomes for both United States rice farmers and migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, namely ducks;

Whereas, since its inception, the Rice Stewardship Partnership has beneficially impacted more than 800,000 acres of rice and rice rotation lands on more than 1,000 farms, primarily through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program of the Department of Agriculture;

Whereas additional conservation funding has been provided to United States rice farmers to conduct on-the-ground conservation efforts, contributing exponentially to the environment; and

Whereas the work of Ducks Unlimited and USA Rice, along with tremendous support from more than 100 partners and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture, has made the Rice Stewardship Partnership possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) the contributions of Ducks Unlimited and USA Rice to environmental stewardship for rice farmers, conservationists, and duck hunters alike; and

(2) the 10th anniversary of the USA Rice-Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship Partnership.

SENATE RESOLUTION 404—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 4, 2023, AS “ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY” IN CELEBRATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THAT HAVE BEEN DRIVEN BY PRIVATE SECTOR INNOVATION AND FEDERAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 404

Whereas October has been designated as “National Energy Awareness Month”;

Whereas improvements in energy efficiency technologies and practices, along with policies of the United States enacted since the 1970s, have resulted in energy savings of more than 60,000,000,000,000 British thermal units and energy cost avoidance of more than \$800,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas energy efficiency has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and in administrations of both parties for more than 40 years;

Whereas bipartisan legislation enacted since the 1970s to advance Federal energy efficiency policies includes—

(1) the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.);

(2) the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-12; 101 Stat. 103);

(3) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 et seq.);

(4) the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.);

(5) the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17001 et seq.);

(6) the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-11; 129 Stat. 182);

(7) the Energy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 2418); and

(8) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429);

Whereas energy efficiency has long been supported by a diverse coalition of businesses (including manufacturers, utilities, energy service companies, and technology firms), public interest organizations, environmental and conservation groups, and State and local governments;

Whereas, since 1980, the United States has more than doubled its energy productivity, realizing twice the economic output per unit of energy consumed;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 individuals in the United States are currently employed across the energy efficiency sector, as the United States has doubled its energy productivity, and business and industry have become more innovative and competitive in global markets;

Whereas the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department of Energy is the principal Federal agency responsible for renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency efforts;

Whereas cutting energy waste saves the consumers of the United States billions of dollars on utility bills annually; and

Whereas energy efficiency policies, financing innovations, and public-private partnerships have contributed to a reduction in energy intensity in Federal facilities by nearly 50 percent since the mid-1970s, which results in direct savings to United States taxpayers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 4, 2023, as “Energy Efficiency Day”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe Energy Efficiency Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 405—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AS “NATIONAL VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KING, and Mr. VANCE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 405

Whereas the wounds sustained through armed service to the United States are both visible and invisible;

Whereas the wounds sustained through armed service to the United States may be invisible, but those wounds are treatable if the bearers of those wounds are connected to the right resources;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that an average of nearly 17 veterans die by suicide each day;

Whereas veterans account for a disproportionate percentage of all adult suicides in the United States;

Whereas the surviving family members of veterans who succumb to the invisible wounds of armed service to the United States must not be forgotten and isolated but instead must be directed to available resources and support;

Whereas, after the loss of a veteran family member to the invisible wounds of armed service to the United States, the family members of that veteran must not lose their link to the support and strength of the military and veteran communities;

Whereas the families of veterans who die by suicide hold valuable “lessons learned on the lookback” that can be used to prevent future suicides in veteran populations;

Whereas the voices of the surviving family members of veterans who die by suicide are useful and should be leveraged in prevention efforts;

Whereas formal recognition of the families of veterans who succumb to the invisible wounds of armed service to the United States is vital to the strength, health, and survival of the veteran community;

Whereas those families should be recognized, supported, and heard on National Veterans Suicide Prevention Day and throughout the year; and

Whereas September 30, 2023, is an appropriate day to designate as “National Veterans Suicide Prevention Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of September 30, 2023, as “National Veterans Suicide Prevention Day”.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EQUAL PAY AND THE DISPARITY IN WAGES PAID TO LATINA WOMEN IN COMPARISON TO MEN

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 21

Whereas October 5, 2023, is Latina Equal Pay Day to observe the pay gap between Latina women and White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas Latina women make up the second-largest group of women workers in the United States, after White women;

Whereas there are 13,900,000 Hispanic women in the labor force, representing slightly more than 10 percent of all women in the labor force today;

Whereas section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)(1)) prohibits discrimination in wages on the basis of sex for equal work;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) prohibits discrimination in compensation because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex;

