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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, ruler of the universe, provide our lawmakers with a perspective that will enable You to use them for Your glory. May they see themselves as called to serve You and the people of our Nation and world. Use this perspective to motivate them to remove the obstacles that prevent them from working together and accomplishing Your purposes. As they continually seek to discover opportunities they agree can make them more productive, give them the wisdom and courage to always strive to honor You.

And, Lord, bring a speedy end to the Hamas-Israel war.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2023.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as I have said before, but still feel it deeply in my gut, no words can fully express the horror of Hamas's attack on Israel two Saturdays ago.

In a single day, 1,300 Jews murdered in cold blood: men, women, children, the elderly, the disabled, as old as nearly 100 years old, down to toddlers and infants.

I was told that at one of the kibbutzim, Hamas rounded up over a hundred people—from 90 years old down to little babies—into the recreation room and then machine-gunned every one of them down.

And now, it is reported that about 200 hostages are being held by Hamas, including Americans. I just walked by the TV, they said they just showed the first hostage, a 22-year-old girl. It wrenches your stomach how evil these people are. How evil. We Jewish people have been used to this for thousands of years. We live with it.

As I mentioned when I talked about the kibbutz, I remembered my great-grandmother. In 1941, the Nazis came into Europe and told her—she was well-known because her late husband was a famous rabbi—Gather your greater family on the porch of your home. They made the 800 Jews in Chortkiv go to the town square, which was near her home. Thirty-five people gathered, from 88 years old to 3 months. They said to her, You are all coming with us. She said, We are not moving. They machine-gunned every one of them down, in front of the others. This is what we live with, and this is why we are so resolute that the threat of Hamas must be extinguished.

This morning, my four colleagues who traveled to Israel and I will have a phone conversation with President Biden about how we can be most helpful to bring all of the hostages home safely. I promised the families we met that we will do everything we can, and we are exploring every option. The five of us met with the hostage families, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house watching the videos. Some of them had videos; Hamas sent some of the videos to the families. We were just weeping together about the cruel, inhumanity of Hamas and the desperation these families had to get their loved ones back.

October 7 will go down as a day of inextinguishable grief. The deadliest single day for Jews since the Holocaust—

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



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a reminder of much older, darker days we must never return to.

So when my colleagues and I traveled to Israel this past weekend, we delivered a simple message to the Jewish people: America will stand with Israel as an unrelenting partner.

And I promised that I will do everything possible to ensure that the U.S. Senate provides Israel with the support she needs to defend her people. As the highest ranking Jewish elected official ever in America, as the first Jewish majority leader, I will do everything I can to see that that happens, as will so many of my colleagues, Jew and non-Jew alike, Democrat and Republican alike, which we so appreciate.

The Senate must, above all, work quickly and swiftly to draft, consider, and pass a strong aid package for Israel as soon as we can. That includes military support, intelligence support, diplomatic help. On the military side, the Israelis have outlined to us on their trip what they have needed, and we have conveyed that to the administration.

And very importantly, I spoke with the President yesterday, and he said something that I had been urging: that there be a significant amount of humanitarian aid to help victims and innocent Palestinians who have nothing to do with Hamas. While I was abroad, I spoke with the Israeli leadership. Every single member we met with, we said we want to make sure you have what you need to eliminate the threat of Hamas, but we also reminded them that we must provide humanitarian assistance to those who need it, including innocent Palestinian citizens, in the fastest, safest, and most effective way possible. We are going to keep working to ensure that happens.

There are reports in Israel that Hamas was trying to block that aid in certain ways, block the highways that people drove down. Some told us that when Israeli soldiers were putting together water mains to bring water to some of the people, Hamas were shooting at them. But we must persist. We must be above the kind of evil cruelty that we saw from Hamas. We must go by the rule of law and make sure that we do everything we can to minimize the pain and loss of innocent civilians, Palestinians, and everyone else.

I thank my colleagues Senators ROSEN, KELLY, CASSIDY, and ROMNEY for joining on this bipartisan delegation. Our mission in Israel, as I said, was threefold: to send a clear message of solidarity, to assess what Israel's security needs are right now so we can put together a strong aid package, and show that support for Israel is bipartisan. Standing with the Israeli Government, as I mentioned, we got a list of what military assistance they need in order to fully defend themselves and eliminate the threat of Hamas.

Now, tomorrow, President Biden, too, will travel to Israel, to affirm—as only an American President can—that as long as there is a United States of America, Israel will never be alone.

I have known President Biden since he was Senator Biden and Vice President Biden and, now, President Biden. His support for Israel comes from the heart. He is a believer, and that is so good. And I know he will deliver a strong message of support and solidarity when he comes before the Jewish people.

And I know he will reiterate—as my colleagues and I did when meeting with each Israeli leader—the need to follow the laws of war and minimize civilian Palestinian deaths. This is very important, very important. And civilian casualties are something we stressed strongly when we spoke to Israeli leaders.

Now, make no mistake, the task Israel faces is so, so difficult. Eliminate the threat of Hamas—hard enough. Secure the return of hostages, safely, held by these evil, vicious, horrible terrorists. Cruel. And do so while minimizing the loss of innocent Palestinian lives. This is all not easy, but it is very important we make every effort to achieve all three.

And as we continue working with the Biden administration to stand Israel on the world stage, the Senate has a lot to do here at home. To move on a robust aid package quickly, I am instructing Senators MURRAY, REED, and CARDIN—our leading national security committee chairs—to work with our Republican colleagues and with the Biden administration on the details of an aid package that the Senate can take up as soon as possible, hopefully within the next few weeks. That package will include military aid, diplomatic help, humanitarian aid, and intelligence aid, all things Israel needs.

With the House in disarray, the Senate will not wait to vote on an Israeli aid package. We can't wait for the House. Who knows what is going to be happening there? The Senate will go first, and it is my hope that if the Senate can move quickly—and pass something with strong bipartisan support—we can importune the House to act, despite its current morass.

And very soon—perhaps as soon as today—I hope the Senate can also act to pass a resolution championed by Chairman CARDIN, Ranking Member RISCH, Leader McCONNELL, and myself condemning Hamas and affirming that we stand with Israel and their right to defend themselves. The resolution matters because the Senate must speak in one voice against dangerous false equivalency between the evils of Hamas and the response against them.

Let us not forget that Hamas does not believe in any Jewish State. If you read some of their covenants and charters, Hamas would do to the Jewish people in the rest of Israel what they did to the people along the Gaza border. Israel therefore not only has the right but also the obligation to defend itself and its people, to eliminate the threat of Hamas, so they cannot carry out an attack, a vicious, cruel, heart-wrenching attack like this ever again.

And here in the Senate, we have to do our part to help them. So the next few weeks will bring great challenge not just for the Israeli people but for us here in America, as we maintain our resolve to help the Israelis.

The world, unfortunately, moves on quickly from tragedy. Some are already trying to move on from this tragedy, to obscure the nature of Hamas's horror, and undermine Israel's right to defend herself. But for all Israelis and for all supporters of Israel, across this country, Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative, Jew, gentile, Muslim, Hindu, anybody, there cannot be any moving on from October 7. It is going to stay here, like a deep weight in our hearts.

We must not allow the atrocities of Hamas to fade into obscurity. If the world shakes its head and says, "Well, that was yesterday," then the horrors of Hamas are going to happen again. We have an obligation to ensure it doesn't happen. I will do everything possible to ensure the Senate acts as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, one month from now, Congress will face another deadline to avoid a lapse in Federal Government funding.

Between now and then, the Senate needs to do our part to pass as many full-year appropriations bills as we possibly can. First in line is the minibus legislation that would send critical resources towards supporting America's farmers, keeping promises to our veterans, and rebuilding crumbling infrastructure.

Before the State work period, the Senate Republicans agreed on a list of amendments that would allow this package to move quickly here on the floor, and I am hopeful that the Democratic leader will call it up this week and give the full Senate the chance to take an important step toward funding the government.

Of course, passing the minibus is just an early step. We have a great deal of work still ahead of us to finish the job that Senator COLLINS, Senator MURRAY, and our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee have been focused on, literally, for months.

And as I have said before, we also need to consider additional, time-sensitive resources for a number of supplemental priorities. But we cannot get on with this work unless we clear an important hurdle this week.

ISRAEL

Mr. President, now, on a different matter, I was encouraged to hear that President Biden will visit Israel tomorrow. As the Jewish State mourns the victims of the barbaric October 7 attacks and as Israel forces continue their work to root out the terrorists responsible, it is important for the President to represent Israel's closest ally and bear witness to the destruction wrought by Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and their patrons in Tehran. The President will have a number of responsibilities on this consequential trip.

First, he needs to console a grieving nation while demonstrating America's firm resolve to back Israel in its time of need.

The American people feel the pain of our friends in Israel, and we mourn our citizens—our own citizens—who were slaughtered alongside Israelis by these savages. In our grief and in our anger, America's interests and Israel's interests are truly intertwined, and our policies must be as well.

President Biden needs to demonstrate our support for the difficult but necessary steps Israel must take to destroy the terrorists' capacity to wage war. He needs to reject the false moral equivalence that Israeli's perennial critics are using to mask anti-Semitic hatred. He needs to resist the already mounting pressure in the media and in diplomatic channels to constrain Israel's efforts to defend itself.

He needs to make it clear that his administration will do everything possible to give Israel the time and the space that it needs to conduct the required military operations, for as long as it takes. As long as it takes.

In his words and actions, President Biden must also deter Iran and Hezbollah from further additional involvement in this terrorist war. The deployment of carrier battle groups, a marine expeditionary unit, and additional fighter squadrons to the region are a good first step. But deterrence requires both capabilities and credibility.

The President needs to show that he means business. His tone, his statements, and his actions need to send an unambiguous message to Iran about America's resolve. No more splitting hairs about whether intelligence demonstrates Iran's direct involvement in the October 7 attacks. The Supreme Leader has rejoiced at the images of dead Israelis.

A senior Iranian official called it "a proud operation," and Hamas has a history of thanking Iran for its support in public. No more absurd suggestions that seeking to free up \$6 billion in Iranian assets doesn't embolden Tehran.

We have reams—reams—of evidence that the regime that chants "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" puts its money where its mouth is. Ultimately, President Biden must also accept that the fundamental assumptions of his administration's Iran policy were morally and practically bankrupt.

The President's team begged Iran to reenter the Obama administration's flawed nuclear deal. Iran sensed their desperation and played hard to get.

Then the administration sought to deescalate tensions by overlooking Iranian plots against American citizens and former officials and ignoring Tehran's growing repression at home and aggression abroad.

Well, Iran had other ideas. They like killing Americans as much as they like killing Israelis. After all, the way that Tehran sees it, America is the Great Satan to Israel's "Little Satan." And we should expect that, until Iran's rulers are afraid of us, they will continue to undermine America's influence, to test our boundaries, and to kill our citizens.

The administration's previous Iran policy is now history. The President must go back to the drawing board and should start by doing what I have recommended to him since he took office: Work with Republicans to craft a bipartisan Iran policy that will survive his administration, a plan that addresses all aspects of the threat Iran poses, and, more immediately, the President needs to show Iran and its terrorist proxies like Hezbollah that further involvement in this conflict will risk crippling economic sanctions and the decisive use of American military strength.

The terrorists and their sponsors with Israeli and American blood on their hands represent a clear and present danger to the United States, to our allies, and our interests. It is long past time for America to meet this threat with serious and credible deterrence.

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.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there are days and events that are almost unspeakable, and October 7, 2023, is one of them. The slaughter of hundreds of innocent Israelis—men, women, and, unthinkably, children—at the hands of Hamas terrorists was a terrible witness to the evil of which mankind is capable. The stories and images that have emerged are searing: a bloodied infant seat, parents tucking their 10-month-old twins into hiding before being murdered by the attackers, a mom and dad killed with their three young children.

As a father and a grandfather, I cannot imagine the terror those parents must have felt as they realized Hamas gunmen had moved into their villages. It is a terrible fact of war that the innocent are often drawn into the crossfire, but to make war on the innocent, to target the innocent deliberately, is perhaps the greatest evil of which man is capable.

Mr. President, it is nearly unimaginable to think that someone could look at Hamas's attack and find any cause for joy or celebration, and yet in the days following the attacks, we have seen far too many people right here at home—including at our so-called top universities—attempt to defend or even celebrate the indefensible. And while the First Amendment protects their right to speak, I hope that we as a society can categorically reject the view that anything can justify or excuse the deliberate murder of babies and children.

Mr. President, Israel is currently working to bring a swift end to Hamas's reign of terror, and it should have the full support of the United States in this mission. The United States has long provided security assistance to Israel, including an ongoing memorandum of understanding that supports foreign military financing and missile defense assistance through fiscal year 2028.

In 2021, we passed supplemental funding to restock the Iron Dome system in response to rocket attacks from Hamas, and I anticipate Congress will soon consider a supplemental in response to this attack. We must also use every resource available to prevent escalation and expansion of this war and ensure that Israel does not end up fighting on multiple fronts.

We can already see that other hostile actors are angling to enter the fray. Iran is actively threatening Israel. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, has fired rockets and artillery across Israel's northern border with Lebanon. And we need to band together with our allies to make it clear that any attempts to escalate this war would be a grave miscalculation.

It is also past time to hold Iran—a long-time funder of Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations—to account for its role in fomenting unrest and destabilizing the Middle East. I have not been shy about calling out the Biden administration's poor track record on being tough on Iran, in particular, the administration's misguided goal of re-signing a flawed nuclear deal and attempting to appease the country's leaders with billions of dollars in sanctions relief.

Just over a month ago—on September 11 of all days—the administration lifted a freeze on \$6 billion in Iranian assets, which would likely have resulted in the freeing up of additional funds for Iran's hostile activities. I am glad that the President listened to calls from Senator BLACKBURN, me, and others to block Iran's access to these funds, and I hope that the Senate can soon pass legislation to permanently freeze these assets. We need to make it very clear to Iran—and to any other country that would seek to imitate the Iranians—that there will be consequences for aiding and abetting terror.

Mr. President, 30 Americans have now been confirmed to have died in

Israel. As I speak, we have 13 possible American hostages being held by Hamas. We also have an estimated up to 600 Americans in Gaza in harm's way, including a family that my office is working with. We must get them out.

Mr. President, in the midst of war and Hamas's brutality, it is important to remember our own sense of humanity and innocence on both sides. Hamas's utter indifference to human life was on full display on its rampage through Israeli villages, and that indifference extends, unfortunately, to the lives of its own people. Hamas has tangled its terrorist infrastructure throughout and under an incredibly dense urban population center, ensuring that innocent lives will always be in harm's way in attacks on legitimate terrorist targets.

And as Israel prepares to go after targets in Gaza, Hamas is now discouraging—and, it appears, actively trying to prevent—civilians from heeding Israel's calls to evacuate. Apparently, Hamas believes that dead Palestinians will advance its cause and keep the focus on Israel's response, not the abject brutality that Hamas unleashed on October 7. And we must be resolute in exposing and condemning this callousness.

We must also work to ensure that the response of free countries conveys the respect for human life that is so woefully lacking in the terrorists and that we do everything we can to ensure that innocent civilians on both sides in this conflict are protected as much as possible and that humanitarian aid reaches innocent Palestinians and is not intercepted by Hamas terrorists.

Mr. President, the Jewish people have suffered much, but their story—and the story of Israel—is one of resilience, and the United States stands with Israel at this most challenging time. My prayers this week are with the grieving families in Israel and all the suffering and for the permanent defeat of Hamas and a just and lasting peace.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know, the war between Israel and Hamas is intensifying this week.

Just as any sovereign nation would have the right to defend itself against a terrorist attack, Israel has that right as well. It took swift and decisive action to retaliate against the terrorists who invaded its land and murdered its people, but Israel now has the responsibility to eliminate Hamas's leadership and to make sure that Hamas is in-

capable of mounting a similar terrorist attack against Israel in the future.

To that end, the Israel Defense Forces are preparing a ground assault against the Hamas forces in Gaza. Obviously, this is a terrible situation, but we shouldn't be confused about the right and the necessity of Israel to defend itself and to eliminate the Hamas threat. Deterrence is the best way to maintain the peace and to keep bad actors like Iranian proxies, like Hamas, from doing what they did in Israel. But, with that having failed for a variety of reasons, it is now important to give Israel the flexibility they need in order to do what they must.

Hamas's unprovoked attack on Israel has killed nearly 1,400 people, including 30 Americans. That point should not be lost. American citizens have been killed in Israel by this terrorist attack. In addition, nearly 200 people have been taken hostage, and their fate remains in question. And, given the way that Hamas has used Palestinian civilians as human shields, the number of casualties in Gaza continues to rise.

Hamas's war on Israel is not fueled by a quest for liberation or freedom or anything noble but, rather, by hate. This is a clear attempt to eliminate the Jewish State by any means necessary, a goal of the No. 1 terrorist state in the world, which is Iran, and their proxies—Hamas in the south, Hezbollah in the north.

Hamas's war on Israel is pure evil, and the United States cannot and will not be silent. We have the responsibility, moral and otherwise, to support Israel with our words but, more importantly, with our actions. The United States must support Israel without delay or hesitation. We must commit ourselves to defeating this evil by, with, and through our Israeli allies.

I, like many of us, am a student of history because it helps us understand the challenges we are experiencing today and realize that many of those challenges have precedents—things that have happened in the past that should inform us about how we should respond today. As Israel and Hamas continue fighting, it can be easy to mistake this as some isolated or, perhaps, local or regional conflict, but that could not be further from the truth.

I think back to what British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said in the fall of 1938 about the escalating conflict between Nazi Germany as it prepared to invade Czechoslovakia.

Neville Chamberlain famously said:

[It is] a quarrel in a far away country between people of whom we know nothing.

Well, today, 85 years later, it is easy to see how misguided those views were, because less than 2 years after Chamberlain's remark, Nazi bombs fell on London. This faraway quarrel quickly escalated into a global war that became the deadliest conflict in human history.

I say this only to emphasize that the United States and our allies cannot

brush aside this conflict and treat it as an inconsequential regional dispute. This is, in my view, a war between good and evil, and the world is carefully watching to see how America responds.

There is no question that among the most engaged spectators are Russia and China. Russia's war against Ukraine has been raging for more than a year and a half, and it is watching—Russia is watching—to see if America's support for Ukraine erodes to the point where Russia can gain an upper hand. Mr. Putin is depending on our fatigue or our being distracted from the job at hand, helping Ukraine defend itself.

At the same time, China is preparing its plans to invade Taiwan. President Xi has instructed the People's Liberation Army to be ready to do so by the year 2027, but as we know, there is no guarantee of any particular timetable. President Xi could decide to go at any time. China is hoping that the United States will be distracted by the conflict in the Middle East as it continues to build contingencies related to Taiwan.

Both see the war—both, that is Russia and China see the war—in Israel as a global distraction that could work to their benefit. Now, this is not a reason to avoid U.S. support for Israel. In fact, it is a good reason America's attention and support are so critical at this time. Russia and China and, really, the rest of the world, including our friends and allies, are watching our actions very closely. They want to know whether we are dependable, whether our allies can rely on us to stay in the fight against this evil.

Russia and China are seeing just how far they can push the boundaries of international norms before members of the rules-based international order react. What we are doing for Ukraine, together with our European allies, and what we will do for Israel are subjects of great interest in Russia and China. We cannot bow down in the face of attacks on freedom-loving people whether those attacks happen in Israel, Ukraine, or Taiwan.

Now, I know many of us are not eager to embrace America's leadership role in the world. We think, well, we have got problems here at home—and we certainly do—but America's leadership is indispensable in rallying similarly minded nations to fight evil like this attack against Israel. Without the United States' leadership, it will never happen.

As the fighting in Israel continues, the United States must remain committed to two clear objectives. First and foremost, we must support Israel, and we must provide Israel, along with our other allies, what it needs not only to fight but to win this war. They don't need our direction or our lecturing. They know what they need to do, and we need to help them do it. That includes military aid, intelligence support, and humanitarian assistance, today and in the future, to help Israel

defend its sovereignty and protect its people in a very, very dangerous neighborhood. Israel is the lone beacon of democracy in the Middle East, and we have a national interest in supporting one of our most critical allies as it responds to this terrorist invasion.

Our second goal is to prevent this war from widening. Hamas does not operate in a vacuum. It is a beneficiary of funding, weapons, and training from Iran—the world's leading sponsor of international terrorism.

I have been disturbed as I have read some press reports where Biden administration officials have said: Well, we don't see Iran's fingerprints on this attack. But that is like looking at this situation through a soda straw—ignoring history; ignoring the fact that Iran has been at war with the West, including the United States, for decades, killing American soldiers in Iraq by providing explosively formed penetrators, using proxy groups like Hamas and Hezbollah to commit terrorist attacks. So Iran's fingerprints are definitely on this attack. They may have been surprised about the timing of the attack, but attacking Israel and killing innocent Israelis is the way they do business.

As I have said for years now, Iran has provided Hamas with the money, the weapons, and the military training that it uses against Israel and other allies of the United States. According to the State Department, Iran provides up to \$100 million a year to the Palestinian terrorist groups, including Hamas—\$100 million a year. And people in the Biden administration have said: We don't see Iran's involvement in this attack.

Give me a break. It doesn't matter if Iran called the plays for the attack or knew about the specific timing. Tehran has bankrolled Hamas's arsenal and its capabilities and is cheering on Hamas as it kills innocent Israelis—men, women, and children.

Iran gave Hamas the tools it needed to attack Israel and to further its goal of eliminating the Jewish State. The question now is, Will Iran use this opportunity to escalate? That is why U.S. warships are positioned in the Mediterranean—to provide the deterrence necessary to deter Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, from joining the conflict.

Our second goal must be to prevent this conflict from widening outside of Israel. The United States has a long and proud history of supporting Israel, and it is important for Hamas and its allies to understand that America's support for Israel is not just about empty words. We are committed to providing Israel with the resources it needs to defend itself whether that comes in the form of weapons, intelligence support, humanitarian assistance, or anything else.

Israel has received longstanding support from the United States and our allies, and I hope that Iran and Hezbollah recognize the high cost of expanding this conflict.

In an era of near-constant division and disagreement in Congress, I am glad this is an issue that has garnered broad, bipartisan support. Republicans and Democrats are united in purpose, as are the American people. We are committed to aiding Israel's fight against these terrorists and defending democracy in every corner of the globe.

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

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

The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. HALL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support for Jennifer Hall's nomination to serve as the next U.S. district court judge for Delaware.

Before I describe what makes Jennifer Hall particularly well suited for the role, let me just take a moment, if I can, to describe our approach to filling court vacancies in the First State.

For over a decade, my colleague—my wingman, if you will—from Delaware, Senator CHRIS COONS, and I have relied on a collaborative process for putting forward U.S. district court recommendations to the White House, regardless of who is in the White House. With the help of a judicial nominating commission, Senator COONS and I have worked to identify some of those qualified individuals in Delaware in order to recommend them to the President, regardless of political party. The process serves Delaware well, it serves our Nation well, and it has yielded yet another extraordinary nominee before us today.

As I often say, justice delayed is justice denied. Justice delayed is justice denied. It is critical that we act swiftly to confirm Jennifer Hall to Delaware's U.S. district court. It is one of the busiest if not, maybe, the busiest district court in the Nation.

I also want to take a moment to thank Judge Rich Andrews for his service to this court and also to our State and to our Nation. I know that when he takes senior status at the end of this year, Jennifer Hall will be well prepared to help take on an enormous workload before the court.

I would like to share just a little bit more, if I could, about her with our colleagues today. Jennifer grew up in Minnesota and is a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota—home of those Golden Gophers—where she earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. She then made her way to Yale, where she met her husband Dave and earned not one but two degrees—a master's and a Ph.D. in both molecular physics and biochemistry. But apparently three degrees weren't enough, so she continued her studies at the University of Pennsylvania's Law School,

where she graduated magna cum laude and immediately began a successful legal career.

In the years that followed, she had the distinction of clerking for two Federal judges appointed by President George W. Bush.

Jennifer went on to work at Fish & Richardson, a Wilmington, DE, law firm, where she focused on patent law and other complex business issues.

After 3 years in private practice, she felt called to serve the people of Delaware and of America. She spent the next 8 years at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Delaware. Then, in 2019, Jennifer was selected to serve as a magistrate judge at the U.S. district court for Delaware—the same court to which she has now been nominated to serve as a Federal judge.

The last 4 years have given her some of the best preparation and on-the-job training that anyone could ask for. Magistrate Judge Hall has impressed her colleagues on the bench both with her intellect and her work ethic, and she has a deep respect for and knowledge of the law.

Her background as a scientist, as a legal scholar, and as a magistrate judge has prepared her well for this new role. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote to confirm Magistrate Judge Jennifer Hall to serve as the next U.S. district court judge for Delaware. I am certain she is going to be ready to hit the ground ready on day one, especially in a district court as busy and as important as Delaware's.

Before I yield back my time, I am going to be joined here momentarily, I believe, by Senator COONS, my colleague from Delaware, who serves on the Judiciary Committee and with whom I serve and enjoy the opportunity to serve with him for our State. We have, I think, probably not the kind of close working relationship when it comes to judicial nominations that you find in most other States. We do it as a team. We have great help from the folks on the nominating commission who help make sure we not only identify excellent candidates but actually are able to present them for confirmation to the Senate.

The Presiding Officer, as my friend, I think you know that I am a recovered Governor. I served as Governor of Delaware for 8 years. As Governor in Delaware, the Governor gets to nominate people to serve on the court of chancery, superior court, family court, supreme court, and to submit those names to the legislature for their consideration—to the Senate, rather.

I always looked for three or four qualities, if you will, in the people I nominated as Governor to serve on the bench in Delaware. Even as State courts, we considered some of the major issues of our country, business laws and others. One thing I always looked for in nominees was people who are smart, not just book smart but actually wise. I looked for people who had a strong work ethic. I looked for

people who believe in the Golden Rule, treating the folks who come before them in their courtroom the way they want to be treated, and people who have integrity that just could not ever be questioned. Those are just some of the criteria I looked for in my judicial nominees.

For 8 years, I submitted names to the State senate in Delaware. They all went before the executive committee and eventually were considered. Every one of those nominees was confirmed, which says a lot about Delaware—a lot about Delaware.

I hope we will take a similar kind of action here today. Jennifer got a good vote on cloture, and my hope is that we can replicate that as well.

I will yield back. I don't know if I can reserve time so that when Senator COONS arrives, he will have time left as well because I know he is trying to get here. But this is, I think, a proud day for Delaware, and I know it is for Jennifer and her family.

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

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

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask that I be permitted to complete my comments before we proceed to the next vote.

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

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of the Honorable Jennifer Hall to be our next district court judge for the District of Delaware.

One of the very busiest dockets in the entire Nation, the District of Delaware handles a remarkable amount of complex patent cases and cutting-edge commercial litigation. It takes a special judge to serve in this court, and Judge Hall's unique background and extensive legal experience make her an ideal candidate.

My colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee agreed, advancing her nomination to this floor by a strong bipartisan vote of 16 to 5. Judge Hall received support from half of the Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, including Ranking Member GRAHAM and Senators GRASSLEY, CORNYN, LEE, and TILLIS.

She already knows the District of Delaware very well, serving as a magistrate judge since 2019. She has proven herself a legal powerhouse and, time and time again, has handled a high volume of the most complex cases.

Her legal experience before assuming the bench is just as impressive: 8 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Delaware, where she was chief of the civil division, leading hundreds of cases on behalf of our Federal

Government. Prior to that, she practiced law at Fish & Richardson, P.C., where she litigated intellectual property and complex commercial cases.

A graduate of Penn Law, she clerked for Judge Kent Jordan on the Third Circuit and Judge Sharon Prost on the Federal Circuit. Before enrolling at Penn, she earned a Ph.D. in molecular biophysics and molecular biochemistry at Yale, an education and background that will aid her as she decides complex patent and IP law cases.

You can see why the American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Hall as "well qualified" to serve on the District of Delaware bench.

Mr. President, I know Judge Hall to be a balanced and thoughtful jurist, a skilled lawyer, and a compassionate human being—not just a great judge but a loving wife to her husband David and a devoted mother to their children. Judge Hall's exceptional qualifications, strong character, and even temperament will make her an asset to the District of Delaware.

Yesterday, we voted by a margin of 63 to 26 to invoke cloture. I am hopeful for an even stronger vote just now. I support her nomination without reservation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON HALL NOMINATION

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

Mr. CARPER. 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Grassley	Padilla
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hickenlooper	Romney
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Budd	Kaine	Rounds
Cantwell	Kelly	Rubio
Capito	King	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Carper	Lankford	Schumer
Casey	Lee	Shaheen
Cassidy	Luján	Sinema
Collins	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cornyn	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Tillis
Cramer	Moran	Tillis
Duckworth	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Murphy	Vance
Gillibrand	Murray	Warner
Graham	Ossoff	

Warnock
Warren

Welch
Whitehouse

Wyden
Young

NAYS—29

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoover	Schmitt
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Crapo	Kennedy	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—4

Butler
Durbin

Paul
Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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. 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.

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 Julia Kathleen Munley, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) are necessarily absent.

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 256 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—5

Butler	Paul	Scott (SC)
Durbin	Schmitt	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 43.

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 Julia Kathleen Munley, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:22 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON MUNLEY NOMINATION

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

Mr. LANKFORD. 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 proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 257 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—43

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—3

Butler	Durbin	Paul
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). 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. 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 Luján, 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.

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 Karla Ann Gilbride, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Equal Em-

ployment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 258 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—3

Butler	Durbin	Paul
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 47.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3041

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 10 days ago, as Israeli families celebrated the Sabbath and the Jewish holiday, Iran's terrorist Hamas launched a barbaric surprise attack against Israel, killing at least 1,400 Israelis and 30 Americans. Hamas fired thousands of rockets at Israeli cities and infiltrated communities to massacre mothers, fathers, children, and grandparents. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since American GIs liberated the final

concentration camp of the Third Reich. Hamas terrorists raped women, paraded corpses through the streets, and posted their crimes on social media. They burned families alive, and they murdered babies.

In this time of horror and grief, my prayers are with the people of Israel, and I know I am not alone. Upon hearing the dark news last Saturday, God-fearing Americans across the country knelt in prayer for the people of Israel. I believe all of Israel is uplifted by the prayers of our people for theirs that day.

But like Israelis, Americans don't remain on bended knee for long. And let me remind you again that Hamas also massacred 30 Americans and may hold as many as 13 hostage, making it one of the worst terror attacks against America in recent times. We have to avenge those deaths and do everything possible to bring those missing Americans home. We stand squarely with Israel and its objective to destroy Hamas, not only as a terror group but as a governing entity and a social movement.

But Hamas did not act alone, and it shouldn't pay the price alone. Hamas wouldn't exist at its scale and savagery that it does without Iran. Iran funds Hamas's political organization in Gaza. Iran assisted Hamas in the manufacturing of rockets and drones it used on the October 7 attacks. And Iran trained many of the Hamas terrorists who organized and executed these attacks.

Most damning, according to the Wall Street Journal, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps helped plot the attack against Israel, and Iran's Foreign Minister even attended meetings with Hamas and the IRGC to discuss the attacks. Yet President Biden could soon hand the terrorist regime in Tehran another \$6 billion in cash.

Joe Biden has already given the ayatollahs \$90 billion through his lax enforcement of oil sanctions and his unfreezing of Iranian assets. Tehran has predictably used this Biden bonus to strengthen its military and arm its proxies. Just last year, Iran doubled the budget of the Revolutionary Guard Corps, the shock troops of its terror regime, and it more than tripled its support for Hamas's military brigades.

Worse, since President Biden took office, Iran and its proxies have attacked American troops more than 83 times, it has armed Russia in its war in Ukraine, and it has helped orchestrate the worst terrorist attack since September 11. The last thing we should do is give Iran another \$6 billion in a dangerous ransom payment for American hostages.

Under public and congressional pressure, the Biden administration purported to delay the release of the \$6 billion in concert with Qatar, where the money is now located. But color me skeptical of a "quiet understanding" between a soft-on-Iran Joe Biden and a soft-on-Hamas Government of Qatar, especially since the administration re-

fuses to freeze the funds and reserves the right to release the \$6 billion at any time without notifying Congress or the public, and, even more especially, since the Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister stood on a stage last week with the Secretary of State and said in Arabic that there were no changes to the agreement under which Iran could access the \$6 billion.

That is why Senator MCCONNELL and I have introduced a simple bill to prevent President Biden from making this \$6 billion payment to Iran. It rescinds the sanctions waiver issued by Joe Biden and Tony Blinken, locking down those funds and preventing the Iranian regime from withdrawing them.

Like Barack Obama before him, President Biden simply can't be trusted when it comes to Iran. Appeasement and accommodation are instinctual for them. Whether it takes days, weeks, or months, Joe Biden will revert to form. In fact, he already seems to be doing so.

This legislation would stop such a predictable reversal.

I am pleased to report that many of my Democratic colleagues have joined Senator MCCONNELL and me to call for the freezing of this \$6 billion—understandably so, since it means Iran will have an extra \$6 billion to support Hamas, to expand the Revolutionary Guard Corps, and to accelerate its nuclear program.

So will they allow this bill to pass today or are they all talk on the campaign trail and no action here in the Senate? Let's find out.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3041 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to make a few comments.

First of all, the Senator from Arkansas speaks for 100 Members of the Senate when he expresses his outrage at the horrendous killings and terrorist acts by Hamas against innocent people in Israel—the worst attack and suffering in Israel since the Holocaust. So the Senator from Arkansas speaks for every single one of us. Second, in his characterization of Iran as a malign actor, their association with Hamas, Hezbollah, the attacks they had on our soldiers when they were in Iraq. I believe the Senator from Arkansas speaks for all 100 of us. He certainly speaks for me. I want to salute the Senator for the time he has spent during his service in the Senate alerting America to the threat that Iran poses. But I object for the following reasons:

First of all, this President, President Biden, made a tough decision that Presidents before him had to make—including President Trump—about using the power of the office to bring back hostages who were viciously detained, cruelly detained, in this case by Iran. He made that decision, and, with the help of Qatar, we were able to bring five American hostages home.

That is a tough decision, but I would disagree with my colleague when he says that decision in any way indicates weakness or lack of resolve on behalf of President Biden towards what is happening and has happened in Israel. There is no better friend to Israel than President Joe Biden. He has been an ally and supporter of Israel throughout his time of service in the U.S. Senate, as Vice President, and as President of the United States.

I do disagree, but this is not the time to get into a debate about the Senator from Arkansas's characterization of some of the intelligence about what was the role of Iran in what just happened. That is a debate for a separate time.

I also want to disagree with the characterization that this is more money that is going to go to Iran. When this was being negotiated, there was great care given to the fact that this money had to be fenced off so that it could only be used essentially for humanitarian purposes. I am talking about medicine, medical devices, food, and agricultural products.

Let's keep in mind that, yes, we have an adversary in Iran with the ayatollahs, with Iran's Revolutionary Guard, but there are Iranians who are suffering and who do need medicine. And our beef is not with the people; it is with that government.

How are these funds limited? No bank can approve any one of the transactions. This money is not in the hands of Iran. For any money to be released, we have the backup of Qatar, where the funds are deposited. The money cannot be approved for any expenditure to any vendor unless it gets approval from the U.S. Government first. There is constant—constant—monitoring to make certain that the purpose—that it be for humanitarian use only—is met. The United States completely controls the valve of these funds, with the backup of Qatar.

Finally, this would be somewhat insulting to the confidence we placed in Qatar. What diplomatic efforts they may be involved in now for other hostages, I don't know, but we want to express confidence in Qatar, which has assisted us in bringing five Americans home.

Finally, there is the basic proposition—the United States made an agreement here. We got the benefit of that agreement with five Americans back home with their families. Mr. President, we keep our word. We keep our word.

For these reasons, I object to the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I just want to respond briefly to my friend from Vermont, and he is my friend from Vermont. I don't mean that in the way that Senators usually say that when they say "friend from another State" but they are not actually friends and they oftentimes can't stand each other. He is my friend from Vermont, and he has been so since we served together in the House some time ago.

First, I will note, as I said, that nine Democratic Senators have joined my call to freeze this money. Those would be Senator ROSEN, Senator MANCHIN, Senator BALDWIN, Senator CASEY, Senator SINEMA, Senator CORTEZ MASTO, Senator BROWN, Senator KELLY, and Senator TESTER.

I will observe from that list that seven of those nine are up for reelection in difficult campaigns next year, unlike my friend from Vermont, who just won his election in one of the most Democratic States in the country. So I wonder why these seven Democratic Senators who are at risk on the campaign trail next year weren't willing to join my bill. We offered them all an opportunity to join the bill, but it was radio silence. Could it be that they want to say one thing on the campaign trail and do another thing here in the Senate?

A few points that the Senator from Vermont made—that this was a tough decision to free hostages and that we have to keep our word. It is always tough decisions when we face hostage situations overseas; however, paying \$6 billion for five American hostages—\$1.2 billion per hostage—simply encourages more hostage taking. We saw this the last time we paid ransom to Iran under the Obama administration. They immediately took more of the hostages whom we just freed by paying ransom. Just to note, just a few weeks after we paid that ransom, Hamas perpetrated this attack and took over 200 hostages. Maybe they took a lesson from what President Biden did with the hostages held by Iran.

Really, we can't be so naive as to think that, well, we made this deal, we got the hostages back, so we have to give Iran the benefit of the bargain, as if you can deal in good faith with a terror regime like Iran.

Second, the Senator from Vermont said there has been no better friend than President Biden to Israel over his long, long career in public office. I have to say, I find it hard to believe that Israel can have no better friend than a man who has spent decades, including 11 years as Vice President and President, empowering Iran—the worst enemy of Israel; a regime that still chants "Death to America" and "Death to Israel"—by giving them hundreds of billions of dollars of sanction relief; by putting them on the path to get a nuclear weapon; by, for instance, not in-

sisting that we continue the multilateral sanctions on Iran's missile program that expire under the nuclear deal tomorrow—that is right, tomorrow, October 18, the 8-year anniversary of the part of the nuclear deal with Iran that says that multilateral sanctions on their missile and drones will expire—at a time when Iran is providing missiles and drones to Russia to kill Ukrainians.

Joe Biden also, when he came to office, didn't just empower Iran; he empowered the exact terror proxies we are talking about. U.S. law prohibits the payment of aid to Palestinians that engage in so-called martyr payments—the grotesque practice of paying the families of suicide bombers and murderers of Jews or paying them if they survive. Congress stopped that practice with something called the Taylor Force Act. The administration has refused to enforce that law. To my knowledge, they continue to say they will make aid payments to Palestinian entities, which, in the end, inevitably free up more resources to attack Israel.

Which gets to another point the Senator from Vermont made—that this \$6 billion is sitting in Qatar in kind of an escrow account and is only going to be used for humanitarian purposes, things like food, medicine, and so forth. I understand that is the argument. I get that. But, of course, money is fungible. Iran now has \$6 billion free to do other things.

If a family in Arkansas is struggling to pay the bill for the groceries and they don't know if they can buy Christmas presents for their kids and they win a \$500 gift card to a grocery store at a Friday Night Football Booster Club event, guess what—it may not pay for the Christmas gifts, but they now have \$500 freed up to buy Christmas gifts. The exact same principle applies here.

I know the Iranian Government doesn't care for its people. That is why they oppress them and murder them. I grant you that. But they also need some kind of social stability to maintain their grip on power.

So, yes, it is a direct benefit to the terror regime in Tehran. If they get \$6 billion for things like food and medicine, that frees up their finances for other activities, like supporting Hamas and supporting Hezbollah and supporting the proxies in Syria and Iraq that have attacked Americans more than 83 times.

The Senator from Vermont also mentioned the suffering Iranians. They are indeed suffering. They have for more than 40 years under the yoke of the ayatollahs.

They have occasionally risen up in opposition—in 2009, during the green revolution, when Barack Obama stood idly by and did nothing to support these brave Iranians, with Joe Biden sitting by his side. Where was he? Was he caught flat-footed? Was he naive? Was he an inexperienced President his fifth month in office? No. He didn't

support the Iranian people when they were rising up against the ayatollahs in the summer of 2009 because he prioritized, above all else, atoning for America's sins against Iran in his mind and procuring a nuclear deal that would elevate Iran to a regional power that would balance off against our friends in Israel and the Arab nations so we could exit the region. That is the exact policy that Joe Biden has pursued in his nearly 3 years in office as well. There have been uprisings in Iran for over a year. Where has the administration been to support them?

I would just say finally on the point about the intelligence on whether Iran had foreknowledge of these attacks, was involved at all in planning them, I think there are disputes about that. I find it very skeptical that an organization that gets more than 90 percent of its funding from Tehran would launch an attack like this against Israel without Iran at least tacitly blessing it. But I also say as a point of analogy that you cannot breed pit bulls, feed them, house them, train them to attack and kill, and then let them off the leash and claim no responsibility when they maul your neighbors. That is exactly what Iran has done with terror groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and militias in Syria and Iraq.

So I regret that my friend from Vermont drew the short straw to come down here and object on behalf of his vulnerable Democratic colleagues. I will continue to work with my colleagues—hopefully, some of those Democrats who claim they want to stop the \$6 billion from being released because the last thing we should be doing, after these atrocious attacks on Israel and on America, I remind you, is enriching the Ayatollah any further.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2210

Mr. HAGERTY. In the aftermath of the barbaric massacre committed by Iran-backed terrorist organization Hamas, there has been significant attention given in the U.S. Senate to the \$6 billion the Biden administration unfroze as part of a ransom deal with Iran. This is understandable. Because money is fungible, the combination of waivers and nonenforcement of sanctions has enabled Iran to spend billions of dollars bankrolling terrorists, including Hamas.

The \$6 billion was just the latest installment of an enormous windfall the Iranian regime has enjoyed ever since Joe Biden took office. But not enough attention has been paid to the way Congress has willingly abdicated its responsibility and allowed the executive branch to get away with a reckless policy of appeasement toward Iran.

According to many recent news reports this year, the Biden administration was negotiating an unwritten agreement with Iran in which the United States would relieve billions of dollars of sanctions on Iran in return for a number of Iranian promises.

One of the architects of this strategy of pursuing an informal and unwritten agreement with Iran as part of a broader strategy of appeasing the Iranians was none other than Rob Malley. Rob Malley was placed on unpaid leave by the State Department in June. He has had his security clearance suspended amid a probe into the possibility that he mishandled classified material. The results have been catastrophic. Iran has received tens of billions of dollars in revenue it would not have received had sanctions been properly enforced.

Iran has continued to obstruct nuclear inspection efforts, and its proxies have continued engaging in terrorism across the region, most recently and most tragically in Israel.

Furthermore, rewarding hostage-taking by paying \$6 billion for the potential release of five American hostages, as the Biden administration recently did, is just one element of this unwritten agreement. It only incentivizes more hostage-taking of U.S. citizens abroad, both by Iran and by other adversaries.

To that point, as of now, it appears that Iran-backed Hamas is holding 13 American citizens hostage in Gaza. Let me be clear. I believe the Biden administration's Iran policies are deeply misguided and threaten the security of Americans and of our partners and allies in the Middle East.

But I am not here today to debate the pros and cons of resurrecting the Iran deal or any specific agreement the Biden administration has made with Iran. The massacre in Israel last week should have settled that debate; though I suspect we will likely continue to have that debate in the months ahead. Rather, I am here today to argue for preserving the role of Congress amid concern that the Biden administration has continuously refused to enforce sanctions as part of a gradually unfolding agreement with Iran and is doing so in such a manner that is designed to circumvent its legal obligation to submit an agreement to revive the Iran nuclear deal to Congress for review and for an up-or-down vote.

When President Obama pursued the original Iran nuclear deal, his administration blatantly disregarded its constitutional duty to submit the agreement as a treaty requiring the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate. In response, Congress passed a law known as the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, or INARA, by a vote of 99 to 1. In brief, the INARA law says that if the United States and Iran make any agreement related to Iran's nuclear program, the White House must submit it for congressional review and potential up-or-down votes in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The nearly unanimous bipartisan passage of INARA by the Senate reflected the Senators' bipartisan frustration that the executive branch was ignoring the Constitution and trying to circumvent Congress on such an important matter. And yet since taking of-

fice, the Biden administration has disregarded its legal obligations under INARA, and the U.S. Congress has allowed this administration to get away with it.

If the multitude of reports are accurate, the Biden administration was intentionally avoiding calling its unfolding agreement with Iran an official agreement. That was an effort to, again, sidestep congressional approval that is required under INARA. In early 2021, I was concerned that this might happen, so I introduced the Iran Sanctions Relief Act, or ISRRA, in the 117th Congress and reintroduced it in the 118th Congress.

As a backup to INARA, my bill requires congressional review and an up-or-down vote on any Presidential waiver of Iran sanctions, whether that is labeled as an agreement or not.

My vote borrows a provision from the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA, that overwhelmingly passed Congress back in 2017. The CAATSA provision allows for congressional review and an up-or-down vote on any Presidential waiver of Russian sanctions. My bill takes, word for word, that same provision and applies it to any Presidential waiver of Iran sanctions.

This is important because any new agreement to revive the Iran deal will require, once again, the executive branch to waive Iran sanctions.

Additionally, in light of reports that the \$6 billion the Biden administration unfroze was part of the larger unwritten and informal agreement with Iran, Congress would have had the opportunity to object before the money was unfrozen had my bill had the force of law.

In other words, my bill protects the role of Congress as the executive branch continues to ignore its legal obligations and refuses to submit a new agreement to the Senate and to the House. So far, 41 Senators have cosponsored the Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act. This number is significant because 41 Senators would be more than enough to deny the Senate's advice and consent if the executive branch actually followed the Constitution and presented a new Iran agreement to the Senate as a treaty.

The House companion to this bill has passed through the House Foreign Affairs Committee with bipartisan support. We must protect the first branch of government from an executive branch that seeks to encroach it or to ignore it.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged of further consideration of S. 2210 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, no one is proposing lifting sanctions on Iran. This is a legislative proposal seeking to solve a problem that simply does not exist. So let's make that clear from the outset.

Second, the Biden administration has been incredibly tough on Iran. Frankly, the Biden administration has drawn a lot of criticism from people like me for not reengaging in the JCPOA. Instead, the Biden administration decided to drive a harder bargain with the Iranians.

It is also not true that the Biden administration has not implemented new and additional sanctions on Iran. In fact, just a month ago, the Treasury Department announced the 13th round of new sanctions on Iran, mostly relative to the brutal suppression of the protest movement inside of that country.

And so it is important to get the record straight in terms of what this administration's record has been on Iran. And it is also important for us to not create some fantasy world in which the prior administration's Iran policy was working.

President Trump's Iran policy was an unmitigated disaster. An absolute disaster. Whatever you think about the JCPOA, there is just no question that after we withdrew from the JCPOA, a set of very bad things happened: One, Iran started shooting at American troops inside Iraq and inside Syria, something that was not happening during the Obama administration while we were in the JCPOA. Second, their support for proxy groups continued to increase, including to groups like Hamas. Third, they restarted their nuclear research program. They are now 1 month away from a nuclear weapon. And fourth, the coalition that had been assembled to organize efforts to contain and to isolate Iran fell apart.

And so let's not put a gloss on what was a disastrous Iran policy under the previous regime. But as to the Senator's proposal, even if we have disagreements on the JCPOA or on Iran policy, this proposed legislation is just really bad policy. It is really bad policy, and it will make American sanctions much weaker and much less effective.

Why is that? What this proposal suggests is that for Iran sanctions, every time you lift or waive a sanction, you have to come to Congress. Now, we have sanctions levied against, I would guess, thousands of Iranian institutions, organizations, and individuals. And the purpose of sanctions is to change behavior, right? It is not just punishment. Sanctions are about delivering a consequence to an individual, an organization, or a country for their bad behavior as a means of trying to get them to change that behavior. And once they change that behavior, the sanction is lifted.

That is why Congress, traditionally, does not require a separate congressional review process, a separate congressional vote every time an administration lifts a sanction because you need for an administration to be nimble in applying sanctions and also lifting sanctions because if a foreign individual in Iran or any other place understands that in order for a sanction to be lifted not only does the administration have to lift it but Congress has to have a debate and a vote, it is no incentive to change behavior.

So I just think this is really bad policy. Whether or not you like President Biden's Iran policy—and I do—whether or not you supported the JCPOA, tying the administration's hands on sanction policy in this way just makes the sanctions much less effective. I get it. The Republicans don't like Joe Biden, and they don't like Joe Biden's foreign policy, but this would be bad under a Republican President as well.

I am very glad to work with my colleague on increasing the role that Congress plays on broad foreign policy decisions, but I think that there are some day-to-day administrations of foreign policy, like the decision as to when to waive or lift a particular individual sanction, that would become far too burdensome and contrary to national security interests if Congress got involved to the degree that this legislation suggests.

And so for that reason, simply because I think this is bad policy—whether this was about Iran policy or Venezuela policy or Russia policy, I just think it makes our sanctions policy much harder to effectuate and ultimately makes our sanction regimes weaker, not stronger.

For those reasons, I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I would welcome the opportunity to work with my colleague Senator MURPHY on sanctions policy, sanctions policies that make sense, but I would say this. If this policy is good enough for CAATSA in Russia, why wouldn't it be good enough for Iran?

The Senate has already passed CAATSA. I have used the exact language. I would also like to say this. If it is true that this administration is not waiving sanctions and is not entering an agreement, they should have no difficulty with this level of review. I don't believe that is the case.

And I also would like to address the accusations, I should say, leveled against the policy in the last administration after the withdrawal of the JCPOA. Iran never stopped their nuclear program. Israel, in a very brave and courageous raid, proved that they were continuing on that path.

As part of my prior job as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, it was my responsibility to get Japan to stop buying Iranian crude. I was successful at that after many rounds of negotiation. We

cut Iran's fund flows down to a trickle. That starved Iran's ability to fund its proxies, like Hamas and Hezbollah. In fact, it was widely reported in the media that Hamas and Hezbollah were going broke.

That all changed when the policy of appeasement came back in 2021. By avoiding sanctions, by not enforcing sanctions, the estimates are as high as \$80 billion of fresh illicit oil revenues that have entered Iran's coffers. We know about the payment that was allowed by Iraq to Iran by this administration. Senator COTTON just addressed this and the \$6 billion that has received so much scrutiny in the media just recently.

All of this has enriched Iran. All of this has put Iran in a better position to fund its proxies and fuel them, and I think all of this is part of a very misguided policy of appeasement.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postclosure time on the Gilbride nomination be considered expired at 5:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

ISRAEL

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the eyes of the world are watching to see how we react to the terrorist attack Israel has suffered. Days after Hamas launched a horrific assault, kidnapping nearly 200, killing over 1,000, and injuring thousands more, the world is watching with bated breath.

Scenes of Hamas's evil are seared into our collective conscience. The images are indelible: Israelis slaughtered by marauding thugs, concertgoers shot in the back in broad daylight, people butchered, women raped, even infants murdered in cold blood. The barbaric atrocities are an affront to humankind itself. In the face of unspeakable evil, we must not mince words. We must not waiver in our resolve. Every single one of us in this Chamber has a moral responsibility to speak out unequivocally and unapologetically as we stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel and her people.

Now, I have been staunchly devoted to this cause for 31 years in Congress. Why? Because the bond between our nations is sacrosanct. In 1948, the United States was the first Nation to recognize Israel, a mere 11 minutes after it declared independence. Our two nations—intrinsically linked—were founded on similar principles, among them, justice, equal rights, freedom of religion, and the respect for the rule of law.

Over the years, both nations have been shaped by individuals seeking refuge from tyranny and oppression. Both nations have pursued truth and knowledge in an open society, unleashing innovation and creating untold prosperity for millions across the world.

But beyond this common cause, the United States-Israel relationship has

stood the test of time because of three fundamental facts: One, the United States is strong when Israel is strong; two, the Jewish people deserve to live in peace and security in the indisputable land of their ancestors going back to the times of Abraham and Sarah; and, three, Israel has the right to defend herself from the existential threats that surround it.

This last point deserves special attention, especially as some seek to equate the two sides in this conflict. To me, adherents of this view could not be more mistaken. There is no moral equivalency. We cannot “both sides” the Israeli-Hamas conflict, not when one is a sovereign democracy that guarantees freedom of religion and the other is a designated terrorist group hell-bent on killing Jews and destroying the Israeli people.

We cannot “both sides” the conflict when, for decades, one has shouldered the heavy costs of war, terrorism, and unjustified boycotts and the other has diverted humanitarian aid towards weapons designed to kill as many as possible. We cannot “both sides” the conflict in light of the steps taken by Israel to limit civilian casualties. No nation but Israel actively takes steps to warn of impending attacks. None. No other nation drops leaflets and makes phone calls to alert residents that they may be in danger's way. Only Israel waits to begin its military offensive, even when it means losing the element of surprise and putting it at a tactical disadvantage.

Compare that to the barbaric steps taken by Hamas. When Israel voluntarily and unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005, did Hamas moderate its actions? Did it take the opportunity to build peace and create prosperity for the Palestinian people? No.

Instead, it instigated war, and it continued to terrorize and kill Israelis. It fired tens of thousands of rockets into population centers, indiscriminately raining terror down on families while they slept, children while they walked to school, or congregants while they gathered to pray. Not only did it brazenly commit these war crimes, it did so while using its own residents as human shields. That is right. Across the Gaza Strip, Hamas co-opted Palestinian homes, schools, and mosques to carry out attacks on their Israeli counterparts.

So to those who seek moral equivalence between the two sides, I ask you: Who fires rockets out of someone's home? Hamas. Who uses schools and hospitals as launching sites for deadly missiles? Hamas. Who uses mosques as weapons depots? Hamas. Moreover, who denies food, water, fuel, and shelter to civilians in order to better its fighters? Hamas. Who denies Palestinians the right to leave northern Gaza, trapping them to use them as human shields? Hamas.

We must recognize, of course, that not all Palestinians are part of Hamas and that many residents in Gaza are

trapped in a cycle of violence that is nothing of their doing. But I will say it again: Hamas is not a legitimate political entity. It does not have a mandate to govern the people of Gaza. It is a terrorist organization guided by religious fanaticism. Full stop.

In the past, when Israel has opened up economic opportunities for Palestinians in Gaza, Hamas used the good will of Israel to lull Israel into a false sense of security. In this way, the Gazan people's thirst for freedom and prosperity has been supplanted by Hamas's thirst for vengeance and destruction. And after misleading Israel into thinking that it cared about the economic well-being of Palestinians instead of its stated mission of killing Jews, Hamas bought itself time to train and prepare for one of the most heinous terrorist attacks in Israel's history.

So make no mistake. The difference between Israel and Hamas is the difference between a civilized society and barbarism. If there is suffering to be found in Gaza, it is a direct result of Hamas's actions. Hamas does not care if innocent Israeli families are forced to suffer, and it does not care if Palestinians go without food, shelter, or electricity. It only cares about sowing chaos and fomenting violence in pursuit of its stated goal: the destruction of the State of Israel.

And by refusing to accept Israel's right to exist, putting it at odds with Arab countries who have joined the Abraham Accords and Palestinian authority for that fact in the West Bank, Hamas has revealed its true colors. For the sake of Israel, for the sake of the Palestinian people, Hamas must be eradicated from the face of the earth.

On October 7, it launched a brutal first salvo, an operation that clearly—in my mind—has Iran's fingerprints on it because of the capabilities Hamas alone does not have: intelligence and technological factors. Only a state actor would have that.

And the only state actor willing to assist Hamas with that is Iran. Now, perhaps Hamas launched its attack in the belief that others would join a multifront war to eliminate Israel. Perhaps it saw the writing on the wall with the recent Abraham Accords and talks of Israeli-Saudi normalization, or perhaps it sought to turn public sentiment against Israel with a race to the bottom, boosting its own image among the rogues' gallery of anti-Israel regimes.

But regardless of why Hamas carried out its attack, today, in this Chamber, let us expose Hamas for what it is. Let us reject the trap that they have tried to set and stand with our ally Israel in the wake of abhorrent attacks. Let us recommit to the principles we share with Israel as we support her in her hour of need. Let us call out Holocaust deniers who deny Israel's legitimacy. Let us promote the honest truth about Israel's contributions and call out anti-Semitism wherever it is found. And let

us also root out the poisonous ideology of Islamophobia that recently claimed the life here in the United States of a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy, Wadea Al-Fayoume.

And, above all, let us do the work we were elected to do, passing a bipartisan funding package to replenish the Iron Dome—something that, in the past, I have led on—and swiftly confirming a nominee to be our Ambassador to Israel. This is not a moment to hesitate. This is a clarion call.

As we prepare to take votes in support of our ally's struggle against terrorism, I can't help but think back to my very first visit to Israel over three decades ago. It is a trip I will never forget, especially the helicopter ride that crossed the narrowest part of Israel in only 3 minutes. In 3 minutes, we traversed a piece of land of such significant history where so many residents, with their backs to the sea, are surrounded by unfriendly neighbors.

As I crisscrossed the country from the Negev Desert to Jerusalem to the Galilee, I was immensely moved, not just by the people who made the desert green, but by the holy sites that ground my faith as a Christian. I freely visited these sites—as so many others have over the years—because Israel's jurisdiction ultimately opened them up to all. It is a freedom to worship that isn't guaranteed everywhere.

Mr. President, to me, this conflict boils down to the fundamental idea of freedom. Will we accept a world where militants with rockets and weapons can dictate the future? Or will we send them to the dustbin of history?

Will we stand up to terrorists and be there for our staunchest ally when they are in need? Freedom-loving people, freedom-loving nations, must answer this call and meet the moment at hand. Israel is the one place in the world—the one place—where anti-Semitism can be structurally impossible. It is the field of hope on which fear can be vanquished, the island of refuge that can stand firm no matter how stormy the sea of history turns, and that is why we must always keep it safe and always keep it free.

May we find the courage and the political will to do so quickly in the days ahead.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, along with Americans all across our country, I am appalled at what has happened in Israel over this last week. It is hard to watch the brutality of Hamas's attack on Israel. It is hard to believe that the terror Hamas perpetrated is something human beings are capable of doing.

Last week, Hamas militants stormed the Israel-Gaza border in a despicable, deadly attack against Israeli civilians—men and women, children, and the elderly, Israelis and foreigners, Americans. Hamas killed person after person with no regard for human dig-

nity. The militants seized and kidnapped almost 200 hostages, including many of our own American citizens. When civilians in small Israeli towns came out of hiding after sheltering for their lives and praying they would be spared, they came out to find corpses in their streets, doors riddled with bullet holes, the ground stained with human blood, houses burning and collapsing. They have told journalists of the horror they felt when they stepped out into the wreckage and were met with the smell of decaying flesh.

This is obscene. This is hideous. We can and should all agree on that.

Secretary of State Blinken, on his visit to Israel, said he saw images of a baby covered in bullet holes, soldiers who had been beheaded, and people burned alive in their cars.

He said:

If images are worth a thousand words, these images may be worth a million.

How do we respond to such a tragedy? Not only are these actions depraved and inhumane, they have been perpetrated against one of our closest partners in the world. Hamas's goal in this attack—its goal in kidnapping babies and elderly women—was to shock Israel to the core, to bring it to its knees, so that vicious terrorist groups could get the upper hand—Hamas from the west and now Hezbollah to the north.

Hamas and Hezbollah will not get the upper hand. Israel will defend its sovereignty and its people, standing tall. And we will support them.

Now is not the time for the United States to shrink back from the world stage and let Israel stand in isolation. We must stand up against terror. We must stand up against the kidnapping of little babies. We must stand up against the rape and torture of innocent citizens. We must stand up against those who would grasp at political power by committing war crimes. If we can't stand up against this, what can we stand against?

And, in response to this terror, we must stand with Israel. In response to a brutal attack on its sovereign territory, we must stand with Israel. In response to the heinous massacre of its citizens, we must stand with Israel. Israel has the right and the responsibility to defend itself against this unconscionable aggression. We must provide its government with the support it needs to defend its territory and its citizenry. We must take steps that allow Israel to regain its footing and make the difficult decisions it needs to make as a sovereign nation.

The United States and Israel are bound by shared values and strategic interests, and we are now further bound by shared tragedy. Hamas has American blood on its hands after this attack. Some of our own citizens are being held hostage underground in Gaza. We must act to show terrorist groups and their close friend, Iran, that we will not abide the slaughter and kidnapping of Americans.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am working with my colleagues and the administration to ensure that the United States is able to provide Israel with the support and the resources it needs to eliminate this threat.

Our allies and partners, as well as our adversaries, are closely watching how our country will respond to Hamas's loathsome attack. Our actions should encourage allies and partners to follow suit in supporting Israel and in denouncing this terrorism; and our actions must deter our adversaries from taking advantage of the volatility in the Middle East and further destabilizing that region.

Our focus in the region must turn to one adversary in particular: Iran. The Iranian regime bankrolls terrorist activity throughout the Middle East. Iran provided Hamas with the weapons it used against Israel. The regime directly supports Hezbollah—the group that Israel is now facing from across its border with Lebanon.

For the time I have served in the Senate, I have supported efforts to curb Iran's incessant attempts to sow chaos in the Middle East; and, today, those attempts are coming to a head. We need to gather all of our economic and diplomatic strength so we can send a strong message to Iran. By countering Iran, we will help Israel, but it will advance American interests as well. We all know that Iran is hell-bent on destroying the United States of America. Its proxy forces continue to attack our forces regularly in Iraq and in Syria. The risks are too great to allow Iran to accelerate this conflict.

My Republican colleagues and I sent a letter last week urging President Biden to immediately convene the G7 nations and take coordinated action to isolate Iran using severe sanctions. Our letter also called on the President to reverse a decision allowing Iran access to a \$6 billion fund, which had previously been frozen under sanctions.

We urge President Biden to, instead, lead America's partners and allies in securing agreements from as many nations as possible, agreements to take the most severe economic and diplomatic action possible under the law against Iran. The U.S.—the United States—must lead in imposing multilateral sanctions against Iran and continue to lead in making certain that those sanctions are then enforced.

This week, my colleagues and I introduced legislation that would revoke the \$6 billion fund. The United States must not allow funding to flow to state sponsors of terrorism. As Americans, we must come together in a bipartisan manner to keep terrorism in check and to stand with our ally Israel.

I call on my colleagues here in Congress, as well as the administration and people across our country, to continue to unequivocally condemn the evil acts committed by Hamas, Hezbollah, and their primary sponsor,

Iran. We must stand together to support Israel and to protect both Americans and Israelis being harmed by the conflict and the bloodshed in the Middle East.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to follow my colleague from Nebraska in urging us as Members of Congress—really, us as Americans—to come together in a show of solidarity as we speak about the awful war that we are seeing unfold in Israel; of the unspeakable actions that we have seen by the terrorist group Hamas; of the awful, the barbaric, the genocidal violence and murders that we have witnessed that have been committed against thousands of innocent Israelis, beginning on October 8.

None of us can unsee what we saw that morning, throughout that day, and then in the ensuing days that followed. We may be thousands of miles away here in the United States, but we are reminded of it daily when we turn on our televisions, when we open the newspapers, when we open our social media—the atrocities, the brutality, the kidnapping of civilians, the murdered children, elders, women. These coldblooded crimes that have been committed by Hamas terrorists are unimaginable and absolutely unforgivable; and our hearts are just heavy.

In just talking with people, as I have had an opportunity to be on multiple coasts this week, from Alaska to Tennessee to California to here in Washington, DC—on the airplanes in between—people are just heavy with sadness, with grief, for what we are seeing in Israel, for what we are seeing as to the Israeli people. It is hard to imagine what so many families are going through right now.

So, at a time like this, when sometimes you are not quite sure how to proceed or how to move, it is so important to make sure of those words of commitment, of those words of support: that we stand with you, that we unequivocally—unequivocally—support Israel.

We unequivocally support Israel's right to defend their people from these brutal terrorist attacks. We unequivocally stand against Hamas, which, as Secretary of Defense Austin has said, has deliberately committed acts that match and even exceed the absolute evils inflicted by ISIS. We must assure the world that we stand with Israel and against the brutal genocide that we see from these terrorists. We must be unwavering; we must be ironclad; we must be resolute in our commitment to Israel. And we use these words time and time again.

Here in the Senate, there is a resolution that has been introduced—signed by almost every single Member of this body—that reaffirms Israel's right to self-defense; that calls on all countries to unequivocally condemn Hamas's war on Israel; demanding that Hamas re-

lease—safely release—all hostages; condemning Iran's support for global terrorism, including its support for terrorist groups such as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad; calling on the United States to lead an international effort, including through sanctions—as the Senator from Nebraska was just outlining—to deprive of Hamas and Iran and other Iranian groups their sources of funding.

So these words of support, whether through a resolution or words on the floor, are so important as they are, but they also have to be matched by our deeds, by our actions. For Congress, that means ensuring that the Israel Defense Forces has the resources that they need to defend their people.

First and foremost, the Iron Dome must be at full strength to protect civilians from short-range rockets. The enormous strain that these Hamas attacks have placed on the Iron Dome, of course, means that the system is low on interceptors. We can and we must resupply Israel and help ensure rockets launched by Hamas cannot penetrate their defenses.

Congress must come together to provide funding and all the munitions and equipment that Israel may request. This is not a time for us to hem and haw here. We can't bog down in political infighting. This is their time of greatest need. We must provide Israel and her people with everything that they ask of us. We have to be there. We must be there for our strongest ally—today, tomorrow, and going forward.

So for those Americans at home who are asking, "What can we do?" we can individually—we can individually—step forward. You can support our efforts here in Congress, but you can also support our Jewish friends and our neighbors who are seeing a surge in anti-Semitism at home and abroad.

In Anchorage, over the weekend, there were several different gatherings of solidarity for Israel. I had an opportunity—I wasn't able to participate. I was there virtually. I was on an airplane for the first one, but I was able to meet with Rabbi Greenberg the day after. It was heartwarming to hear the solidarity that came out from so many in our Anchorage, in our Alaska community embracing our Jewish neighbors.

But I tell you, it was very heart-breaking when he showed me a picture of the assembly of armed security that had come together for this event to be there to provide protection. To know that security and protective details are needed in our domestic synagogues where people of Jewish faith gather is heartbreaking, and it is heartbreaking to acknowledge that this is a reality here in this country.

The FBI just released a statistic that showed anti-Jewish incidents were the most common religion-related hate crimes, totaling 1,124 reported incidents in 2022 alone. Not a single one of us should accept those numbers or the acts behind them, nor should we accept

the fact that they are growing worse in these months ahead.

So, please, check in. Check in on friends who not only have to confront the existential threat their homeland, Israel, is facing but who are also facing hatred here at home. Anti-Semitism comes in many forms, and we must do everything we can to combat it.

Of course, we have all seen the story in the news of the 6-year-old Chicago boy who was killed because he was Muslim—stabbed, stabbed by his landlord, and his mother stabbed. To see this peaceful family who had nothing to do with the conflict in Israel destroyed by an act of racist violence is beyond comprehension.

We must never tolerate hate in any form against any people in Israel, in America, or anywhere else.

So we join countless Americans in prayer—prayer for the families of those who have lost loved ones in Hamas's terrorist attacks on Israel, those who are held as hostages, prayer for the innocents in Gaza, and prayer for the Americans who have to watch their loved ones face danger at home and abroad.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, last week, in Kansas, I met with Kansans at the Jewish Community Center. It is in Overland Park, and it serves our State and the parts of Missouri in the Kansas City region. I heard from leaders from those communities. They were saddened, of course, and outraged at the barbaric terrorist attacks against Israel. I join them in that outrage, and I pray for a justice that comes that those who are being held captive are released.

It has been 10 days since the world saw the images of carnage that Hamas has wrought against innocent men and women and children in Israel. The images depict crimes that are brutal and heinous and cause decent human beings to look away in disgust and horror. But we cannot look away. We cannot look away. We cannot ignore what happened. Hamas targeted elderly Israeli citizens waiting at bus stops, young children and infants at home and in daycare, and a crowd of defenseless young people at a music festival, among many, many others.

As we continue to take stock of the impact of what transpired last week, it is important to note that more Jews were murdered on October 7 than on any single day since the Holocaust, and among the 1,400 dead are at least 30 American citizens, as well as others from around the world.

While security has seemingly been reestablished in southern Israel, the ideology which provided the rationale

for the attack is still espoused by many and is celebrated by many more, a fact made apparent in the demonstrations in capital cities and on university campuses in the days since the attack.

Americans of both political parties have shown moral outrage at similar acts of barbarity in the past. The appropriate responses to terrorism are grief, followed by resolve—grief over the inhumanity of the terrorists and the tragedy of their crimes, and resolve to protect innocent Israelis from further harm and achieve justice for the families and the entire Nation.

Israel's right to defend itself is not open to debate, nor is its right to exist. America will stand with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East. We must not delay in approving any supplemental request that makes certain Israel has what it needs to defend itself against terrorism.

We must help deter other enemies who may use this opportunity to escalate the war against Israel. Hezbollah, entrenched in Lebanon, to Israel's north, will find no safe harbor if it attempts to intervene. And Iran's leaders must know the fury of the United States awaits—the fury of the world, I hope—if they become directly involved.

Iran's complicity in the recent violence and suffering around the Middle East has to be undeniable. For years, tens of millions of dollars and weapons and other support flowed to Hamas from Iran. Iran's close alignment with Hezbollah puts Israel at risk of an arsenal of 150,000 advanced missiles, and Syria's Bashar al-Assad has brutally suppressed a revolution with Iranian backing.

For too long, the Biden administration has failed to enforce the sanctions passed in a bipartisan fashion in this Senate, in the House, and signed by a President to choke off Iran's oil revenue. The results are stark: Last year, Iran earned \$30 billion in oil exports. From 2020 to now, Iran's foreign reserves rose from a paltry \$10 billion to \$40 million—a four-time increase. That is a lot of money to spread to its terrorist proxies.

The administration should no longer delay in trying to choke Iran's revenue stream, and that starts with freezing the \$6 billion that was recently released by the Biden administration. American foreign policy in the Middle East must reestablish deterrence against Iran to prevent future acts of terrorism.

For decades, Americans have committed to maintaining the principle that terrorism—the use of violence against civilians for political goals—is an unacceptable form of welfare. Now is the time to stand against terrorism and its enablers and its supporters. Now is the time to stand with our Jewish communities here in the United States and around the world. And now is the time to stand with Israel.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON GILBRIDE NOMINATION

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

Ms. ROSEN. 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 259 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoover	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
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—4

Butler	Paul
Durbin	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.

The Senator from Missouri.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise to speak of the world's most deliberative body. Maybe we were. Maybe we have been. Maybe we can be again. But right now we are not.

This Chamber has spent exactly 0.0 minutes in the first 9½ months we have been here on appropriations bills—not a second. And, obviously, it leads to omnibus; it leads to minibuses. This is a bus headed off a fiscal cliff, and we are at where we are at. But the Founders envisioned a place where two Senators from each State would come

here, and you would have elongated, deliberative debate. What we see happening right now is more like scripted Kabuki theater.

You don't get to offer an amendment, unless we know exactly what the final outcome is going to be. For me, why not have open debate? Have people offer amendments. Debate these bills individually on their own merit.

I think the American people think that is actually what happens here. It is not. And when I go back home to Missouri and talk to people about the process here, it is like from a foreign land. It doesn't make any sense. It is not how State legislatures do it. But this vaulted arena of our Republic has been diminished by the fact that we can't have debate on individual appropriations bills.

We didn't have it, by the way, at the last deadline. We extended the deadline to November 17, which is exactly 30 days from now. And for anybody keeping score at home, that is 9 working days, according to the majority leader's calendar—9 working days.

We are going to end up at the exact same place. On top of that, now there is a supplemental funding request coming related to foreign aid. And my message on that would be the same. These disparate issues—Israel, Ukraine, border, Taiwan—should be debated on their own merits.

There are different considerations. Israel has a lot of support right now. What is happening, the terrorism that has happened, been inflicted upon that country by Hamas and the people, the beheadings, people being burned alive, they have every right to defend themselves. We should consider that request when it comes. It is a very different dynamic when it comes to Ukraine.

We are \$112 billion in. No one can define what victory looks like. Seemingly, each round that we get to one of these deadlines, there is more money being asked. It could be \$100 billion next year. We don't really know.

These things being lumped together makes no sense. And when it comes to border security funding, color me skeptical of the Biden administration's desire to actually spend that money thwarting illegal immigration. This administration has been hostile to the whole idea. I speak from some experience. My previous job as attorney general of Missouri, we litigated with the Biden administration in court over the "Remain in Mexico" policy, title 42, the money that had already been allocated to build a wall that he used for contractors to not build the wall.

This administration is not only complicit, they have encouraged a flood across our southern border. So we ought to have a debate on that on its own as well. And any of the other issues we want to try to lump in or bootstrap an idea that is losing popularity or a proposal that is losing popularity with one that might be popular is something we ought to reject in this Chamber. This is supposed to be the

shining example, a unique American institution, a Senate that debates things in long form.

And I come back again. We have spent 0.0 minutes in this place debating the most important thing that we can do each and every year, which is to debate our priorities about funding—what we should increase, what we should decrease. And the result of that, quite frankly, are omnibus that appear in the middle of the night, no time to read them, that add to our \$33 trillion worth of debt. Take it or leave it. If you don't support it, you support a government shutdown.

I think people have had enough. So this is our opportunity. Let us spend the time. Let us be here more than 2 days a week. Let us actually get the work of the people done, debate these bills individually—on their own merit—and restore what this place should be, which is a deliberative body. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 209; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ana A. Escrogima, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

CONFIRMATION OF JENNIFER L. HALL

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate voted to confirm U.S. Mag-

istrate Judge Jennifer Hall to the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware.

Judge Hall's significant courtroom experience—as both a litigator and as a jurist—will make her an excellent addition to the bench. She received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota, her M. Phil and Ph.D. from Yale University, and her J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. Judge Hall clerked on the Federal Circuit and the Third Circuit before beginning her legal career in private practice, working on patent infringement and complex contract disputes. In 2011, Judge Hall became an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware, rising to chief of the civil division in 2015. As a prosecutor, she handled a wide range of criminal and civil matters. In 2019, Judge Hall was selected to serve as a magistrate judge in the District of Delaware. Since joining the bench, she has presided over four cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

Judge Hall has strong support from her home State Senators, Mr. CARPER and Mr. COONS. In addition, she was unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association.

I strongly support the nomination of Judge Hall, and I am glad to see her confirmed on a broad bipartisan basis.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

CONFIRMATION OF JULIA KATHLEEN MUNLEY

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate voted to confirm Julia Kathleen Munley to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Born in Carbondale, PA, Judge Munley received her B.A., magna cum laude, from Marywood College and her J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law. She then clerked for Judge Stephen J. McEwen, Jr., on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania before entering private practice in Scranton. During her more than 20 years as a litigator in both State and Federal court, she tried 23 cases to verdict. Notably, she also provided pro bono representation to a Ground Zero emergency responder before the September 11th Compensation Fund and helped him recover an award to compensate him for the health issues that stemmed from his emergency work. In 2016, Judge Munley was appointed to the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas by then-Governor Tom Wolf. She won election to a 10-year term in 2017. Over the past 7 years, she has handled both civil and criminal matters, and she has presided over approximately 57 trials.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Munley "well qualified" to serve on the Middle District of Pennsylvania. She has the strong support of both of her home

State Senators—Mr. CASEY and Mr. FETTERMAN—as well as the Pennsylvania legal community. She has deep ties to the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and her significant litigation background and experience as a State court judge will serve her well on the Federal bench.

I strongly support this nominee, and I am glad to see her confirmed.●

ANIMAL DRUG AND GENERIC DRUG USER FEE AMENDMENTS OF 2023

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place the commitment letters for the Animal Drug User Fee Amendments of 2023 and the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2023.

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

ANIMAL DRUG USER FEE ACT REAUTHORIZATION PERFORMANCE GOALS AND PROCEDURES FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2028

The goals and procedures of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) as agreed to under the “Animal Drug User Fee Amendments of 2023” are summarized as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

1. For the application/submission goals below, the term “review and act on” is understood to mean the issuance of a complete action letter after the complete review of an animal drug application, supplemental animal drug application, or investigational new animal drug (INAD) submission which either (1) approves or conditionally approves an animal drug application or approves a supplemental application or notifies a sponsor that an INAD submission is complete or (2) sets forth in detail the specific deficiencies in such animal drug application, supplemental animal drug application, or INAD submission and, where appropriate, the actions necessary to place such an application, supplemental application, or submission in condition for approval.

Within 30 days of receipt, FDA shall refuse to file an animal drug application, supplemental new animal drug application, or their reactivation, which is determined to be insufficient on its face or otherwise of unacceptable quality for review upon initial inspection as per 21 CFR 514.110. Thus, the Agency will refuse to file an application containing numbers or types of errors, or flaws in the development plan, sufficient to cause the quality of the entire submission to be questioned to the extent that it cannot reasonably be reviewed.

Within 60 days of receipt, FDA will refuse to review an INAD submission which is determined to be insufficient on its face or otherwise of unacceptable quality upon initial inspection using criteria and procedures similar to those found in 21 CFR 514.110.

A decision to refuse to file an application or to refuse to review a submission as described above will result in the application or submission not being entered into the cohort upon which the relevant user fee goal is based. The Agency will keep a record of the numbers and types of such refusals and include them in its annual performance report.

2. A minor amendment is understood to mean information requested by FDA during the review of the application or investigational submission. FDA may request minor

amendments to animal drug applications, supplemental new animal drug applications, and INAD submissions during its review of the application or submission. At its discretion, the Agency may extend an internal due date (but not a user fee goal) to allow for the complete review of an application or submission for which a minor amendment is requested. If a pending application is amended with significant changes, the amended application may be considered resubmitted, thereby effectively resetting the clock to the date FDA received the amendment. The same policy applies for INAD submissions.

3. The term “submission date” or the date of receipt means the date the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Electronic Submission System (ESS) receives an application or submission. Upon receipt of an application or submission, the CVM ESS creates an electronic receipt that contains the date of receipt and is sent to the submitter.

4. The term “labeling supplement” is understood to mean certain applications as described in 21 CFR 514.8(c)(2)(i)(A) and (D) that require approval of a supplemental application prior to distribution of the drug made using the change.

5. The term “presubmission conference” is understood to mean one or more conferences between a potential applicant and FDA as described in 21 CFR 514.5 to reach a binding agreement establishing a submission or investigational requirement.

6. The term “dosage characterization” is understood to mean a justification of the dosage (dose or dose range, dosing frequency, and the dosing duration) and a characterization of the critical aspects of the dose-response relationship related to each intended use and associated conditions of use.

II. APPLICATION/SUBMISSION GOALS

All applications and submissions under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act sections 512(b) and 571 must be created using the CVM eSubmitter tool and submitted to the Agency through CVM’s ESS.

The submissions in this section are sentinel submissions. CVM’s performance toward meeting the associated goals will be included in the performance reports required by section 740A(a) of the FD&C Act.

Work Queue Review Procedures: The Agency will review all submissions in accordance with procedures for working within a queue. An application/submission that is not reviewed within the applicable Application/Submission Goal timeframe will be reviewed with the highest possible priority among those pending.

1. Original New Animal Drug Applications (NADAs), Applications for Conditional Approval (CNADAs), and Reactivations

Review and act on 90 percent of original NADAs and CNADAs within 180 days after the submission date.

An application is incomplete if it would require additional data or information to enable the Agency to complete a comprehensive review of the application and reach a decision on the issue(s) presented in the application.

The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of reactivated applications:

i. Within 180 days after the reactivated application submission date if the Agency determines and notifies the sponsor that the deficiencies are substantial;

ii. Within 135 days after the reactivated application submission date if the Agency determines and notifies the sponsor that the deficiencies are not substantial; and the application reactivation must be submitted no more than 120 days after the Agency’s dated incomplete letter to qualify for the shorter review time; and

iii. Within 180 days after the reactivated application submission date if the reactiva-

tion is submitted after 120 days of the Agency’s dated incomplete letter or new substantial information is provided in the reactivated application.

The Agency will generally favor using the shorter reactivation timeframe of 135 days, where possible. The Agency will state in the incomplete letter the appropriate timeframe for review of the reactivation. Sponsors wishing to discuss the selected timeframe should contact the Agency prior to reactivation of the application. The shorter review time of 135 days for reactivated applications for which the deficiencies are determined not to be substantial is not intended to prevent the use of minor amendments during Agency review of an application.

2. Administrative NADAs and CNADAs

Review and act on 90 percent of administrative NADAs and CNADAs [(C)NADAs filed after all scientific decisions already have been made as part of the investigational new animal drug process] within 60 days after the filing date.

3. Non-manufacturing Supplemental NADAs

Review and act on 90 percent of non-manufacturing supplemental NADAs (i.e., supplemental NADAs for which safety or effectiveness data are required) within 180 days after the submission date.

A supplemental NADA is incomplete if it would require additional data or information to enable the Agency to complete a comprehensive review of the supplement and reach a decision on the issue(s) presented in the supplement.

The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of reactivated supplements:

i. Within 180 days after the reactivated supplemental NADA submission date if the Agency determines and notifies the sponsor that the deficiencies are substantial;

ii. Within 135 days after the reactivated supplemental NADA submission date if the Agency determines and notifies the sponsor that the deficiencies are not substantial; and the reactivation to the supplemental application must be submitted no more than 120 days after the Agency’s dated incomplete letter to qualify for the shorter review time; and

iii. Within 180 days after the reactivated supplemental NADA submission date if the reactivation to the supplemental application is submitted after 120 days of the Agency’s dated incomplete letter or new substantial information is provided in the reactivated supplement.

The Agency will generally favor using the shorter reactivation timeframe of 135 days, where possible. The Agency will state in the incomplete letter the appropriate timeframe for review of the reactivation. Sponsors wishing to discuss the selected timeframe should contact the Agency prior to the reactivation of the supplement. The shorter review time of 135 days for reactivated supplements for which the deficiencies are determined not to be substantial is not intended to prevent the use of minor amendments during Agency review of a supplemental application.

4. Prior Approval Manufacturing Supplemental Animal Drug Applications and Reactivations

Review and act on 90 percent of Prior Approval manufacturing supplemental animal drug applications within 120 days after the submission date. A Prior Approval manufacturing supplemental application includes: one or more major manufacturing changes as described in 21 CFR 514.8(b)(2)(ii) and in accordance with Guidance for Industry 83 (Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls Changes to an Approved NADA or ANADA); and, changes submitted as “Supplement-

Changes Being Effected in 30 Days" that require prior approval according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(v)(A). If a Prior Approval supplement does not clearly identify any major manufacturing changes, the Prior Approval supplement will be designated by the Agency as a "Supplement-Changes Being Effected" with a 180 days review goal (see "Supplement-Changes Being Effected Manufacturing Supplemental Animal Drug Applications and Reactivations" below).

A submission is incomplete if it requires additional data or information to enable the Agency to complete a comprehensive review of the submission and reach a decision on the issue(s) presented in the submission. If the Agency determines that the deficiencies are not substantial for manufacturing supplements requiring prior approval, the Agency will allow the manufacturing supplements to be resubmitted as "Supplement-Changes Being Effected in 30 Days" as described in 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3) and the drug made with the change can be distributed 30 days after the resubmission according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(iv). The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of these reactivated manufacturing supplements within 180 days after the resubmission date of a complete submission. If the Agency determines that the deficiencies remain substantial or new substantial information is provided, prior-approval is required according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(v)(A). The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of these reactivated manufacturing supplements within 120 days after the resubmission date of a complete submission.

1. *Supplements—Changes Being Effected Manufacturing Supplemental Animal Drug Applications and Reactivations*

Review and act on 90 percent of "Supplement-Changes Being Effected" manufacturing supplemental applications and reactivations submitted according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(vi) and in accordance with Guidance for Industry 83 (Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls Changes to an Approved NADA or ANADA), including manufacturing changes not requiring prior approval according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3) within 180 days after the submission date.

2. *Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) Study Submissions*

Review and act on 90 percent of INAD study submissions within 180 days after the submission date.

An INAD study submission is incomplete if it would require additional data or information to enable the Agency to complete a comprehensive review of the submission and reach a decision on the issue(s) presented in the submission.

The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of resubmissions:

i. Within 180 days after the resubmitted INAD study submission date if the Agency determines and notifies the sponsor that the deficiencies are substantial;

ii. Within 60 days after the resubmitted INAD study submission date if the Agency determines and notifies the sponsor that the deficiencies are not substantial; and the resubmission must be submitted no more than 120 days after the Agency's dated incomplete letter to qualify for the shorter review time;

iii. Within 180 days after the resubmitted INAD study submission date if the resubmission is submitted after 120 days of the Agency's dated incomplete letter or new substantial information is provided in the resubmission.

The Agency will generally favor using the shorter resubmission timeframe of 60 days, where possible. The Agency will state in the incomplete letter the appropriate timeframe

for review of the resubmission. Sponsors wishing to discuss the selected timeframe should contact the Agency prior to resubmitting the application. The shorter review time of 60 days for resubmissions for which the deficiencies are determined not to be substantial is not intended to prevent the use of minor amendments during Agency review of a submission.

Review and act on 90 percent of microbial food safety hazard characterization submissions within 100 days after the submission date.

7. *INAD Study Protocols without Data Submissions*

Review and act on 90 percent of INAD submissions consisting of protocols without data, that the Agency and the sponsor consider to be an essential part of the basis for making the decision to approve or not approve an animal drug application, within 50 days after the submission date.

An INAD protocol without data submission is incomplete if it would require additional information to enable the Agency to complete a comprehensive review of the protocol and reach a decision on the issue(s) presented in the protocol.

The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of resubmitted INAD protocol without data submissions:

i. Within 50 days after the resubmission date if the Agency determines and notifies the sponsor that the deficiencies are substantial;

ii. Within 20 days after the resubmitted INAD protocol without data submission date if the Agency determines and notifies the sponsor that the deficiencies are not substantial; and the resubmission must be submitted no more than 120 days after the Agency's dated non-concurrence letter to qualify for the shorter review time; and

iii. Within 50 days after the resubmission date if the resubmission is submitted after 120 days of the Agency's dated non-concurrence letter or new substantial information is provided in the resubmission.

The Agency will generally favor using the shorter resubmission timeframe of 20 days, where possible. The Agency will state in the non-concurrence letter the appropriate timeframe for review of the resubmission. Sponsors wishing to discuss the selected timeframe should contact the Agency prior to resubmission of the protocol without data. The shorter review time of 20 days for resubmitted INAD protocol without data submissions for which the deficiencies are determined not to be substantial is not intended to prevent the use of minor amendments during Agency review of a submission.

Sponsors are not required to submit study protocols for review. However, for each protocol voluntarily submitted prior to the commencement of the study that the Agency and the sponsor consider to be an essential part of the basis for making the decision to approve or not approve an animal drug application or supplemental animal drug application, the Agency will issue a complete action letter providing comments resulting from a complete review of the protocol. The complete action letter will be as detailed as possible considering the quality and level of detail of the protocol submission; will include a succinct assessment of the protocol; and will state whether the Agency agrees, disagrees, or lacks sufficient information to reach a decision that the protocol design, execution plans, and data analyses are adequate to achieve the objectives of the study.

If the Agency determines that a protocol is acceptable, this represents an agreement that the data generated by the protocol can be used to support a safety or effectiveness decision regarding the subject animal drug.

The fundamental agreement is that having agreed to the design, execution, or analyses proposed in protocols reviewed under this process, the Agency will not later alter its perspectives on the issues of design, execution, or analyses unless the Agency by written order determines that a substantiated scientific requirement essential to the assessment of the study appeared after the Agency's protocol assessment, or public or animal health concerns unrecognized at the time of protocol assessment under this process are evident.

The Agency will permit comparability protocols as described in 21 CFR 514.8(b)(2)(v) to be submitted as protocols without substantial data in an INAD file. The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of INAD submissions consisting of protocols without substantial data within 50 days after the submission date of the protocol. For potentially more complex comparability protocols, for example sterile process validation protocols, the sponsor should discuss and have Agency concurrence regarding the appropriate filing strategy.

8. *Qualifying Labeling Supplements*

Review and act on 90 percent of qualifying labeling supplements as described in 21 CFR 514.8(c)(2)(i)(A) and (D) within 60 days after the submission date. Qualifying labeling supplements are defined as those for which the sponsor provides and certifies a complete list of labeling changes made in the application and that CVM can determine upon initial review do not decrease the safety of drug use.

The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of non-qualifying labeling supplements within 180 days after the submission date.

9. *Presubmission Conferences*

Conduct 90% of qualifying presubmission conferences within a 60-day timeframe, regardless of forum, when all of the following conditions are met:

- All background materials, including presentations, have been submitted, and
- A complete agenda has been agreed upon by the Agency and the sponsor.

If a sponsor requests a date beyond the 60-day timeframe for their scheduling purposes or is unable to meet with the FDA on Agency-available dates within the 60-day timeframe, the submission will be excluded from the presubmission conference cohort.

10. *Categorical Exclusions*

Review and act on 90 percent of submissions of a previously completed Environmental Impact technical section within 60 days after the resubmission date where:

- A Categorical Exclusion was issued;
- All other technical sections have been submitted; and
- Information contained in the other technical sections reveals a change in the conditions of use of the drug that may affect the previous determination of categorical exclusion.

11. *Tissue Residue Methods*

Commence 90% of tissue residue method demonstrations within 120 days of completion of the "3-hour meeting" process or equivalent process milestone where there is a single laboratory validation tissue residue method demonstration.

12. *Animal Drug Availability Act (ADAA) Combination Medicated Feeds Applications*

Review and act on 90 percent of qualifying ADAA Combination Medicated Feeds Applications within 60 days after the submission date. An ADAA combination application will qualify for the 60-day review timeframe only if the following criteria are met:

- The regulatory requirements for an ADAA combination application have been met as outlined in 21 CFR 514.4(c)(2)(ii)

ii. The submission meets all of the eligibility criteria found in section II of P&P 1243.5730, “Review of 60-Day Original Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 (ADAA) Feed Use Combination New Animal Drug Applications (NADAs).”

Review and act on 90 percent of ADAA combination applications within 100 days for those applications initially accepted for the 60-day timeframe but subsequently determined to need minor amendments.

If any of the above conditions cannot be met, the ADAA combination application will be given a 180-day review timeframe and placed in the original NADA application cohort.

III. ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE GOALS

Submissions in this section are not sentinel submissions unless they appear in section II, above.

A. Foreign inspections

1. Pre-Approval Foreign Inspections

a. The Agency and regulated industry are committed to improving the review and business processes that will facilitate the timely scheduling and conducting of pre-approval inspections (PAIs). To improve the timeliness and predictability of foreign PAIs, sponsors may voluntarily submit 1) at the beginning of the calendar year, a list of foreign manufacturing facilities that are specified in an animal drug application, supplemental animal drug application, or investigational animal drug submission and may be subject to foreign PAIs for the following fiscal year; and 2) a notification 30 days prior to submitting an animal drug application, a supplemental animal drug application, or INAD submission that informs the Agency that the application/submission includes a foreign manufacturing facility. Should any changes to the annual list occur after its submission to the Agency, the sponsor may provide the updated information to the Agency.

b. The Agency will keep a record of the number of foreign PAIs conducted for animal drug applications, along with the average time for completing the PAIs, and include this information in its annual performance report. The time for completing the PAI is understood to mean the time from the inspection scheduling request through notification to the Center of inspectional findings.

2. Foreign GMP Inspections

The Agency commits to working to implement and maintain the United States and European Union, and the United States and United Kingdom, Good Manufacturing Practice mutual recognition agreements and future mutual recognition agreements with respect to animal drug products subject to review.

Beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2024, the Agency will report quarterly in FDA-TRACK the percentage of pre-approval inspection risk decisions which relied at least in part on information from inspections recognized under a mutual recognition agreement with a foreign regulatory authority.

B. Meetings

1. Presubmission Conferences Held Virtually

Beginning on October 1, 2023, for qualifying presubmission conferences where the sponsor requests that the conference be held virtually (not in person), the Agency will provide the following:

At least 6 days prior to the scheduled presubmission conference date, written responses to the questions posed by the sponsor in their meeting request. Responses will be commensurate to the level of information and complexity of questions submitted by the sponsor.

Permit the sponsor to cancel the scheduled presubmission conference should the Agency's written responses provide all the information they were seeking from the Agency.

Should the presubmission conference be held, provide a memorandum of conference within 30 days after the presubmission conference date.

Sponsors may request a virtual presubmission conference and opt out of the process above. The sponsor will identify their decision whether to opt out of the above process within the presubmission conference request. If the sponsor chooses to opt out, the Agency will not issue any written responses before the presubmission conference and will provide a memorandum of conference within 45 days following the presubmission conference date.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

a. The Agency is committed to engaging with all our external stakeholders in substantive ways that work for all parties. Further, the Agency commits to coordinating with AHI to identify the most appropriate forum based on topic, timing, and public health safety precautions with the understanding that it is a priority for AHI to meet in person when possible.

b. FDA will host triannual meetings (three times a calendar year) with the Animal Health Institute (AHI) members.

c. During one triannual meeting with AHI per calendar year, the Agency will dedicate up to 8 hours for an education session intended for the animal drug industry. These sessions will be open to the public and hosted in an appropriate forum. The Agency and AHI will build a plan of educational topics for the five years of the ADUFA V program period. Education sessions will be recorded and posted publicly to the Agency's “For Industry” website in a new “Education for Industry” section.

d. The Agency will conduct an industry engagement sub-meeting during each AHI triannual meeting, that includes CVM leadership and designated AHI attendees and uses a structured agenda to provide updates on metrics and performance related to the ADUFA program and resource utilization (i.e., CVM staffing).

C. H submissions

1) Supporting Information for Presubmission Conferences and INAD Protocols without Data Submissions

The Agency and the regulated industry agree that data and/or information which uniquely describes the general attributes of the new animal drug (e.g., the known characteristics of the drug that can impact safety, effectiveness and/or quality) needs to be submitted early in the new animal drug development process in order to enable the parties to reach agreement at a presubmission conference or to begin review of a protocol. The intent of this provision is to avoid the submission of data or information between the presubmission conference and the submission of a protocol. Eligibility both for short justifications in protocols and for concurrent supporting data and protocol review described below is predicated on the sponsor submitting information early in the new animal drug development process.

The Agency will allow for the inclusion of these data and/or information in presubmission conferences and/or in an H submission prior to the presubmission conference; however, a presubmission conference may be held without such data. By October 1, 2023, the Agency will publish a Program Policy and Procedures Manual Guide (P&P) for CVM reviewers who are advising sponsors on: information/data included in H submissions related to presubmission conferences, timing of the related meeting request submission, and

how CVM should schedule meetings, such that they occur on, or in close proximity to, the H submission due date.

The Agency will allow short justifications within INAD protocols without data submissions that are limited in scope (e.g., no more than ten pages or no more than two (peer-reviewed) journal articles).

The Agency will allow for the concurrent submission of supporting data (INAD H submissions) and protocols (INAD E submissions) provided that the protocol is not submitted until the supporting data has been in the Agency's queue for at least 50 days.

By October 1, 2023, the Agency will publish a P&P for CVM reviewers who are advising sponsors regarding the appropriate timing of a protocol submission in relation to an H submission containing information to support the protocol. The P&P will address situations where information was submitted early in the new animal drug development process, as described earlier in this section, and situations where this information was not submitted early in the animal drug development process. The P&P will provide information to CVM staff who are advising sponsors about when a protocol may or may not be submitted after the supporting data has been in the Agency's queue for at least 50 days.

2. Dosage Characterization

The Agency and the regulated industry agree that dosage characterization is part of the effectiveness technical section of an investigational new animal drug file. In instances where data and/or information about the dosage are integral to the review of a protocol, the Agency and the regulated industry agree that these data and/or information should be submitted as supporting data (INAD H submission) well in advance of the protocol submission. Such information may be needed to ensure selection of optimal study time points and would be particularly important for novel drugs and drugs with modified-release characteristics.

3. Raw Data Submission Expectations

By October 1, 2024, the Agency will publish a draft Guidance for Industry on raw data submission expectations for non-clinical studies conducted under Good Laboratory Practice requirements and clinical studies conducted under Good Clinical Practice requirements.

By October 1, 2023, the Agency will publish a P&P for CVM reviewers reviewing H submissions in which the sponsor is seeking agreement on a proposed list of copies of raw data and documents related to their submission of a target animal safety (TAS) protocol without data submission. After publication of the P&P, CVM will permit the submission of H submissions containing a proposed list of copies of raw data and documents supporting a TAS protocol.

4. eSubmitter and H Submissions for Raw Data

By October 1, 2023, FDA will launch a new or updated eSubmitter template for TAS protocols, to facilitate efficient review of the H submissions containing proposed raw data to be included in TAS study reports, provided that industry stakeholders that use the eSubmitter tool have provided timely feedback to further the Agency's work. FDA will continue to accept stakeholder feedback on the eSubmitter template for these H submissions during ADUFA V.

The Agency and industry stakeholders will assess the benefits of the eSubmitter template for H submissions for TAS protocols before the Agency develops a template for H submissions for effectiveness protocols. If the Agency proceeds with the template for H submissions for effectiveness protocols, industry stakeholders that use the eSubmitter

tool will be invited to provide timely feedback to advance the Agency's work.

D. Exploration with Industry

1. Animal Drug Availability Act (ADAA) Combination Medicated Feeds

The Agency agrees to explore, in concert with affected parties including the animal health industry, CVM P&P 1243.5730, "Review of 60-day original Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 (ADAA) feed use combination new animal drug applications (NADAs)", to determine why the process is not being utilized and to understand how to increase utilization of the process, thereby reducing the review time for eligible ADAA combinations drug applications following the approval of a new Type A medicated article. The exploration phase will be completed by October 1, 2025. The Agency may revise P&P 1243.5730 based on the outcome of the exploration phase.

2. Residue Method Trial

The Agency agrees to explore, in concert with affected parties including the animal health industry, the drug residue analytical method trial process and its requirements as they relate to the approval of new animal drugs intended for food producing animals. If implementation of recommendations is possible, it may include modification of current processes. Implementation also may include procedural, policy, and/or guidance revisions. The exploration phase will be completed by October 1, 2025. Implementation of actionable recommendations will be completed during ADUFA V.

3. Sentinel Submission Clock Stop

Beginning on October 1, 2023, the Agency agrees to explore, in concert with industry, the feasibility of using additional review tools to enhance the efficiency of the animal drug review process, such as implementing a "clock stop" during the review of sentinel submissions. A working group will develop a written analysis and recommendations for the tools identified by September 30, 2025.

4. Feedback on Product Development Plans

The Agency agrees to explore, in concert with affected parties including the animal health industry, means for the Agency to provide feedback on a sponsor's animal drug development plan more efficiently and effectively for both industry and the Agency. By October 1, 2025, a working group will develop a report outlining suggestions for providing feedback.

E. Other

1. Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls

By September 30, 2024, the Agency will publish a P&P for Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC) reviewers to clarify when reviewers should request amendments, use shortened review time, or classify submissions as incomplete. In addition, this P&P will describe what administrative actions are appropriate when GMP status (or pending PAI) is the only comment remaining for a CMC technical section.

By September 30, 2024, the Agency will revise Guidance for Industry 227 "Two-Phased Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC) Technical Sections" to define situations for which parallel submission of phased data submissions would be allowed.

IV. REPORTING METRICS

A. Sentinel Submissions Filed/Submitted at Division Level

Beginning in FY 2024, as part of the annual ADUFA V performance report, FDA will report the number of certain filed/submitted sentinel submissions by review division. Performance will be reported at the program level. The sentinel submissions are:

1. Original NADAs, CNADAs and reactivations

2. Administrative NADAs and CNADAs
3. Non-manufacturing supplemental NADAs and reactivations
4. INAD study submissions
5. INAD study protocols without data submissions
6. Qualifying labeling supplements
7. Presubmission conferences

B. Time in Agency/Time in Industry

Beginning in FY 2024, in concert with industry, explore potential Agency-reported metrics regarding review time of investigational submissions that lead to approvals by the Agency and response time by industry. The exploration may include discussions on which metrics to report, what processes currently exist to calculate and report these metrics, which systems might need to be developed to facilitate reporting the metrics, what the results of the metrics mean, and how best to report the metrics.

Following publication of the third-party assessment in 2025, industry and the Agency will initiate a follow up effort, which may include a pilot period, to inform how these metrics might be collected and reported.

C. Favorable Outcomes

Beginning in the second quarter (Q2) of FY 2024, FDA will report quarterly in FDA-TRACK, for INAD protocols without data and for INAD study submissions, the number of the following outcomes: (1) favorable, (2) non-concurrence/non-accepted but shortened review offered, and (3) non-concurrence/non-accepted and shortened review not offered.

FDA and industry will work together to identify a process to annually report the cycle number for all for INAD protocols without data and INAD study submissions with favorable outcomes and whether the favorable outcomes were first, second, or third+ submissions.

FDA and industry will work together to make sustained, substantial, and incremental improvements in the annual percentage of favorable outcomes for the CMC INAD study submissions and/or to improve utilization of the shortened review process.

D. INAD H Submissions Submitted at Division Level

Beginning in Q2 of FY 2024, FDA will report quarterly in FDA-TRACK the number of H submissions submitted to ONADE by division.

E. Average Review Times in Hours

Beginning in FY 2024, FDA will report in the ADUFA performance report the average review times, in hours, for protocols without data and INAD study submissions (broken down by technical section) by fiscal year.

V. ENHANCING MANAGEMENT OF USER FEE RESOURCES

FDA is committed to enhancing management of ADUFA resources and ensuring ADUFA user fee resources are administered, allocated, and reported in an efficient and transparent manner.

A. Third-Party Assessment

The Agency will engage an independent third-party to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the process for the review of animal drug applications. The assessment will include consultation with both the Agency and industry. The assessment will include first cycle reviews as they pertain to the ADUFA program's objective of expediting the animal drug development process and the review of new and supplemental animal drug applications and investigational animal drug submissions.

The assessment will examine past and current utilization and effectiveness of the review process, available resources [e.g., full-time equivalents (FTEs)], and tools used by the Agency and industry, as established

through previous ADUFA authorizations to foster favorable first cycle review outcomes for sentinel submissions. The scope of this assessment will include the analysis of submissions (starting from the request to establish an INAD file and ending with approval) and include all technical section submissions (both sentinel and non-sentinel) to INAD files, NADAs, and conditional approval application files. It will also evaluate the impact of specific user fee-based enhancements from prior reauthorizations on approved original NADAs and applications for conditional approval.

The assessment will include evaluation of a random set of applications approved from FY 2009 through FY 2022. The samples will include representation from new chemical entities, multiple animal drug sponsors, all major species, and multiple different dosage form. The evaluation will include the proposal and evaluation of the optimal process to provide data on how resources are utilized (i.e., user fee funds; headcount and process FTEs with ADUFA allowable activities by office and division) and of applicable metrics (e.g., time to approval, divided between time in agency and time with industry, for technical sections to INADs and NADAs; and favorable first cycle outcomes) that evaluate progress towards the ADUFA program's objective mentioned above.

The Agency will obtain the services of a contractor to complete this assessment. After the final assessment report is accepted by the responsible Agency official, it will be posted on FDA.gov. When publishing the final assessment report on the FDA website, the Agency will comply with requirements to protect confidential commercial information and other information exempt from disclosure.

FDA will convene a public workshop approximately three months after accepting the final assessment report to present the findings of the independent assessment, including the third-party's report of anonymized, aggregated feedback resulting from its interviews of animal drug sponsors and Agency personnel. The assessment report and the public meeting will be completed by December 31, 2025.

Following the completion of the assessment and public meeting, the Agency and industry will analyze the recommendations for improvement opportunities identified in the assessment. FDA, with input from stakeholders, will incorporate findings and recommendations, as it determines to be possible and appropriate, into its management of the process for the review of animal drug applications and Industry will incorporate findings and recommendations, as appropriate, into their filing and submission processes.

B. Financial Transparency

1. FDA will publish an ADUFA 5-year financial plan no later than the end of the second quarter of FY 2024 that aligns with the plans published for GDUFA II, PDUFA VI and BsUFA II.

2. FDA will publish updates to the 5-year plan no later than the end of the second quarter of each subsequent fiscal year.

VI. STATUTORY ADJUSTMENTS

A. Workload Adjustment

For the purposes of calculating the workload adjustment, the base years will be a rolling average comprising the five most recently completed fiscal years. For example, beginning October 1, 2024 (FY 2025), the base will comprise FY 2019 through FY 2023. At the start of each fiscal year thereafter, the base will be adjusted upward by one year on the upper and lower ends of the range. There will be no workload adjustment for FY 2024.

Workload adjustments are one-time adjustments and are calculated annually. The weighting factor is the percent of direct review time spent on each of the five component submission types over the most recent five-year period.

As stated in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act, the workload adjustment “shall be made for each fiscal year that the adjustment determined by the Secretary is greater than 3 percent, except for the first fiscal year that the adjustment is greater than 3 percent, except for the first fiscal year that the adjustment is greater than 3 percent.” See section 740(c)(3) of the FD&C Act [21 U.S.C. 379j-12(c)(3)] for the full text of the workload adjustment.

B. Operating Reserve Adjustment

The operating reserve of carryover user fees for the process for the review of animal drug applications will be used to fund the third-party assessment described in section V.A. and any ADUFA V negotiated, one-time IT enhancements.

Additionally, as stated in the FD&C Act, fee revenue amounts will be adjusted to provide an operating reserve of carryover user fees for the process of the review of animal drug applications of not less than 12 weeks and not more than 16 weeks. The reduction of the operating reserve to the 16-week maximum will be phased in over the 5-year lifecycle of ADUFA V. Section 740(c)(4) of the FD&C Act [21 U.S.C. 379j-12(c)(4)] contains the text of the operating reserve adjustment, as follows:

“(4) OPERATING RESERVE ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2025 and each subsequent fiscal year, after the fee revenue amount established under subsection (b) is adjusted in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary shall—

(i) increase the fee revenue amount for such fiscal year, if necessary to provide an operating reserve of not less than 12 weeks; or

(ii) if the Secretary has an operating reserve in excess of the number of weeks specified in subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year, the Secretary shall decrease the fee revenue amount to provide not more than the number of weeks specified in subparagraph (C) for that fiscal year.

(B) CARRYOVER USER FEES.—For purposes of this paragraph, the operating reserve of carryover user fees for the process for the review of animal drug applications does not include carryover user fees that have not been appropriated.

(C) NUMBER OF WEEKS OF OPERATING RESERVES.—The number of weeks of operating reserves specified in this subparagraph is—

- “(i) 22 weeks for fiscal year 2025;
- “(ii) 20 weeks for fiscal year 2026;
- “(iii) 18 weeks for fiscal year 2027; and
- “(iv) 16 weeks for fiscal year 2028.

ANIMAL GENERIC DRUG USER FEE ACT REAUTHORIZATION PERFORMANCE GOALS AND PROCEDURES—FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2028

The goals and procedures of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) as agreed to under the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2023 are summarized as follows:

Application/Submission Goals

Beginning October 1, 2023, all applications and submissions under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) section 512(b) must be created using the eSubmitter tool and submitted to the Agency through the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Electronic Submission System (ESS).

1. Original Abbreviated New Animal Drug Applications (ANADAs) and Reactivations

Review and act on 90 percent of original ANADAs within 240 days after the submission date.

An application is incomplete if it would require additional data or information to enable the Agency to complete a comprehensive review of the application and reach a decision on the issue(s) presented in the application. If the Agency determines that the deficiencies are not substantial, the Agency will review and act on 90 percent of reactivated applications within 120 days after the reactivated ANADA submission date. This shorter review time for reactivated ANADAs for which the deficiencies are determined not to be substantial is not intended to prevent the use of minor amendments during Agency review of an application. If the Agency determines that the deficiencies are substantial or new substantial information is provided, the Agency will review and act on 90 percent of reactivated applications within 240 days after the reactivated ANADA submission date.

2. Administrative ANADAs

Review and act on 90 percent of administrative ANADAs (ANADAs submitted after all scientific decisions have been made in the generic investigational new animal drug (JINAD) process, i.e., prior to the submission of the ANADA) within 60 days after the submission date. Paragraph IV certification applications (FD&C Act section 512(n)(1)(H)(iv)) submitted as administrative ANADAs will be excluded from the administrative ANADA cohort.

3. Prior Approval Manufacturing Supplemental ANADAs and Reactivation

Review and act on 90 percent of Prior Approval manufacturing supplemental ANADAs within 180 days after the submission date. A Prior Approval manufacturing supplemental ANADA includes: one or more major manufacturing changes according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(2)(ii) and in accordance with Guidance for Industry 83 (Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls Changes to an Approved NADA or ANADA); and, changes submitted as “Supplement-Changes Being Effectuated in 30 Days” that require prior approval according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(v)(A). If a Prior Approval supplement does not clearly identify any major manufacturing changes, the Prior Approval supplement will be designated by the Agency as a “Supplement-Changes Being Effectuated” with a 270 days review goal (see “Supplement-Changes Being Effectuated Manufacturing Supplemental ANADAs and Reactivations” below).

A submission is incomplete if it requires additional data or information to enable the Agency to complete a comprehensive review of the submission and reach a decision on the issue(s) presented in the submission. If the Agency determines that the deficiencies are not substantial for manufacturing supplements requiring prior approval, the Agency will allow the manufacturing supplements to be resubmitted as “Supplement-Changes Being Effectuated in 30 Days” as described in 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3) and the drug made with the change can be distributed 30 days after the resubmission according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(iv). The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of these reactivated manufacturing supplements within 270 days after the re-submission date of a complete submission. If the Agency determines that the deficiencies remain substantial or new substantial information is provided, prior-approval is required according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(v)(A). The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of these reactivated manufacturing supplements within 180 days after the re-submission date of a complete submission.

4. Supplement—Changes Being Effectuated Manufacturing Supplemental ANADAs and

Review and act on 90 percent of “Supplement-Changes Being Effectuated” manufacturing supplemental ANADAs and reactivations submitted according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(vi) and in accordance with Guidance for Industry 83 (Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls Changes to an Approved NADA or ANADA), including manufacturing changes not requiring prior approval according to 21 CFR 514.8(b)(3)(iv), within 270 days after the submission date.

5. Generic Investigational New Animal Drug (JINAD) Study Submissions

Review and act on 90 percent of JINAD study submissions within 180 days after the submission date.

A submission is incomplete if it would require additional data or information to enable the Agency to complete a comprehensive review of the study submission and reach a decision on the issue(s) presented in the submission. If the Agency determines that the deficiencies are not substantial, the Agency will review and act on 90 percent of resubmitted JINAD study submissions within 60 days after the receipt date of a complete study submission.

6. JINAD Protocols

Review and act on 90 percent of JINAD submissions consisting of protocols without substantial data, that the Agency and the sponsor consider to be an essential part of the basis for making the decision to approve or not approve an ANADA or supplemental ANADA, within 75 days after the submission date.

Allow comparability protocols as described in 21 CFR 514.8(b)(2)(v) to be submitted as protocols without substantial data in a JINAD file. The Agency will review and act on 90 percent of JINAD submissions consisting of protocols without substantial data within 75 days after the submission date of the protocol. For potentially more complex comparability protocols, for example sterile process validation protocols, the sponsor should discuss and have Agency concurrence regarding the appropriate filing strategy.

7. Request to Establish a JINAD File

Review and act on 90 percent of original submissions requesting establishment of a JINAD file, within 100 days after the submission date.

For the application/submission goals above, the term “review and act on” means the issuance of either: (1) a complete action letter that approves an original or supplemental ANADA or notifies a sponsor that a JINAD submission is complete or that a JINAD file has been established; or (2) an “incomplete letter” that sets forth in detail the specific deficiencies in an original or supplemental ANADA or JINAD submission and, where appropriate, the actions necessary to place such an original or supplemental ANADA or JINAD submission in condition for approval, filing, or complete submission. Within 30 days of receipt of the application, FDA shall refuse to file an original or supplemental ANADA, or their reactivation, that is determined to be insufficient on its face or otherwise of unacceptable quality for review upon initial inspection as per 21 CFR 514.110. Thus, the agency will refuse to file an application containing numbers or types of errors, or flaws in the development plan, sufficient to cause the quality of the entire submission to be questioned to the extent that it cannot reasonably be reviewed.

Within 60 days of receipt of the submission, FDA will refuse to review a JINAD submission that is determined to be insufficient on its face or otherwise of unacceptable quality upon initial inspection using criteria and procedures similar to those found in 21 CFR 514.110.

A decision to refuse to file an application or to refuse to review a submission as described above will result in the application or submission not being entered into the cohort upon which the relevant user fee goal is based. The agency will keep a record of the numbers and types of such refusals and include them in its annual performance report.

FDA may request minor amendments to original or supplemental ANADAs and JINAD submissions during its review of the application or submission. At its discretion, the Agency may extend an internal due date (but not a user fee goal) to allow for the complete review of an application or submission for which a minor amendment is requested. If a pending application is amended with significant changes, the amended application may be considered resubmitted, thereby effectively resetting the clock to the date FDA received the amendment. The same policy applies for JINAD submissions.

Sponsors are not required to submit study protocols for review. However, for each voluntarily submitted protocol for a study that the Agency and the sponsor consider to be an essential part of the basis for making the decision to approve or not approve an original or supplemental ANADA, the Agency will issue a complete action letter providing comments resulting from a complete review of the protocol. The complete action letter will be as detailed as possible considering the quality and level of detail of the protocol submission; will include a succinct assessment of the protocol; and will state whether the Agency agrees, disagrees, or lacks sufficient information to reach a decision that the protocol design, execution plans, and data analyses are adequate to achieve the objectives of the study. If the Agency determines that a protocol is acceptable, this represents an agreement that the data generated by the protocol can be used to support a safety or effectiveness decision regarding the subject new animal drug. Having agreed to the design, execution, or analyses proposed in protocols reviewed under this process, the Agency will not later alter its perspectives on the design, execution, or analyses unless the Agency issues a written order that a substantiated scientific requirement essential to the assessment of the study appeared after the Agency's protocol assessment, or public (human or animal) health concerns unrecognized at the time of protocol assessment under this process are evident.

The term "submission date" means the date the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Electronic Submission System (ESS) receives an application or submission. Upon receipt of an application or submission, the CVM ESS creates an electronic receipt that contains the date of receipt and is sent to the submitter.

WORK QUEUE REVIEW PROCEDURES

The Agency will review all submissions in accordance with procedures for working within a queue. An application/submission that is not reviewed within the applicable Application/Submission Goal time frame will be reviewed with the highest possible priority among those pending.

AMENDING SIMILAR APPLICATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

The Agency and regulated industry agree that applications and submissions to the Agency will be complete and of sufficient quality to allow the Agency's complete and

timely review. The Agency will refuse to file poor quality and incomplete applications and submissions rather than allowing them to serve as "placeholders" in the review queue that are subsequently amended to add the missing or inadequate portions.

The Agency recognizes that there are circumstances in which a controlled amendment process can make the review of similar, pending submissions more efficient without compromising the sponsor's responsibility for high quality submissions. Thus, if the Agency requests an amendment to a non-administrative original ANADA, manufacturing supplemental ANADA, JINAD study submission, or a JINAD protocol submission (a "CVM-initiated amendment"), or issues an incomplete letter for such an application or submission, a sponsor may request to amend other, similar applications or submissions it has pending with the Agency ("sponsor-initiated amendment(s)") in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The amended information for these similar applications or submissions must be the same as in the CVM-initiated amendment or incomplete letter; and
2. The amended information must not significantly change the similar applications or submissions; and
3. The amended information for these similar applications or submissions must be submitted no later than:
 - a. 120 days after the submission date for the similar original ANADA, manufacturing supplemental ANADA; or
 - b. 100 days after the submission date for the similar JINAD study submissions; or
 - c. 40 days after the submission date for the similar JINAD protocol submissions.

If the Agency determines that the above criteria have been met, it will not change the user fee goal for the similar application or submission that has been amended by a sponsor-initiated amendment. If the above criteria have not been met, the Agency may consider the similar application or submission resubmitted on the date of the sponsor-initiated amendment, thereby resetting the clock to the date FDA received the amendment.

MULTIPLE DATA SUBMISSIONS TO THE CHEMISTRY, MANUFACTURING, AND CONTROLS TECHNICAL SECTION

The Agency will continue to allow two-phased Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls technical section submissions under the JINAD process.

TIMELY FOREIGN PRE-APPROVAL INSPECTIONS

1. The Agency and regulated industry are committed to improving the review and business processes that will facilitate the timely scheduling and conducting of pre-approval inspections (PAIs). To improve the timeliness and predictability of foreign PAIs, sponsors may voluntarily submit 1) at the beginning of the calendar year, a list of foreign manufacturing facilities that are specified in an abbreviated application, supplemental abbreviated application, or generic investigational file and may be subject to foreign PAIs for the following fiscal year; and 2) a notification 30 days prior to submitting an abbreviated application, a supplemental abbreviated application, or generic investigational file that informs the Agency that the application includes a foreign manufacturing facility. Should any changes to the annual list occur after its submission to the Agency, the sponsor may provide the updated information to the Agency.

2. The Agency will keep a record of the number of foreign PAIs conducted for abbreviated applications, along with the average time for completing the PAIs, and include this information in its annual performance report. The time for completing the PAI is

understood to mean the time from the inspection scheduling request through notification to the Center of inspectional findings.

FOREIGN GMP INSPECTIONS

The Agency commits to exploration and implementation of the United States and European Union and the United States and United Kingdom Good Manufacturing Practice Mutual Inspection Agreement and future Mutual Recognition Agreements, with respect to generic new animal drug products subject to review, starting in FY 2024 for establishments manufacturing animal/veterinary drugs. The Agency will provide annual progress updates to the industry.

TIMELY MEETINGS WITH INDUSTRY

The Agency and the regulated industry agree that the use of both formal meetings (e.g., presubmission conferences, workshops) and informal communication by both parties is critical to ensure high submission quality such that the above performance goals can be achieved.

TRANSPARENCY IN THE REVIEW PROCESS

Bioequivalence Technical Section meeting process

The Agency will enhance transparency by establishing the Bioequivalence Technical Section (BETS) meeting process. The term "Bioequivalence Technical Section (BETS) meeting" means an optional meeting for a sponsor seeking further discussion with the Agency after their receipt of CVM's response to their submission of bioequivalence study data in support of their ANADA.

The formalized process is the following: Once CVM receives a bioequivalence technical section with study data for review, CVM will schedule the BETS meeting for a date approximately one month after the date CVM's review of the technical section is due. The sponsor is expected to submit a detailed list of questions to CVM by email no later than two weeks prior to the BETS meeting date to facilitate preparation for the discussion. The BETS meeting will be a virtual meeting and will include the CVM scientific reviewer and CVM team leader to whom the submission has been assigned for review. CVM will not generate any formal documents after a BETS meeting (e.g., a memorandum of conference).

Response to request to establish a JINAD file

When a sponsor submits a request to establish a JINAD file, the Agency will include in its response information describing its current thinking regarding specific elements for inclusion in the Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls technical section for the dosage form proposed. The response will list relevant guidance, regulations, and compendial expectations relevant to that dosage form.

WORKLOAD ADJUSTMENT

For purposes of calculating the workload adjustment, it has been agreed to reset the base years to a rolling average comprising the most recent 5-year completed fiscal years. For example, beginning October 1, 2024 (FY 2025), the base will comprise Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023. At the start of each fiscal year thereafter, the base will be adjusted upward by one year on the upper and lower ends of the range. There will be no workload adjustment for FY 2024. Workload adjustments are one-time adjustments, and are calculated annually. The percent increase in fees will be made if the amount of the workload adjuster is equal to or greater than one percent (1%). The weighting factor is the percent of direct review time spent on each of the six component submission types over the most recent five-year period.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUB
ON SMITH

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sheridan's Senior Center, the Hub on Smith in Sheridan, WY. The Hub is a cornerstone for the community. It provides essential care, meals, and support to residents of Sheridan County.

To commemorate this outstanding achievement, the Hub is hosting "50 for 50"—50 small events and opportunities to highlight staff, patrons, and programs.

In 1972, Sheridan County created the Senior Citizen's Coordinating Council to address the need for senior citizen services. The council discovered many seniors were living alone and struggling to meet basic needs. Poverty and lack of services resulted in a push for a nursing home.

In 1973, the Senior Citizen's Coordinating Council was incorporated into a private nonprofit organization, the Senior Citizens Council. This began their longstanding commitment to the community. The Sheridan Senior Center was established.

Numerous expansions of land, acquisitions, and services occurred over the years. Longstanding relationships with volunteers, foundations, individual donors, local businesses, local government, and elected leaders are greatly responsible for the success and sustainability of the Hub.

The Sheridan Senior Center rebranded in 2017 to the Hub on Smith, a Center for All Generations. This was done to modernize the way services are delivered and marketed. Folks now refer to the center as "the Hub."

The Hub on Smith exemplifies their vision statement of "Sheridan is a community that improves the quality of life for people of all ages by strengthening and supporting its elders and where elders contribute to the well-being and foresight of the community." This is evident through the many services provided to residents in these Wyoming communities: Sheridan, Ranchester, Dayton, Arvada, Clearmont, Big Horn, and Story.

The number and quality of services increased over the years. The Hub on Smith prepares 400–500 nutritious meals daily. These meals can be enjoyed in the center or delivered to residents' homes. The Sheridan minibus was the first service provided by the center. Through fundraising and expansions, Goose Creek Transit is now a door-to-door service for appointments, grocery runs, trips to the Hub, and out-of-town medical appointments. The support center is a team of dedicated information specialists, intake workers, care coordinators, and case managers. They work together to offer an all-encompassing resource hub, often referred to as "the hub of the Hub."

The Hub recognizes the importance of supporting family members and caregivers. Programs such as counseling, support meetings, respite, education, and training creates a strong

network of care for this courageous group. The Hub offers care to seniors both at the center and in their homes. Registered nurses, certified nursing assistants, and access care coordinators make up the Help at Home service. This is a licensed home health agency that supports seniors while maintaining their dignity and independence. The Hub's numerous services and programs include Day Break, an adult daycare, Dementia Friendly Wyoming, which furnishes education and training, and a Loan Closet, lending durable medical equipment to patrons. Fun & Wellness provides social engagement through educational sessions, dance, exercise, outdoor adventures, arts, music, crafts, games, and more. The Trailblazer Project trains volunteers to give one-on-one support to the older adults who need it. The Grab 'N Go Cafe is an alternative option to congregate meals by offering unique foods and drinks. Sales from Urban Thrift, a secondhand store on Main Street, directly benefit the Hub.

There are over 350 individual volunteers who help the community in a variety of roles. These include home-delivered meal drivers, teachers, meal servers, registrars, musical performers, advisers, and board members. Their commitment and willingness to give back reflects their strong community spirit.

The Hub on Smith's mission is "to celebrate, embrace, and serve older adults for the betterment of our community." With 29 percent of Sheridan's population 60 years and older, the Hub on Smith is a vital resource for the city.

The dedicated staff and board members who keep the Hub on Smith running are:

Board of Directors
Melissa Butcher, President
Lori McMullen, Vice President
Robert E. Miller, Treasurer
Kati Sherwood, Secretary
Board Members
Michael W. McCafferty
Casey Osborn
Marcyes Schmaus
Anthony Spiegelberg
Bryn Stewart
Director Emeritus, Ky Dixon
Director Emeritus, Dr. Seymour Thickman
Staff
Carmen Rideout, Executive Director
Sheree Childers-Cossel, Director of Human Resources
Meredith Sopko, Director of Development
Ryan Landis, Director of Operations
Cheryl Lasher, Financial Director
Steve Ainslie, Transportation Director
Barb Blue, Day Break Director
Helaine McRae, Support Center Manager
Kevin Coleman, Executive Chef
Robin Ruff, Tongue River Valley Program Coordinator
Erin Kranz, Urban Thrift Manager
Beth Leahy, Help at Home Manager
Lisa Wells, Sr. Fun and Wellness Coordinator
Amanda Munford, Fun and Wellness Coordinator
Jessica Culligan, Intake Specialist
Heather Comstock, Dementia Friendly Wyoming Director
Emily Gorham-Keith, Care Coordinator

Amanda Rodriguez, Help at Home Program Assistant
Leah Frank, Care Coordinator
Dayna Gates, Care Coordinator
Marcie Morrow, Volunteer Coordinator
Director Emeritus, Ky Dixon
Director Emeritus, Dr. Seymour Thickman

It is an honor for me to rise in recognition of this significant milestone. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to the Hub on Smith for their 50th anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS TRUE
VISION CHILDREN'S HOMES

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Arkansas True Vision Children's Homes for its tremendous work on behalf of children in foster care.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute—CCAI—recently recognized Arkansas True Vision as a 2023 Angels in Adoption honoree. I believe it is well-deserved for the organization's clear dedication to ensuring better outcomes for children in foster care. CCAI coordinates the Angels in Adoption program and raises awareness about the tens of thousands of orphans and foster children in the United States and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent homes.

Arkansas True Vision operates three facilities in the State to address a variety of critical needs—helping children in dire situations, supporting foster children who need special care, and keeping sibling groups together. This nonprofit organization supports 40–50 kids daily and is a licensed service provider for the Arkansas Department of Children and Family Services. In addition to its mission of caring for kids in emergencies and long-term foster care, the organization has also assisted in 60 adoptions since 2015. The Florence Crittenton Home in Little Rock opened in 2004 as True Vision's first children's home. It serves as a residential group home providing emergency shelter services and long-term residential care for children and adolescents in need of a safe and secure environment.

The Maggie House in Charleston provides long term residential care to foster children, many with complex cases. The kids live in small group cottages and are supported by house parents, case managers, therapists, and many other community and school resources.

In addition, Arkansas True Vision's newest mission is the Young Children's Home in Fort Smith. This unique program has become a model for home-based foster care where three special houses provide care for sibling groups on a neighborhood style campus.

As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I am inspired by the work of Arkansas True Vision's volunteers, direct care staff, leaders, and community partners who are working every day to improve the lives of young people.

On behalf of the people of the Natural State, I extend my gratitude and congratulations to Arkansas True Vision Children's Homes for this recognition and the positive impact it will continue to make in the lives of youth in need of safe and loving homes.●

TRIBUTE TO ARLAN D. MELENDEZ

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Arlan D. Melendez, Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. Arlan Melendez, who has been Chair of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony for over 30 years—one of the longest-serving Tribal Chairs in the country—is no stranger to public service. He has spent his life devoted to causes bigger than himself. His service to his country, his State, and his people deserves to be recognized. I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Chairman Melendez in advancing Tribal priorities, and his leadership and partnership will be missed.

Born and raised in Northern Nevada, Chairman Melendez began his career of service in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam era. After serving his country, Chairman Melendez took up leadership positions within his Tribal community. First elected to the Tribal Council in 1987, Melendez served as treasurer and vice-chairman before being elected Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony in 1991. Under Chairman Melendez's leadership, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony has partnered with the State of Nevada, Washoe County, the cities of Reno and Sparks, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to expand the Colony's total land base to over 2,000 acres. In his over 30 years as Tribal Chairman, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony has thrived and proven to be an economic force in Northern Nevada. Additionally, Chairman Melendez has served on the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, including as president, helping to support the 28 Tribal communities in Nevada.

Chairman Melendez's work has spread far beyond the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and Nevada. In 2005, he was appointed to a 6-year term on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights by then-Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid. There, he worked to further the Commission's mission to champion the development of national civil rights policy and enhance enforcement of Federal civil rights laws. Chairman Melendez has also been active in the National Congress of American Indians—NCAI—an organization dedicated to serving the broad interests of Tribal governments and communities across this country. At NCAI, he served as the western region vice president and chaired the taxation subcommittee. Chairman Melendez has distinguished himself as a member of the Leadership Council for the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, where he contributes to strategies for building stronger

Indian Country economies. Chairman Melendez also served on the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tribal Advisory Committee advocating for better access to healthcare for Tribal communities and played an important role supporting Indian Country through the pandemic. Additionally, the Chairman has received awards for his lifetime of achievements from the Native American Finance Officers Association and the National Indian Health Service.

As Chairman Melendez retires, it is important that we call attention to his distinguished career of public service. The communities that he touched in Nevada and around the country are better for his leadership, hard work, and dedication.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIN CAMPBELL

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend a champion of Georgia's families. In October 2015, Erin Campbell valiantly founded the Athens Area Diaper Bank with a mission to help families in need. Since then, her work has helped countless families access some of the most basic, yet vital, supplies a newborn and their families need. Working with partner nonprofits, agencies, and organizations in their six-county service area, Ms. Campbell and the Athens Area Diaper Bank work to collect donations and distribute diapers and other supplies to those in need.

In 2022, the Athens Area Diaper Bank celebrated its 1 millionth diaper distributed, an incredible feat. Working closely with Ms. Campbell and the Athens Area Diaper Bank team, I brought Republicans and Democrats together to deliver new funding for the Athens Area Diaper Bank and their partner organization, Helping Mamas, enabling them to serve more rural communities in the Athens-Clarke County Area.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Erin Campbell for her inspirational service to the Athens area and thank her and the entire Athens Area Diaper Bank team for their work.●

RECOGNIZING GREATER SHADE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Columbus, Georgia's Greater Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church on its 160th anniversary, celebrated in August 2023. Founded in 1863 under a grape arbor in an oak grove as Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, the congregation has been a mainstay of the Columbus, GA, community ever since its founding by Brother Boston Miles and Sister Mary Moore, who became the church's first members.

In August 1967, the First Baptist Church of Columbus, GA, granted full titles and deeds of the church building to the Shady Grove congregation, and on March 27, 1968, the Superior Court of Muscogee County duly incorporated

the "Greater Shady Grove Baptist Church, Inc.," a name change to distinguish itself from other churches with the same name. In January 1988, the Reverend Dr. Marcus J. Gibson became the acting pastor and served in that capacity until April 17, 1998, when he was made interim pastor. On February 14, 1999, Reverend Gibson was installed as the 22nd pastor of the Greater Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, the same role he maintains today. Under Pastor Gibson's leadership, the congregation has continued to flourish, successfully expanding, improving the south parking lot, upgrading the transportation ministry, and remodeling the sanctuary. Greater Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church has also added new ministries and programs, including the annual women's and laymen's conferences, outreach ministry expansion and improvements, the organization of the liturgical dance ministry, the mother ministry, the organization of the sick, bereavement and condolence ministry, and initiating of the deacons family care. Above all, Greater Shady Grove Baptist Church remains a central place for fellowship, community, teaching, and nurturing.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Reverend Marcus J. Gibson and the Greater Shady Grove Baptist Church on its momentous 160th anniversary, and here is to many more.●

RECOGNIZING REESE-HYMAN AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 96

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend the Reese-Hyman American Legion Post No. 96 on its 100th anniversary.

Founded in 1923 by World War I veterans from Warren and Glascock Counties, the Reese-Hyman American Legion was named in honor of Cummings Reese and Samuel Hart Hyman, the only Warren County residents who lost their lives in service to the Nation during World War I. According to Eric Wilkerson, who had served as the post's adjutant for 17 years, the local chapter quickly grew to over 100 members in its first few months and became very active in the community, including running the annual Warren-Glascock County Fair.

Led today by Commander Patricia Hambisch, the Reese-Hyman American Legion Post No. 96 continues bringing local veterans together, helping them access their hard-earned benefits and advocating for policies that help veterans. In July, its members gathered in Warrenton to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Reese-Hyman American Legion Post No. 96.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I thank all of Georgia's veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our Nation, and I commend the Reese-Hyman American Legion Post No. 96 on this momentous occasion.●

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA RIVERA HOLMES

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Barbara Rivera Holmes for her dedicated service to Southwest Georgia's economic development and small business community. Ms. Rivera Holmes serves as president and CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce and the chamber's foundation. For over two decades, she has dedicated her work to the people of Southwest Georgia, first working as a reporter at the Albany Herald and "Southwest Georgia Living" before joining Albany-Dougherty County's economic development commission. In 2015, she took over as interim president and CEO of the chamber, becoming its permanent leader in August 2016.

Founded in 1910, the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce works to represent the interests of Southwest Georgia's business community on the local, State, and Federal levels, unlocking economic opportunities and growing the local economy. Under Ms. Rivera Holmes' leadership, the Albany area chamber has undertaken new, creative initiatives aimed at driving economic development and helping small businesses thrive, including launching a public-private partnership aimed at helping unemployed rural residents start their own businesses.

Most recently, Ms. Rivera Holmes graduated from the Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, demonstrating her continued commitment to better represent the local chamber and serving her community—and I congratulate her on this achievement.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Albany Area Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Barbara Rivera Holmes for her career of service to Southwest Georgia's business community.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA HOUSE ON CAPITOL HILL

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, the Florida legislative act establishing Florida House on Capitol Hill was approved by Governor Ruben Askew on March 30, 1972. Rhea Chiles, wife of Senator and Governor Lawton Chiles, worked tirelessly with like-minded citizens from across the State, to purchase, renovate, and open a place for Floridians to gather while in our Nation's Capital. The Florida House on Capitol Hill is Florida's embassy in Washington, DC, that connects, celebrates, and champions Florida to the world and has been a home away from home for hundreds of thousands of Floridians over the past 50 years.

The Florida House welcomes congressional leaders, students, teachers, visitors on vacation, and Floridians living and working in our Nation's Capital. Men and women conducting business in Washington, DC, gather at Florida

House to grow Florida's economy and influence around the world. The intern program for college students has afforded hundreds of young men and women the opportunity to learn more about the Federal Government and help prepare them for meaningful careers.

Due to the endless dedication of the Florida House Staff, trustees, and generous contributors, the Florida House has been able to remain an intricate part of Washington, DC, hosting over 10,000 visitors per year. The Florida House operates with the generosity of Floridians, without State tax dollars, and belongs to the people of Florida and remains a place where all Floridians will find comfort, kindness, and a cold glass of Florida orange juice in their "home away from home."

The 50th anniversary of Florida House on Capitol Hill will be celebrated on October 26, 2023. We, Members of the U.S. Senate, recognize the ongoing service of Florida House on Capitol Hill to the citizens of Florida for 50 years.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CENTERED IN COLOMBIA THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12978 OF OCTOBER 21, 1995—PM 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect be-

yond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2023.

The circumstances that led to the declaration of a national emergency on October 21, 1995, have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 17, 2023.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITIONS

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)".

John Kennedy, Roger Marshall, Cynthia M. Lummis, Tom Cotton, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Bill Hagerty, Mike Lee, Joni Ernst, Rick Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Braun, Mitt Romney, Pete Ricketts, Steve Daines, Marco Rubio, James Lankford, Jerry Moran, Kevin Cramer, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, Deb Fischer, Ron Johnson, Eric Schmitt, Mitch McConnell.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration 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", and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Roger Marshall, Mike Braun, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Markwayne Mullin, Mike Lee, Tom Cotton, J.D. Vance, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, James Lankford, Katie Boyd Britt, Marsha Blackburn, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, Tommy Tuberville, John Thune, Josh Hawley, Cynthia M. Lummis, Eric Schmitt, Marco Rubio, John Cornyn, Ted Cruz, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John

Kennedy, Lindsey Graham, Ron Johnson, John Boozman, Rick Scott, John Barrasso.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)”.

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 42. 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”.

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-2384. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program (FLSP) Funding Announcement” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2385. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Ledprona Double-stranded RNA; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 10944-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2386. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration’s 2023 compensation program adjustments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2387. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2022 annual report of the Farm Credit Administration Regulator of the Farm Credit System; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2388. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Annual Report on the Plan for the Nuclear Weapons Stockpile, Nuclear Weapons Complex, Nuclear Weapons Delivery Systems, and Nuclear Weapons Command and Control System; to the Committees on Appropriations; Armed Services; and Foreign Relations.

EC-2389. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a

report relative to the January-June 2023 semiannual readiness report part 1 (OSS-2023-0971); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2390. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the January-June 2023 semiannual readiness report part 2 (OSS-2023-0972); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2391. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13894 of October 14, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2392. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2393. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2394. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2395. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12170 with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2396. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13959 with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People’s Republic of China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2397. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2398. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14024 with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2399. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to various countries; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2400. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Conformity With the Inflation Reduction Act for Renewable Energy on the Outer Continental Shelf” (RIN1010-AE20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President

of the Senate on October 5, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2401. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Proposed Final Program, the last in a series of three proposals necessary to prepare the 2024-2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2402. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 3.77 Rev 0, ‘Weather Related Administrative Controls at Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations’” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2403. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Golden Paintbrush From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants” (RIN1018-BE72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2404. A communication from the Biologist of the Ecological Services Program, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Black-Footed Ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) in the Southwest” (RIN1018-BD61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2405. A joint communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council’s Recommendations for the Justice40 Initiative Phase One Implementation, The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, and Air Pollution Emissions Limits for Incinerators”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2406. A communication from the Deputy Director, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2407. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Emissions from Volatile Organic Liquid Storage” (FRL No. 11259-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2408. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Toxic Substances Control Act Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances” (FRL No. 7902-02-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2023; to

the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3047. A bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

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

S. 3048. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to prohibit an employer from recovering any health care premium paid by the employer for an employee if the employee fails to return to work due to the birth of a child, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VANCE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 3049. A bill to freeze \$6,000,000,000 of Iranian funds held in Qatar, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3050. A bill to require a report on artificial intelligence regulation in the financial services industry, to establish artificial intelligence bug bounty programs, to require a vulnerability analysis study for artificial intelligence-enabled military applications, and to require a report on data sharing and coordination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3051. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to apply child labor laws to independent contractors, increase penalties for child labor law violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3052. A bill to make aliens who are holders of a passport issued by the Palestinian Authority ineligible for visas, admission, or parole into the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3053. A bill to prohibit the importation of crude oil, petroleum, petroleum products, and liquefied natural gas from Venezuela and Iran; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3054. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide F visas and employment authorization for international student athletes who enter into endorsement contracts for the commercial use of their names, images, and likenesses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3055. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to update the modeling used for lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments for approved fuel pathways under the Renewable Fuel Standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 3056. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to install new permanent fencing around the United States Capitol, any of the Capitol Buildings, or any portion of the Capitol Grounds; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 3057. A bill to prohibit allocations of Special Drawing Rights at the International Monetary Fund for perpetrators of genocide and state sponsors of terrorism without congressional authorization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 3058. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to the United Negro College Fund, Inc. and the institutions that make up its membership on the occasion of its 80th year of existence; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3059. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish provider directory requirements, and to provide accountability for provider director accuracy, under Medicare Advantage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 3060. A bill to establish a Youth Mental Health Research Initiative in the National Institutes of Health for purposes of encouraging collaborative research to improve youth mental health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BRAUN, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 3061. A bill to revoke the waiver determination submitted to Congress on September 11, 2023, with respect to certain sanctions imposed with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KING:

S. 3062. A bill to provide for the removal of small-diameter trees in fire hazard areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3063. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3064. A bill to limit funding to the United Nations until the Islamic Republic of Iran has been expelled and investigated for violations of the Genocide Convention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3065. A bill to provide counsel for unaccompanied children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 407. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2023 as “National Down Syndrome Awareness Month”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. Res. 408. A resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. Res. 409. A resolution authorizing the use of the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building for a Bipartisan Howl-oween Dog Pawrade on October 31, 2023, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 410. A resolution designating October 12, 2023, as “National Loggers Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 411. A resolution to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

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

S. 42

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 42, a bill to improve the management and performance of the capital asset programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs so as to better serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, and for other purposes.

S. 96

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to address the history of discrimination against Black farmers and ranchers, to require reforms within the Department of Agriculture to prevent future discrimination, and for other purposes.

S. 114

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 114, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

S. 120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 138

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) 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. 342

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSBOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 342, a bill to clarify the rights of certain persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr.

TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, a bill to withhold United States contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and for other purposes.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to strengthen the use of patient-experience data within the benefit-risk framework for approval of new drugs.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 566, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve coverage of dental and oral health services for adults under Medicaid, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) 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. 639

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 639, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 652

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 722

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

S. 793

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to amend title XVIII of

the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 806

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 806, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a grant program to assist with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of point-of-entry and point-of-use drinking water quality improvement products, and for other purposes.

S. 913

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 913, a bill to make Ecuador eligible for designation as a beneficiary country under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAIN) 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. 956

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 956, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve dependent coverage under the TRICARE Young Adult Program.

S. 1064

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

S. 1124

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1124, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to provide for whistleblower incentives and protection.

S. 1202

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1202, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS)

were added as cosponsors of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1288

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) 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 Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) 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. 1527

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equitable payment for, and preserve Medicare beneficiary access to, diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals under the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system.

S. 1573

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1573, a bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

S. 1593

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1593, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to extend eligibility of new moms for the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

S. 1594

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1594, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a task force to develop strategies and coordinate efforts to eliminate preventable maternal mortality, and for other purposes.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to impose sanctions with re-

spect to foreign support for terrorist organizations in Gaza and the West Bank, and for other purposes.

S. 1710

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1710, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to grow and diversify the perinatal workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to improve the provision of health care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans diagnosed with diabetes and heart disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to establish the Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program within the Farm Service Agency Office of Outreach and Education.

S. 2379

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2379, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination.

S. 2477

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

S. 2501

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2501, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock owner-

ship plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2544

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2544, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve reproductive health care of individuals with disabilities.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors 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. 2626

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2626, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUND), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors 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. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during preseparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2895

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 2983

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Tennessee

(Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2983, a bill to prohibit the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education receiving funding from the Department of Education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States.

S. 3041

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3041, a bill to reinstate certain sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

S.J. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors 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 name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1250

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1250 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3055. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to update the modeling used for lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments for approved fuel pathways under the Renewable Fuel Standard,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. THUNE. 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. 3055

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 “Adopt the Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Transportation model Act” or the “Adopt GREET Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATOR.

In this Act, the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SEC. 3. LIFECYCLE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FOR APPROVED FUEL PATHWAYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and not later than every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall update the methodology used by the Environmental Protection Agency in lifecycle analyses with respect to greenhouse gas emissions that result from a fuel pathway to which a D code has been assigned pursuant to a petition described in section 80.1416 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), that has been approved by the Administrator.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) FIRST UPDATE.—In carrying out the first update required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall adopt the most recent Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Transportation model (commonly referred to as the “GREET model”) developed by Argonne National Laboratory.

(2) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—In carrying out the second and each subsequent update required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

(A) as necessary, adopt, review, or update a methodology determined to be appropriate by the Administrator; or

(B) adopt the methodology described in paragraph (1).

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUEL PATHWAYS.—For any fuel pathway to which the Administrator assigns a D code pursuant to a petition described in section 80.1416 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), that is approved by the Administrator after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall, not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator assigns that code, adopt the methodology described in paragraph (1) for purposes of modeling lifecycle analyses with respect to greenhouse gas emissions that result from that fuel pathway.

(c) REPORT.—If the Administrator fails to carry out subsection (b)(2) before the applicable deadline described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Resources, and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report describing the reasons for the failure to carry out subsection (b)(2), which may include a determination by the Administrator that the methodology adopted or updated in a previous update under subsection (a) remains the most current methodology based on available data, research, and technology.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 407—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 407

Whereas 1 in 700, or around 6,000 babies are born with Down syndrome in the United States every year and each person with Down syndrome is an important member of society;

Whereas the life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically, from 25 years of age in 1983 to 60 years of age in 2023;

Whereas people with Down syndrome attend school and work, participate in decisions that affect their livelihood, have meaningful relationships, vote, and contribute to society in many ways;

Whereas research has shown that employees with disabilities, including Down syndrome, are loyal, dedicated, and productive workers;

Whereas, along with the care from their families, loved ones, and caregivers, research and advocacy for positive policy changes can improve the quality of life for members of the Down syndrome community;

Whereas, since 1984, Congress has been committed to increasing Federal funding for Down syndrome research and improving the quality of life for people with Down syndrome and their families;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health reports that Federal investment in Down syndrome research has increased from \$18,000,000 in fiscal year 2014 to \$124,000,000 in fiscal year 2022;

Whereas, in unison with increased funding from Congress, the National Institutes of Health has redoubled its effort in biomedical and Down syndrome research, especially through the INCLUDE initiative, which is advancing science on the underlying cause of Alzheimer’s disease among people with Down syndrome;

Whereas organizations in the nonprofit sector continue to advocate for Federal research, drive policy changes, educate the people of the United States, create guidebooks for caregivers, and offer platforms to self-advocates who want to share their personal experiences about Down syndrome with others; and

Whereas people with Down syndrome, their families, Congress, and advocates remain focused on developing policies to ensure people with Down syndrome have every opportunity to live full and productive lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 2023 as “National Down Syndrome Awareness Month”;

(2) believes that National Down Syndrome Awareness Month is an opportunity to celebrate people with Down syndrome and their families as they continue to advocate for access and opportunity to live fully included lives;

(3) commends people with Down syndrome, their families, medical researchers, doctors, scientists, and organizations who are the driving force behind improving the quality of life for people with Down syndrome; and

(4) reiterates its commitment to ensuring Federal investment into Down syndrome research and pursuing policies to better support the Down syndrome community.

SENATE RESOLUTION 408—CONDEMNING HAMAS FOR ITS PREMEDITATED, COORDINATED, AND BRUTAL TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAEL AND DEMANDING THAT HAMAS IMMEDIATELY RELEASE ALL HOSTAGES AND RETURN THEM TO SAFETY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. ROMNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 408

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group, launched premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip into Israel, targeting the Israeli people;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas invaded more than 20 communities bordering the Gaza Strip and attacked innocent young people attending the Tribe of Nova music festival;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has killed more than 1,400 Israelis, along with at least 30 United States citizens, and wounded nearly 4,000 people;

Whereas reports and videos have surfaced of Hamas executing Israeli civilians, including entire families being slaughtered and horrific acts of violence targeting young children;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has fired more than 5,000 rockets into Israel;

Whereas it is estimated that nearly 200 people were abducted and are being held hostage in the Gaza Strip;

Whereas more than 20 countries have verified their citizens were either killed or are unaccounted for, with many believed to be taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas children and the elderly are among those taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas some hostages, including multiple United States citizens, are known to be in dire need of urgent medical assistance;

Whereas Hamas has threatened to execute hostages and broadcast the executions publicly;

Whereas, in 1997, the United States designated Hamas a foreign terrorist organization;

Whereas President Joe Biden has pledged the full force of the United States Government to help Israel rescue the hostages;

Whereas United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the attacks by Hamas in the strongest terms and unequivocally called for the “immediate release of all abducted persons”; and

Whereas the deliberate murder and hostage-taking of innocent civilians are prohibited by international law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Hamas in the harshest terms for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel;

(2) decries Hamas’s abductions and threats made against hostages, including threats to use hostages as human shields;

(3) demands that Hamas provide access and medical care to all hostages;

(4) demands that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety;

(5) calls on the United States to lead a global campaign to demand the release of the hostages held captive by Hamas; and

(6) expresses sympathy to the hostages and those wounded, and to their families, and mourns those killed by Hamas’ terrorist attacks.

SENATE RESOLUTION 409—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE PHILIP A. HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING FOR A BIPARTISAN HOWL-O-WEEN DOG PAWRADE ON OCTOBER 31, 2023, FROM 4:00 TO 6:00 P.M.

Mr. TILLIS submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 409

Whereas President Harry Truman stated, “If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.”;

Whereas over 65,000,000 households in the United States are enriched by having a dog in the home;

Whereas over 1,700 dogs serve alongside our military service members;

Whereas approximately 500,000 service dogs assist disabled people of the United States, including veterans;

Whereas over 3,000 dogs protect and serve our Nation working with Federal law enforcement;

Whereas dogs, especially in costumes, have a unique ability to bring people of the United States with different backgrounds and beliefs together; and

Whereas the Senate welcomes canine companions on a regular, “bipartisan” basis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING FOR A BIPARTISAN HOWL-O-WEEN DOG PAWRADE.

The atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building is authorized to be used on October 31, 2023, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., for a Bipartisan Howl-o-ween Dog Pawrade.

SENATE RESOLUTION 410—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 12, 2023, AS “NATIONAL LOGGERS DAY”

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 410

Whereas the logging industry has served as an economic driver and cultural tradition in the United States for centuries;

Whereas the logging industry creates rural jobs and provides revenue for local and State governments and National forests;

Whereas loggers provide renewable material for products used by people in the United States every day;

Whereas loggers are the first link in the \$300,000,000 domestic forest products supply chain;

Whereas loggers are the means by which healthy forest management plans are accomplished;

Whereas logging provides for healthy forests, which—

(1) maintain vital animal habitats;

(2) protect watersheds;

(3) sequester carbon;

(4) provide public recreational opportunities; and

(5) reduce loss of life and property from wildfires; and

Whereas logging provides for healthy forests through regeneration, including by planting 2,500,000,000 trees annually: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 12, 2023, as “National Loggers Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 411—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY’S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 411

Resolved, the following shall constitute the majority party’s membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mrs. MURRAY (Chair), Mr. Durbin, Mr. Reed, Mr. Tester, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Coons, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Manchin, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Peters, Ms. Sinema

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Brown (Chair), Mr. Reed, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Tester, Mr. Warner, Ms. Warren, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Fetterman, Ms. Butler

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Manchin (Chair), Mr. Wyden, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Hirono, Mr. King, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Padilla

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Peters (Chair), Mr. Carper, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Butler

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Warner (Chair), Mr. Wyden, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. King, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Casey, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Reed (ex officio), Mr. Schumer (ex officio)

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Durbin (Chair), Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Coons, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Booker, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Welch, Ms. Butler

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Klobuchar (Chair), Mr. Schumer, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Welch, Ms. Butler

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1349. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1350. Mr. OSSOFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1351. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINA, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to

the bill H.R. 4366, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1349. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act for the Federal Aviation Administration related to unmanned aircraft systems may be used to make awards to any entity that, after the date of enactment of this Act, intends to use such funds to partner with or otherwise transact business related to unmanned aircraft systems with the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, or the Republic of Cuba. No such entity may receive awards for any project related to unmanned aircraft systems if the entity is:

(1) included on the Consolidated Screening List maintained by the Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade;

(2) domiciled in the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, or the Republic of Cuba;

(3) subject to influence or control by the government of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, or the Republic of Cuba; or

(4) owned by the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, or the Republic of Cuba.

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by the Act for the Federal Aviation Administration related to unmanned aircraft systems may be used by the Secretary of Transportation to operate an unmanned aircraft system or to enter into, extend, or renew a contract for the procurement of an unmanned aircraft system or a contract with an entity that operates an unmanned aircraft system in the performance of any Department of Transportation contract if the unmanned aircraft system is manufactured by an entity that is included on the Consolidated Screening List maintained by the Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, domiciled in the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, or the Republic of Cuba, subject to influence or control by the government of any such country, or owned by any such country unless—

(1) the operation, procurement, or contracting action is for the purpose of—

(A) detection or counter-UAS system surrogate testing and training (including at Federal Aviation Administration-approved testing sites);

(B) intelligence, electronic warfare, cybersecurity, and information warfare operations, testing (including at Federal Aviation Administration-approved testing sites), analysis, and training; or

(C) research to inform unmanned aircraft system data-driven policy decisions, safety assessments, procedures, rulemaking, and standards to safely integrate emerging entrants into the national airspace system (including at Federal Aviation Administration-approved testing sites); and

(2) the Secretary of Transportation, on a case-by-case basis, certifies in writing to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that such operation, procurement, or contracting action is required in the public interest.

SA 1350. Mr. OSSOFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division C, under the heading “OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY”, strike the heading “RURAL AND TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENT” and all that follows through the period at the end of the matter under that heading and insert the following:

INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE
FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to provide technical assistance and cooperative agreements for planning and capacity building for transportation infrastructure improvements as established in section 21205 of Public Law 117-58 and under the heading “THRIVING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE” under the heading “OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY” in title I of division L of Public Law 117-103, \$25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

SA 1351. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. Kaine, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. Using amounts made available for the Federal Aviation Administration under this Act that are not otherwise obligated, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on whether, and the degree to which, the Federal Aviation Administration's workforce development programs authorized in section 625 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) have: (1) helped to expand the pool of prospective applicants to the industry; (2) strengthened aviation programs at minority-serving institutions, public institutions of higher education, women-focused institutions, and public postsecondary vocational institutions; and (3) encouraged the participation of populations that are underrepresented in the aviation workforce, including women, minorities, and individuals

in economically disadvantaged geographic areas and rural communities. In submitting this report, the Federal Aviation Administration shall also provide recommendations on how it can better use its workforce development grant programs to: (1) expand the pool of prospective applicants to the industry; (2) strengthen aviation programs at minority-serving institutions, public institutions of higher education, women-focused institutions, and public postsecondary vocational institutions; and (3) encourage the participation of populations that are underrepresented in the aviation workforce, including women, minorities, and individuals in economically disadvantaged geographic areas and rural communities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have three 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 THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hybrid hearing.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2023 third quarter Mass Mailing report is Wednesday, October 25, 2023. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm or emailed to OPR_MassMailings@sec.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. Res. 42

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII and at a time to be

determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, no later than October 26, 2023, that it be in order for Senator MARSHALL or his designee to move to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 229, S.J. Res. 42; further, that if the motion is agreed to, there be 10 hours of debate equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the joint resolution; further, that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; finally, that all other provisions under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, remain in effect except the 60 session day clock.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, submitted earlier today: S. Res. 409, S. Res. 410, and S. Res. 411.

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, where applicable, 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. 409 and 410) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolution (S. Res. 411) was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 228, S.J. Res. 32; and that at 12 noon, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution without intervening action or debate.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:44 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1203:

To be brigadier general

COL. HAROLD W. LINNEAN III

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LTC. GEN. DOUGLAS A. SIMS II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ERIK A. FESSENDE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID T. ISAACSON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. CHRISTOPHER A. NASH

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DOUGLAS A. SCHIESS

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JOANNA K. HIGEL

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 17, 2023:

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

KARLA ANN GILBRIDE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANA A. ESCROGIMA, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN.

THE JUDICIARY

JULIA KATHLEEN MUNLEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

JENNIFER L. HALL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.