Whereas despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) more than six decades ago, which establishes that employers shall not discriminate in wages on the basis of sex, but shall provide equal pay for equal work, Bureau of the Census data show that Latina women working full-time and year-round are paid 57 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men, while the average wage differential for all Latina women with reported earnings working full-time, part-time and part-year is 52 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas the National Women's Law Center has calculated that, on average, Latina women lose over \$1,200,000 in potential earnings over a 40-year career to the wage gap;

Whereas, at the rate observed in 2023, Latinas will not reach equal pay with White non-Hispanic men for 183 years, or until 2206;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census reported the median annual pay for all Latina women in the United States working full-time, part-time, and part-year was \$31,600 in 2022, compared to the median annual pay of \$60,830 for White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census reported the median annual pay for all Latina women working full-time and part-time is \$26,485, placing a working mother of two on the brink of poverty;

Whereas job loss during the COVID-19 pandemic distorted measurements of average wages as women with lower earnings in sectors such as leisure, hospitality, and retail were more likely to experience job loss and leave the labor force;

Whereas lost wages mean Latina women have less money to support themselves and their families, save and invest for the future, and spend on goods and services;

Whereas approximately 51 percent of Latina women are unable to earn sick days through their jobs;

Whereas the lack of access to affordable, quality child care, paid family and medical leave, and other family friendly workplace policies forces many Latina women to choose between their paycheck or job and getting quality care for themselves or their family members, a dynamic that contributes to the wage gap and was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as Latina women disproportionately work in essential jobs that put them at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19;

Whereas if the annual wage gap were eliminated, on average, a Latina woman working full-time and year-round would have enough money to pay for nearly three years of childcare, to pay for 38 months of food, or more than 22 months of rent;

Whereas women face disproportionate sexual harassment in the workplace and data shows that women filed 78.2 percent of the 27,291 sexual harassment charges filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission between fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2021;

Whereas workplace harassment forces many women to leave their occupation or industry—targets of harassment were 6.5 times as likely as nontargets to change jobs—or pass up opportunities for advancement, and this contributes to the gender wage gap;

Whereas there is a high-personal cost for women who have been sexually harassed, in-

cluding unemployment, under-employment, and financial stress resulting from changing jobs, which lead to long-term consequences for earnings and career attainment;

Whereas more than two-thirds of workers paid the minimum wage or less in 2022 are women, and there is a disproportionate concentration of women of color in low-wage and tipped jobs;

Whereas the pay disparity Latina women face is part of a wider set of disparities Latina women face in homeownership, unemployment, poverty, access to childcare, and the ability to build wealth;

Whereas the underpayment of Latina women workers causes businesses and the economy to suffer;

Whereas true pay equity requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses the gender and racial injustices that Latina women face daily; and

Whereas many national organizations have designated October 5, 2023, as Latina Equal Pay Day to recognize the additional time that Latina women must work into the next calendar year to receive the earnings of White, non-Hispanic men in the prior Census year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the disparity in wages paid to Latina women and its impact on women, families, the economy, and our entire country; and

(2) reaffirms its support for ensuring equal pay and closing the gender wage gap.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

The Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecu-

rity Policy of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Virginia and the junior Senator from Maryland be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from October 5, 2023, through October 16, 2023.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 398, S. Res. 399, S. Res. 401, S. Res. 402, S. Res. 403, S. Res. 404, and S. Res. 405.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 398, S. Res. 399, S. Res. 401, S. Res. 402, S. Res. 403, S. Res. 404, and S. Res. 405) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to. (The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DIANNE FEINSTEIN, THE LATE SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 400, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 400) honoring the life and legacy of Dianne Feinstein, the late Senator for the State of California.

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. 400) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023, THROUGH MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 400, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the

following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, October 6, at 9:45 a.m.; Tuesday, October 10, at 12 noon; and Friday, October 13, at 9:15 a.m.; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, October 13, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, October 16; that on Monday, 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 following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Hall nomination; and further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023, AT 9:45 A.M.

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

There being no objection, under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res.

400, as a further mark of respect to the late Dianne Feinstein, former Senator from California, the Senate, at 9:21 p.m., adjourned until 9:45 a.m. on Friday, October 6, 2023.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

SETH ROBERT AFRAHE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, VICE JEFFREY R. HOWARD, RETIRED.

EDWARD SUNYOL KIEL, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE KEVIN MCNULTY, RETIRING.

SARAH FRENCH RUSSELL, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE SARAH A.L. MERRIAM, ELEVATED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 4, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

BRENDAN ABELL HURSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

SUSAN KIM DECLERCQ, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMES C. O'BRIEN, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS).