



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023

No. 178

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Powerful God, we live in times that test our resolve, but You remain in control of our world. We depend upon Your might to empower our lawmakers to carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair. Mighty God, enable our Senators to experience the blessings of Your unfolding providence as You empower them to find solutions for the problems of our Nation and world.

May Your goodness and unfailing love pursue them all the days of their lives. And, Lord, let there be peace on Earth.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, October 30, 2023.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH 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 resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

#### PEPFAR REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as you and I both know, we are in the process of talking about the spending bills, long overdue. We are in our fiscal year as of October 1. Well, here comes the end of October, and we are still laboring over how we are going to spend money for the next fiscal year from October 1 to September 30 of the year 2024.

And there is debate back and forth between the House and Senate, debate on the Senate floor, and some issues are becoming priorities. I would like to

address one of them that doesn't get a lot of attention, and it should.

I don't agree with former President George W. Bush on many things, but I have given him credit repeatedly for making the United States a leader in stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Twenty years ago, the program was called the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, what Bono once said was "the most eloquent expression of American values anyone can think of in recent times."

You see, PEPFAR, and its companion effort, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, dramatically curtailed the AIDS epidemic that was ravaging the world. It has saved more than 25 million lives so far.

Both of these programs provided retroviral drugs for those with AIDS, allowing them to live productive lives and prevent the spread of disease through childbirth.

They have been so effective that some might have forgotten just how devastating AIDS was in certain parts of the world. At one point, it was killing more than 2 million people a year globally and leaving 14 million orphans in sub-Saharan Africa. In some of the most highly affected countries, life expectancy had dropped 20 years.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund dramatically improved outcomes for millions of people across the world. These programs are not only the right thing to do, they are also one of the most effective examples of America's soft power and the international development effort and a stark contrast of what China and others are displaying in many parts of the world.

So imagine my concern and surprise that there is currently an effort by extreme Republicans in the House of Representatives to block the reauthorization of this hugely successful, bipartisan George W. Bush program over a false and manufactured abortion concern. Taking the extreme position of

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S5221

blocking this lifesaving program is as shortsighted and nihilistic as siding with Vladimir Putin and failing to help Ukraine.

Just last week, the Bush Institute and a group of more than 30 retired Ambassadors and foreign policy leaders urged Congress to swiftly reauthorize PEPFAR.

They wrote:

Abandoning it abruptly now would send a bleak message, suggesting we are no longer able to set aside our politics for the betterment of democracies and the world.

With this, I agree completely. Right now, America's reputation on the global stage is being threatened by House Republicans' internal politics, but reauthorizing PEPFAR is common sense to reassure the world that Americans can push past partisanship and use our influence, resources, and power to save lives. Some things are simply beyond politics.

Former President Bush acknowledged this when he wrote in the Washington Post recently:

We are on the verge of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic. To abandon our commitment now would forfeit two decades of unimaginable progress and raise further questions about the worth of America's word.

I couldn't agree more, and I call on my Republican friends to help reauthorize this historic, bipartisan, lifesaving effort without further delay.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, you see, bipartisan efforts are necessary to get meaningful things done in Washington. We accept that in the Senate. And right now, the most pressing item requiring a bipartisan effort is passing appropriations bills that finally fund the government for the next fiscal year. Government shutdowns should not be commonplace in Washington, and yet, under the other party's leadership, they have been.

Almost exactly a month ago, Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown by passing a stopgap bill that funded the government at current levels for 45 days, until the middle of November. Forty-five days could have been enough for the two parties in the two Chambers to negotiate a plan, a compromise, but a few extreme Republicans got in the way.

Without a Speaker in the House of Representatives for more than 3 weeks, the House was unable to take action. The House was rendered useless in helping to create a plan to fund the government. And now, with only 18 days until the government's lights are turned off, time is running out. While the House was paralyzed and unable to govern, here in the Senate, we were diligently working across party lines to negotiate a funding package. For the past week, the Senate has been considering amendments on a package of three funding bills known as the minibus. The minibus provides funding for military construction as well as for the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development.

And I worked with the Presiding Officer to ensure that the package includes important funding for the people, families, and communities of our State of Illinois. For example, it includes more than \$5 million for agriculture-related spending in our State, funding that will continue cutting-edge agricultural research in our State and send rural development dollars to small towns to make healthcare and emergency services more comprehensive in underserved areas. The package also earmarks more than \$16 million for military construction projects in Illinois, funding that will facilitate training and readiness for our men and women in uniform. It includes more than \$35 million in earmarks for community development and infrastructure projects to improve roads, transit, airports, and community centers.

This minibus will strengthen communities in Illinois and is being worked on, on a bipartisan basis. I am glad to support its passage, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I just got back from an important event at the White House where President Biden announced a first-ever Executive order regulating AI, artificial intelligence. I applaud the President for breaking new ground with this Executive order, and I told him that the Senate will work very closely with the White House to do more on AI through legislation.

Tomorrow, the Senate's bipartisan AI gang—Senators HEINRICH, ROUNDS, YOUNG, and myself—will meet with President Biden at the White House to talk about the next steps we can take to work together. While today's AI Executive order is a massive step forward, everyone agrees there is no substitute for congressional action. Congress must act, must take the next step to build upon, augment, and expand today's Executive order by the President, and we must do it through bipartisan legislation.

We must act with urgency but also with humility, balancing both innovation and commonsense safeguards because you can't do one without the other. We must act with urgency because other countries may take a lead on AI—and countries particularly with values we don't share. But we must act with humility because this is one of the hardest tasks Congress can undertake because AI is so complicated, so

far-reaching, and changing all the time.

On Wednesday morning, the Senate will bring some of the Nation's leading minds in labor, business, and tech to talk about AI's impact on America's workforce, as part of our third AI Insight Forum. And on Wednesday afternoon, we will hold our fourth AI Insight Forum to discuss areas where AI will have an especially high impact, including healthcare, financial services, and our justice system.

If the Senate's AI Insight Forums have made anything clear so far, it is that the government must be involved in AI, must be ready to invest significantly toward AI innovation, and that we don't have a lot of time. AI development is moving quickly. Adversaries like the Chinese Government are moving quickly. So Congress has to act quickly too. That is why I am encouraged that the Senate's efforts on AI so far have been both balanced and bipartisan.

We need a lot of voices at the table, not just AI developers, although they must be there, but critics worried about AI's potential harms and advocates from labor and civil rights and other areas. Everyone must have a hand in shaping the legislation.

But our AI efforts must also remain bipartisan. They have to be because the goal is to pass legislation, and that will only happen if both sides work together. So far, thankfully, bipartisanship is precisely what we have seen at the committee level, and through our bipartisan AI gang—which I am proud to be part of alongside Senators ROUNDS, YOUNG, and HEINRICH—we are making very good progress.

So, again, I applaud the President for today's first-ever AI Executive order and note that the Senate will build on today's announcement by working to get closer to passing bipartisan legislation. We cannot afford to wait.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Madam President, on the supplemental, tomorrow morning, the Senate Appropriations Committee will hear testimony from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken about why Congress must pass President Biden's supplemental request—with aid for Israel, Ukraine, the South Pacific, and humanitarian help for Gaza—and do so quickly.

Right now, America faces an unavoidable moment of truth. Democracy and freedom are under attack around the globe in ways we have not seen since the end of the Cold War. We must pass the President's supplemental as soon as we can, with bipartisan support, for a simple and important reason: It will make the world safer for the United States, our allies, and our democratic values.

In the Middle East, Hamas and its allies, like Iran and Hezbollah, seek nothing less than the total annihilation of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East and the only Jewish

State on Earth. In Europe, Putin continues his onslaught against the Ukrainian people with the goal of not just subjugating Ukraine but reasserting Russia as a world power along the lines of the old Soviet Union. In the South Pacific, China's aggression continues to magnify, increasing military activities off the coast of Taiwan, ramming into Philippine Coast Guard ships, and having near misses with an American B-52 bomber over international airspace. That is what the Chinese Government is doing, and this is all in just the past few weeks.

And in Gaza we must ensure that humanitarian aid gets to civilians who need it urgently. This is one of the things that I pushed strongly for President Biden to include in his supplemental request.

All of these challenges share one thing in common: They directly impact—directly impact—America's national security, America's democratic values, and the international world order that has allowed democracy to take root. The way forward is exceptionally clear: We must pass the President's supplemental request, which has funding for Israel, Ukraine, and the South Pacific, while also providing critical humanitarian aid for Gaza.

America does not have the luxury of burying our head in the sand or leaving our friends to fend for themselves. If we want the world to remain a safe place for freedom, for democratic principles, and for America's prosperity, we must defend against those who are working hard to undermine us. So we need to pass this supplemental as soon as we can.

We need to work with our colleagues in the House to ensure all these forms of aid make it to the President's desk. We must not succumb to the false allures of isolationism that the hard right now professes, because the only thing that will achieve is to make America less safe.

#### CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Madam President, about what happened at Cornell, I am sickened and frightened by the news that has come out of Cornell University where, over the weekend, messages appeared on a noncampus online forum calling for violence—violence—against the school's Jewish community. The posts made specific references to a building on campus housing the Center for Jewish Living and called for violence toward Jewish students.

Cornell has decried this appalling act and has alerted the FBI. The incident targeting Cornell's Jewish community is utterly revolting, but, unfortunately, it was not an isolated occurrence. Across the country, on campuses and in public spaces, the ancient poison of anti-Semitism has found new life. The ADL reports that the incidents of anti-Semitism are up over 300 percent since Hamas's attack in Israel on October 7.

In cities ranging from L.A. to Indianapolis to New York—and, in fact, all

around the world—Jews are receiving death threats, vandalism, and public assaults for no other reason than because of who they are. In one instance reported by the ADL, a woman was punched in the face in Grand Central Terminal in New York. When she asked her assailant why he did that, he said: "You are Jewish."

Anti-Semitism is absolutely on the rise here in America, and we have an obligation—a strong obligation—to condemn this behavior whenever we see it, wherever we see it, and no matter who spreads it. Every single American—no matter his or her background, no matter their beliefs, no matter how they feel about the awful violence in the Middle East and its history—ought to condemn with full-throated clarity anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of racial and religious prejudice. We must condemn all forms of hate.

Nobody denies that people of good will can have disagreements about the conflict in the Middle East, but the redline is crossed when these disagreements lead to violence or threats of violence like what is happening, unfortunately, in too many communities around the country.

And no matter what our beliefs are, all of us must remain vigilant—absolutely vigilant—against critiques that quickly turn into threats of violence and outright anti-Semitism. Here in America, we must condemn anti-Semitism, always. We must condemn all forms of Islamophobia, always. We must fight all discrimination and preserve the values that make us American to begin with: that all people have dignity and a right to live securely always.

#### UNITED AUTO WORKERS

Madam President, finally, on the UAW, last Wednesday night, the United Auto Workers reached agreement with Ford Motor Company for better wages, better benefits, and stronger workplace protections. Last Saturday, the UAW reached a tentative deal with Stellantis, mirroring the agreement with Ford. And, today, it has been reported that the UAW has finally reached an agreement with GM, the last of the three automakers that the UAW was negotiating with.

Madam President, it is simple: When unions win, workers win, the middle class wins, America wins. These announcements are very good news not just for autoworkers but for all Americans who want better paying jobs and better working conditions.

Automakers have made staggering profits in recent years after workers made enormous sacrifices in the aftermath of the great recession. So now workers deserve those profits, and these agreements rebalance things in a fairer way, which had been unbalanced after 2008.

I am glad these tentative agreements have now been reached.

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. Madam 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.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last Thursday, I traveled back to my home State of Texas but this time to the U.S.-Mexico border, along with Senator CRUZ—my colleague from Texas—as well as three of our non-Texas Senate colleagues. Senators BARRASSO, LEE, and RICKETTS joined us for a series of tours and meetings in the Rio Grande Valley, which is unlike any other place in America.

This has been one of many times that Senator CRUZ and I have welcomed our colleagues to the border because every time I hear people in Washington, DC, talk about the border, it is most likely something they have gleaned from movies or a novel that they have read somewhere. It is not based on reality.

And the truth is, the reality at the border has changed substantially from years ago when illegal immigration was primarily people coming to the United States to work and send money home. It has changed entirely to a global human smuggling enterprise that enriches the criminal organization to organize it, charging tens of thousands of dollars a head to people they smuggle into the United States. And if you come from special interest countries, like Iran, Syria, for example, you may have to pay tens of thousands of dollars, but you can still make your way in because of the broken border policies of the Biden administration, which I will talk about here in a moment.

It really is a shame that such a beautiful, vibrant region of our country that has benefited tremendously from the opportunities that come from living along an international border has been damaged and hurt in such an unfortunate way by the flood of humanity and drugs coming across.

Legitimate trade and travel have shaped the unique culture of our border and serve as a boon not just to local economies but to the entire American economy. But like so many other areas along the U.S.-Mexico border, this region has become overwhelmed by the weight of the current border crisis.

Last month alone, Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector—just one of many sectors of the Border Patrol—logged more than 45,000 border crossings. In the last year, nearly 340,000 migrants have crossed the Rio Grande Valley Sector, and, overwhelmingly, the Biden administration has simply just released them into the interior of the United States, which has, in turn, proved to be a magnet for more people to come.

If, in fact, the Biden administration wanted to deter illegal immigration, they would stop people from coming to

the border and entering the country illegally, and it would send people back who somehow made it over. That would act as a deterrent.

But right now, notwithstanding the messages of people like Mayor Adams, from New York City, when he recently went to Mexico City, he said: Don't come. Don't come—well, the people who make the dangerous journey from their home to the border and into the interior of the United States, they frequently have access to this thing called television and to this instrument we call a telephone. So they can see people making their way across the border successfully, and they can talk to relatives who have made the trip on the telephone who say: I made it. You can too. Thus, we have seen this huge flood of migrants across the border swell into a virtual tsunami.

It used to be that the overwhelming number of migrants came from Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries. And that is when I hear Vice President HARRIS and others talk—Secretary Blinken—about root causes, like they want to go in and nation-build in order to discourage people from those countries to come to the United States, which tells me they really don't understand the nature of the current phenomenon because it is not just people coming from Mexico and Central America; President Biden's border policies have made it so that people from virtually anywhere in the world can come to the southern border, say the magic words, and be released into the United States.

In fact, we learned on our most recent trip that many migrants don't even claim asylum before they are released because there simply isn't enough capacity to hold them once they cross the border and then return them where they came from. And there aren't anywhere near enough removal flights to deport migrants without valid legal claims to stay here.

So it is no surprise that people are traveling from all over the world, literally, to take advantage of this open border policy. Agents in the Rio Grande Valley Sector told us that they have apprehended, recently, migrants from China, from Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and other countries around the globe. America's southern border is the world's worst kept secret.

When we arrived on Thursday night, we witnessed the sheer volume and diversity of migrants arriving at the border. Some of my colleagues spoke with a family from Moldova. You will have to look that up on your map. But it is not Mexico. It is not Central America. But they just crossed over the border moments earlier. You might ask yourself what would a man and his wife and their 2- or 3-year-old daughter—how did they make it from Eastern Europe to Texas's Rio Grande Valley. And the answer is simple: with human smugglers.

Cartels and other criminal organizations have hit the jackpot with the

Biden border crisis. Indeed, you could say that President Biden has outsourced U.S. immigration policy to these criminal organizations because they are running the show, not President Biden.

In 2021 alone, they made an estimated \$13 billion from human smuggling operations. That is just the human smuggling alone. Since then, the number of border crossings, of course, has skyrocketed. They get paid by the head, so that is good business for the cartels. And I imagine their profits have skyrocketed even further.

Cartel smuggling operations aren't limited to Mexico and Central America. For the right price, these criminal organizations will help anyone from anywhere reach the United States and make their way into the interior.

As those who have made the journey can attest, it is an extremely dangerous one, particularly for vulnerable women and children. Human smugglers don't view these migrants as fellow human beings; they view them as a commodity. Migrants are abused, neglected, extorted for more money. Women are often raped or sold for sex. Some migrants have been simply abandoned and left for dead if they become injured or unable to continue their travel.

At one checkpoint, which is about 100 miles into the interior of Falfurrias, TX—it is called Brooks County—they have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in this little, relatively poor, Texas county burying the bones of dead migrants who have died from exposure in their county because what happens is, once people come across the border, the smugglers—sometimes called coyotes—they put them in stash houses. Actually, we saw one stash house. And then when the time is right, they are loaded in the vans and then transported up the highway. That is the reason for the checkpoint about 100 miles inland. But what the coyotes do is they tell the migrants: Get out of the vehicle before we reach the checkpoint; walk around the checkpoint; and we will meet you on the north side.

Well, for migrants who have come hundreds of miles, or further, already suffering from exposure to make it in the hot Texas summers, where it frequently exceeds 100 degrees, it should be no surprise that some of them—many of them, unfortunately—do not make it. So that is another consequence of the Biden border crisis and open border policies.

And even after they cross the border, many migrants still owe massive debts to the cartels who will not hesitate to use them for forced labor or sex trafficking. In fact, if you go to parts of Houston, TX, you will see women who basically are sex slaves because they are working off their debt to the people who smuggled to get them into the interior of the United States in the first place.

As I mentioned, we also visited a stash house where we saw the migrants

awaiting the next step of their journey, and I hate to imagine what the cartels have in store for these individuals. But we know these migrants are not the only victims of the border crisis. While agents are busy processing and transporting migrants, it creates an open highway for cartels and criminal organizations smuggling drugs into the United States. They, of course, have spotters. They use drones for technology to see where the Border Patrol is and where they are not. And they use that knowledge to smuggle fentanyl, heroin—and God knows what else—across the border and into our communities.

Here is a shocking statistic, at least it was to me. I don't know whether the President of the United States even knows this. But the No. 1 killer of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 is a synthetic opioid called fentanyl—leading cause of death for Americans 18 to 45.

We know where it comes from. The precursors come from China. They make their way to Mexico where the cartels mix them up, run them through industrial-capacity pill presses, and make them look like relatively innocuous pharmaceuticals. And then when a young man or a young woman, let's say, in high school, like Sienna—whose father gave me this rubber wristband at the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District last April—they take this, thinking, Well, it is a relatively innocuous pharmaceutical like Percocet or Xanax, but then they don't wake up the next day, of course, leaving grieving families wondering what in the world happened and how could this happen to them and their child.

Drug overdoses alone have taken the lives of about 110,000 Americans a year, currently. And as I said, fentanyl is responsible for about two-thirds of it. Of course, we aren't just worried about substances coming across the border but dangerous people too: criminals, people on the Terrorist Watchlist, people coming from special interest countries like the ones I mentioned.

It used to be that the number of people on the Terrorist Watchlist who were apprehended along the southern border by the Border Patrol was in the single digits. In the past year, at least 169 were apprehended. And that doesn't account for the "got-aways." The "got-aways" are the 1½ million people who have been seen on cameras or detected on sensors but who have evaded capture by the Border Patrol. And you can bet that they are up to no good because they simply—if they actually wanted to make their way into the interior of the United States and didn't have a criminal record or were transporting drugs or on a Terrorist Watchlist, they can just—like almost everybody else under the Biden administration—come to the border, say the magic words, and the Biden administration would release them into the interior of the United States. But we have had 1½ million

“got-aways” evade law enforcement since President Biden took office, including 169 people on the Terrorist Watchlist.

It seems like a long time ago to many people, particularly if you are relatively young, but it was September 11, 2001, where 19 people killed 3,000 Americans by flying airplanes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and taking down a plane over Pennsylvania.

So 19 terrorists killed 3,000 Americans back in 2001. We know that at least 169 people on the Terrorist Watchlist have been apprehended so far. We don't know how many actually have made their way into the United States, but it is a safe bet it is people from countries all around the world where the prevailing ideology is to kill Americans in the United States.

So the truth is really, depressingly, stranger than even fiction here because the potential for us to wake up someday and have a terrorist attack in our country as a result of uncontrolled migration across the southern border is very real, and it is growing by the day.

Yes, there is a humanitarian and security crisis at the border, and it is impacting all of our country. That is the reason you have Senators from Nebraska and Utah and Wyoming coming to the border, because, as several of them said, every State is now a border State. Recently, one of our colleagues from Montana was there, and he said: You know, the fentanyl that comes across the border has made its way into the communities in my State, in Montana, in the northern border of our country.

So every State has become a border State as a result of the Biden open border policy.

We know migrants are being exploited and abused. American families are being terrorized by the opioid epidemic. Cities in Texas and across the country are struggling to keep up with the mass humanitarian needs of migrants. Yes, we heard from Mayor Adams from New York; we heard from Mayor Bowser here in Washington, DC; the mayor of Chicago; the Governors of Massachusetts and Illinois. This is a national crisis.

The situation is extremely complex, but the solution doesn't have to be. We need deterrence through consequences. That is what the Border Patrol tells me and tells anybody who will listen. If there are no consequences to entering the country illegally, people are going to just keep coming. I think we all understand why. But if we are going to deliver consequences, which means to deter more people from coming, that means ending catch-and-release, which is the policy of the Biden administration. We need to actually remove people who have no legal reason to remain in the United States. That means expedited removal. We need to send a message to people who have no legal reasons to remain in the United States that if they come, they will not be able

to stay. It is really not any more complicated than that. Congress doesn't need to do a rewrite of our immigration laws in order to give President Biden the authority to do these things. He already has that authority under existing law, but he won't use it.

Deterrence is a key component of a safe and secure border. Until the administration starts deterring would-be migrants with frivolous asylum claims from even approaching our border, we will remain in a constant state of crisis. And I predict it will get worse. We have just seen a record number of people coming across the border. That number is going to continue to grow as more and more people know that if they show up at the border and say the magic words, President Biden will say: Come on in.

The only way to truly understand what is happening at the border is to see it firsthand and to speak with the individuals who live and work in our border communities. I have had the pleasure, as I said earlier, of taking dozens of Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, down to the border to hear from these men and women firsthand. I appreciate all of our colleagues who made the trip and continue to advocate for smart border policies, especially, most recently, Senators BAR-RASSO, LEE, and RICKETTS.

I want to thank the many men and women in the Rio Grande Valley who took the time out of their schedule to speak with us. Their input is absolutely invaluable to the work of the Senate. I am extremely grateful to each of them.

I want to especially thank the law enforcement officers who are on the frontlines of this crisis. Every day, Federal, State, and local law enforcement put their lives on the line to safeguard our border and stop potentially dangerous individuals and drugs from reaching our communities, but they need our help, and they are not getting it today. They deserve more than our gratitude; they deserve our commitment to fix this crisis in any way we can.

President Biden has not only proven himself incapable but also unwilling to address this border crisis, so Congress needs to step in and fill the void. In the coming weeks, the Senate will advance legislation to address some of our greatest national security threats, including action to address the border crisis.

As my colleagues and I saw last week, this crisis cannot be fixed with more no-strings-attached funding. We will not fund current border policies under the Biden administration. As long as a flood of humanity is coming across the border at this pace, it doesn't matter how many Border Patrol agents or immigration judges we have; it won't be enough.

The only way to address this crisis is by deterring more illegal immigration, and the simplest way of doing that is by delivering consequences for entering

the country illegally. It is a tried-and-true strategy that has worked countless times before.

In the coming weeks, I hope Congress will step in where President Biden has refused and establish deterrence once again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE MIKE JOHNSON

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, only in the United States of America can the son of a Shreveport firefighter, the first college graduate in his family—only in our country can a person like this win a seat in Congress and just a few years later be elected the 56th Speaker of the House.

Speaker MIKE JOHNSON made history for our country and my home State by becoming the first Speaker of the House of Representatives ever from Louisiana. If you are from Louisiana—more particularly from Shreveport, Bossier, or Northwest Louisiana—or, by the way, if you graduated from Captain Shreve, you know MIKE JOHNSON. He is the pride of them all. He is a straight shooter, a family man, a diligent man.

Jim McCrery was the Congressman who held that same seat at a time in the past. When I was first elected, he gave me this advice: Keep your word, show up, and do your homework.

I am sure he gave that same advice to MIKE JOHNSON or, if not, MIKE just was naturally that way, because it describes him to a tee. It is the reason why he is able to unify House Republicans, winning every Republican vote for Speaker for the first time since 2011.

He has the ability to bridge divides that a lot of very capable people were not able to do. MIKE brought together people who disagreed and kept them talking until they found a way forward. That is what leaders do. He is strong in his convictions, but he is not someone looking to steamroll others. He is a unifier and has a talent for working with folks to find common ground.

We have all seen the push and pull between those who wish to govern and, frankly, those who are not very interested in governing. MIKE wishes to govern. He wants to govern with conservative principles to get things done for the country and, hopefully, for my State as well. He has the temperament, intelligence, and integrity to do that as Speaker.

I look forward to working with him to address issues like investing in American energy, securing our southern border, addressing the insurance crisis in Louisiana and nationwide, and finally doing something about the long-term debt being driven, among other things, by a Social Security Program going insolvent. With a conservative Speaker working to secure conservative wins, the country will do well.

We both share a strong sense of duty, a deep faith, and a love for God. You

could see his faith shine through in his speech when he won the vote. Of course, we share a deep love for our home State, Louisiana. Having a Speaker from Louisiana will help bring some good Louisiana values, perspective, priorities, and maybe even a little boiled crawfish to Washington, DC.

Congratulations, Speaker JOHNSON, and to his wife Kelly and their four wonderful children.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, well, it is Country Music Month, and in Nashville, you will hear people say "it all begins with a song."

And, indeed, when we think about the playlists on our phones, when we think about the songs that frame our life, that is very true. And we love the fact that we get to celebrate the creative community every single year during Country Music Month. And this week, the Senate should pass a resolution that Senator KAINE and I have filed. It is designating October as National Country Music Month.

Now, Bristol, TN, Bristol, VA, right there on the State line, that is the birthplace of country music. So you have got a little bit of Tennessee and a little bit of Virginia, and we share that richness and that history. And what our resolution does is to highlight our States'—Tennessee's and Virginia's—rich, shared history of fostering creativity, of dreaming those big dreams, and then setting those dreams and thoughts to words and music.

The music that these artists, songwriters, and musicians create has had a profound impact not only on country music as a genre but on the evolution of American music.

Tennessee artists have the unique power to unite us as Americans. With that in mind, I want to thank my colleagues in advance for celebrating our creative community with us and helping designate October as National Country Music Month. But our work is not done. These musicians need our help getting paid for their art, controlling the business side of their careers, and protecting their intellectual property.

I want to highlight a few bills this body must pass to maintain our position as a cultural and artistic leader and a creative hub. The United States is the only democratic nation in the world where artists are not compensated for the use of their songs on AM/FM radio. Now, as I said, we are the only democratic nation that does not compensate these artists. Now, Iran and North Korea are two of the only other countries with this distinction.

Senator PADILLA and I have introduced a bipartisan piece of legislation—the American Music Fairness Act—which would right this wrong and ensure performers are compensated when their songs are played on the radio.

Now, Senator PADILLA and I could probably have a great discussion about, Does California have more artists and singers and songwriters or does Tennessee? But I think Tennessee probably has more of those artists and songwriters.

Now, not being paid for the use of their music on radio has been a decades-long injustice that hurts Americans at home and abroad. As I said, the United States is the only democratic nation that does not pay for that radio play. So the majority of foreign nations—those who already pay their own artists for radio airplay—currently withhold royalties from American music creators simply because the United States does not reciprocate by paying their performers. This amounts to a massive financial hit for our American artists.

Now, when you talk with them, what you will learn from different royalty rights organizations is our entertainers here are missing out on about \$200 million each year in income to those musicians—\$200 million a year. That is money that would come from other countries to our American artists if we were to pass the American Music Fairness Act.

(Ms. BUTLER assumed the Chair.)

Senator PADILLA and I have worked hard on this. It is bipartisan. We think to not pay these artists is something that needs to be fixed, and that is why we should agree to get the American Music Fairness Act to the President's desk without delay.

Now, I also worked with the late Senator Dianne Feinstein—and, Madam President, we welcome you. We know you have big shoes to fill in Senator Feinstein's seat. Senator Feinstein and I often talked about the importance of keeping this American creative community here and keeping that community vibrant, and she and I worked together to introduce a piece of bill that is called the HITS Act. This is the Help Independent Tracks Succeed, HITS.

Now, this bill would allow independent music creators—including musicians, technicians, songwriters, and producers—to deduct 100 percent of recording production expenses in the year that those expenses are incurred. The Federal Tax Code already allows film, television, theater productions to do this, and there is no reason not to give our music creators this same benefit. Think about that. Somebody goes in; they book that studio time; they lay down those tracks; they lay down those vocals; you get a producer that produces it; the musicians play on it; the technicians come in and tweak this—and they cannot deduct all of that expense. This is not fair, especially when you consider that TV, film, theater—they can all deduct 100 percent.

So Senator Feinstein and I worked on this, got it ready to go. This is another one that needs to pass. These two pieces of legislation really have something very important in common. They

recognize that entertainment as a career is both a creative pursuit and it is a very fragile business model. It requires that those individuals be able to exercise their intellectual property rights to benefit from their creations.

And one of the top concerns I hear from entertainers and their teams is the extent to which AI will—and already has—damaged their businesses. So we have another issue that has come on. In addition to not being fully compensated, then these entertainers are looking at the impact that artificial intelligence is going to have on their business.

Now, Congress is already late to the AI issue. We all know that, and I am delighted that we are beginning to see bipartisan interest in moving forward some legislation on guidelines and guardrails for artificial intelligence.

Creators have already begun to see that their voices, their likenesses, and their styles of music are used without their consent. And the danger to their livelihoods is real because they are not being compensated for their music that is used to train AI models that are actually going to take away the ability for them to make money on what they have created.

So in addition to not being paid for radio play, in addition to not being able to deduct production expense, now—here it comes—AI is going to mimic them and use name, image, likeness, voice cloning and take away more of their ability.

So Senator COONS and I have released a discussion draft on a piece of legislation to help protect these artists. It is called the NO FAKES Act. The NO FAKES Act would hold individuals, companies, and platforms accountable for digital replicas created or used without the consent of the individual that is being cloned or depicted in that replica. So it allows an entertainer to protect themselves, the replication of their voice, of their mannerisms, of their musical style.

Well, Hank Williams, Jr., has been quoted as saying, "Country music singers have always been a real close family." He is pretty right about that. And just like any family, I love it when you see all of these entertainers who are, in essence, competitors competing for radio time and studio time and tours and dates on their tours. They are competing for it all, but they come together, and they let you know when they need something and when something needs to be done. And addressing this AI issue is something that needs to be done.

So I would encourage my colleagues to talk to entertainers in their States and talk with them about the American Music Fairness Act, the HITS Act, and the NO FAKES Act, and what it would do to give them that control over their art, their name, their image, their likeness.

You know, here in the United States, whether we want to argue about: Is Tennessee the biggest or does California have the most or is Virginia the

real home and who produces the most records and lays down the most recording? What we can all agree on is that the United States of America is the hub for entertainment. It is where everyone wants to come, and, of course, we like that ingenuity and that creativity, and we love it that artists come to Nashville and say: We want to record that Nashville sound. Let us keep this industry viable.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF MATTHEW JAMES MADDOX

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Matthew Maddox to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland, and I urge my Senate colleagues to confirm his nomination.

I joined with Senator VAN HOLLEN to recommend Judge Maddox to President Biden. President Biden nominated Judge Maddox to this position in March of this year in order to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Paul Grimm in December of 2022.

Senator VAN HOLLEN and I have worked to establish a judicial selection committee in Maryland, including an open application process. In particular, we sought out a highly qualified and diverse applicant pool. Our committee interviewed several dozen applicants. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I then personally interviewed several finalists before recommending names to the White House.

I strongly agree with President Biden's goal to nominate judges with excellent legal credentials from diverse backgrounds from both professional and demographic perspectives, and today we have such an example of an excellent nominee from Maryland.

Judge Maddox was born and raised in Maryland and lives and works in Baltimore. He graduated summa cum laude from Morgan State University, an HBCU in Baltimore, in 1999, where he majored in philosophy and religious studies and minored in psychology. After receiving his B.A. degree, Judge Maddox was a Fulbright scholar and taught high school through the Teach for America Program. Judge Maddox received his J.D. degree from Yale Law School in 2011.

After working in private practice and serving in two judicial clerkships, in 2015, Judge Maddox was appointed as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Maryland. In this capacity, Judge Maddox prosecuted a range of criminal cases and conducted trainings for law enforcement on the topics of human trafficking and identity theft.

In 2020, Judge Maddox was selected to serve as Deputy Chief of the Major

Crimes Section in the Northern Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In February 2022, Judge Maddox was sworn in as a U.S. magistrate judge and sits in Baltimore. Judge Maddox now presides over both preliminary criminal proceedings and civil lawsuits by consent of the parties.

Judge Maddox therefore also brings remarkable experience to this position, having served as a Federal prosecutor for nearly a decade and now having served as a magistrate judge for over a year and a half. If confirmed and elevated from a magistrate judge to a district judge, he would continue to serve in the same court where he now serves and has practiced for many years.

The Judiciary Committee favorably reported Judge Maddox in a bipartisan vote in September of this year, and the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary awarded Judge Maddox a unanimously "well qualified" rating—its highest possible rating.

I was delighted to recommend the nomination of Judge Maddox to President Biden along with Senator VAN HOLLEN. Judicial nominees must meet the highest standards of integrity, competence, and temperament. I am confident that Judge Maddox will safeguard the rights of all Marylanders, uphold the Constitution and rule of law, and faithfully follow the judicial oath to "do equal right to the poor and to the rich." Judge Maddox will serve the people of Maryland well if confirmed for this lifetime appointment. Judge Maddox has strong legal and judicial qualifications and has demonstrated a track record of public service.

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

Again, I urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would ask consent that the vote scheduled for 5:30 p.m. start immediately.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 306, Mat-

thew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

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

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 Matthew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

##### YEAS—54

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

##### NAYS—40

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

##### NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Lee	Scott (SC)
Fetterman	Risch	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Minnesota.



## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. 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.

## S. RES. 437

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I commend the Senate for its passage of our bipartisan resolution, S. Res. 437, condemning anti-Semitism, including any anti-Semitic acts committed on university or college campuses. No one deserves to feel unsafe in their community or school or threatened because of their religion or ethnicity. On October 16, the FBI released their annual statistics on hate crimes, which stated that anti-Semitic hate crimes rose 25 percent from 2021 to 2022 and accounted for over half of all reported religiously based hate crimes. The onset of war between Israel and Hamas has further exacerbated these anti-Semitic threats and incidents targeting Jewish Americans and Jewish organizations here in the United States. As a member of the Senate Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism, I have an enduring and ongoing commitment to confront anti-Semitism wherever it rears its ugly head and to ensure we take all steps necessary to protect the Jewish community.

As we consider the best ways to counter anti-Semitism, it is important that we consult a range of definitions and tools to understand this problem. The White House's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism notes several of these tools, including the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance—IHRA—definition of anti-Semitism, as well as the Nexus Document and other efforts. Moreover, as Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt made crystal clear during her confirmation hearing, "Criticism of Israeli policy is not antisemitism." Unfortunately, there are some who are attempting to politically weaponize anti-Semitism by equating criticism of Israeli Government actions with anti-Semitism. These politically motivated charges only weaken good faith efforts to confront the very real danger of anti-Semitism. That is why our bipartisan resolution is so important during these troubling times; it sends a clear, united message that anti-Semitism cannot be tolerated and the fight against it should not become politicized.

## TRIBUTE TO EDDIE HUGHES

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Eddie Hughes on 60 years of service at UPS.

Eddie Hughes was born in Mt. Pleasant, MS, and moved to Indianapolis to take a job with UPS in 1963. His only hiatus came from 1965–1966, when Eddie served his country in the U.S. Army. Originally a package handler, Eddie became a UPS driver in 1968, a position he still holds to this day. During his 55 years in his current role, Eddie has driven an estimated 4.62 million miles making deliveries to Hoosiers. He has joined the company's "Circle of Honor," a distinction given to drivers who have amassed more than 25 years of safe driving.

Eddie and Mary, his wife of 42 years, live in Indianapolis. They have two adult children, William and Mary Elizabeth.

It is my honor to congratulate Mr. Hughes and his family on this remarkable milestone.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO PAM CUMMINGS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to outstanding educator Pam Cummings, the 2023 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year.

Cummings has dedicated her life to education and teaching the next generation of Arkansans. She started her career at a public charter school in Little Rock before becoming a history teacher in the Benton School District. For the last 12 years, she has shared her passion for history with Panther students in a number of classes, including U.S. history, advanced placement government, and world history. Her interest in history shapes her lessons and that enthusiasm is passed along to her students. When students see the real-world effect of what she is teaching, it brings her joy to see the connection. In addition to earning bachelor's degrees in journalism and political science, she has master's degrees in American history and government and education theory and practice. This leaves no doubt about her expertise and excellence in the classroom. In 2018, Cummings was named a recipient of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship for Arkansas. She has also served on the Arkansas Coalition for Social Studies.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the History Teacher of the Year award is presented by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Nation's leading organization dedicated to K–12 American history education. The award honors one K–12 history teacher from each State, Washington DC, Department of Defense schools, and U.S. Territories.

Teachers shape the future. Arkansans can be proud knowing our youth have such a talented and knowledgeable educator who is committed to her craft. I congratulate Pam Cummings for this achievement and the positive impact she is making on the community. I am confident her efforts are inspiring a lifelong interest in history. •

## RECOGNIZING CRAYONS 2 PENCILS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Crayons 2 Pencils of Norwalk, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women's Small Business Month and National Veterans Small Business Week.

Owned and operated by husband and wife duo Matt and Jill Larsen in Norwalk, IA, Crayons 2 Pencils is an early learning center and recreation center providing childcare services to the Norwalk community. Following her career in corporate America, Jill's start in early childhood learning and development was in 2008, when she taught 13 kids in her home. In 2015, Jill partnered with her friend Cindy Gavin to use the same childcare curriculum in each of their homes. In 2016, Jill and Cindy were able to move their childcare operation into one location when they opened the Crayons 2 Pencils Early Childhood Center. Over the years, they have grown to 63 employees, with additional positions available over the summer months. Crayons 2 Pencils currently provides care to 281 children.

In 2020, Matt joined Crayons 2 Pencils full-time as a jack-of-all-trades driving the school bus, organizing construction projects, and handling the technology and security systems. In 2022, Crayons 2 Pencils opened the Crayons 2 Pencils Recreation Center, which serves preschool through third grade and is equipped with a gym, sand volleyball court, stage, and additional classrooms. In 2023, Crayons 2 Pencils celebrated their seventh business anniversary.

Service to our country is integral to the Larsen family. Matt has served in the Iowa Air National Guard for 18 years and was deployed to Iraq. Following in Matt's footsteps, their son Jayden also serves in the Iowa Air National Guard, in addition to being a member of Iowa State University's Spirit Squad with his sister Joslyn.

Crayons 2 Pencils is also actively involved in the Norwalk community. They are active members of the Norwalk Area Chamber of Commerce, being one of the sponsors of the second annual Celebrate Norwalk Party in City Park in 2023 and hosting the Norwalk Career Fair in 2021. They have also served as a valuable resource to other childcare centers in the area by mentoring and teaching courses on childcare to directors and employees.

Crayons 2 Pencil's commitment to providing outstanding childcare services in Norwalk, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Matt and Jill Larsen and the entire team at Crayons 2 Pencils for their continued dedication. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa. •



## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3168. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-2624. 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 13851 with respect to Nicaragua; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2625. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Existing Validated End-User Authorizations in the People's Republic of China: Samsung China Semiconductor Co. Ltd. and SK hynix Semiconductor (China) Ltd." (RIN0694-AJ39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2626. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Entities to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AJ40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2627. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Transfer of access information and release of software (source code and object code)" (RIN0694-AJ37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2628. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Consumer Credit Card Market—Oct. 2023"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2629. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting of Securities Loans" (RIN3235-AN01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2630. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Short Position and Short Activity Reporting by Institutional Investment Managers" (RIN3235-AM34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2631. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Outer Continental

Shelf Air Regulations; Consistency Update for Virginia" (FRL No. 9366-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2632. 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 Disapproval; Delaware; Removal of Excess Emissions Provisions" (FRL No. 11037-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2633. 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 Approval Plan; Arkansas; Excess Emissions" (FRL No. 11128-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2634. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revisions for Reclassified Moderate Non-attainment Areas for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)" (FRL No. 11287-01-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2635. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Non-Hazardous Secondary Material Standards; Response to Petition" (FRL No. 7815-01-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2636. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding that Lead Emissions from Aircraft Engines that Operate on Leaded Fuel Cause or Contribute to Air Pollution that May Reasonably Be Anticipated to Endanger Public Health and Welfare" (FRL No. 5934-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2637. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reference Measurement Principle and Calibration Procedure for the Measurement of Ozone in the Atmosphere (Chemiluminescence Method)" (RIN2060-AV63) (FRL No. 9344-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2638. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Virginia; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Hampton Roads Area" (FRL No. 10213-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2639. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Reformulated Gasoline Covered Areas" (RIN2060-AV87) (FRL No. 10290-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2640. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Restrictions on the Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020" (FRL No. 8831-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2641. A communication from the President of the United States to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to United States forces conducting targeted strikes against facilities in eastern Syria, received during adjournment of the Senate on October 27, 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## 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. LUJÁN:

S. 3161. A bill to require third-party delivery platforms to follow certain pricing practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3162. A bill to improve the requirement for the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish testbeds to support the development and testing of trustworthy artificial intelligence systems and to improve interagency coordination in development of such testbeds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 3163. A bill to strengthen protections against child labor violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3164. A bill to state the policy of the United States with respect to religious freedom in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3165. A bill to help persons in the United States experiencing homelessness and significant behavioral health issues, including substance use disorder, by authorizing a grant program within the Department of Health and Human Services to assist State and local governments, continuums of care, community-based organizations that administer both health and homelessness services, and providers of services to people experiencing homelessness, better coordinate health care and homelessness services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 3166. A bill to prohibit official United States Government business from being conducted in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, to suspend foreign assistance to the Gaza Strip until Hamas no longer exercises authority over the Gaza Strip, and to require reports and impose sanctions with respect to the provision of services to Hamas, financial transactions that benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the use of human shields, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 3167. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the treatment of certain association health plans as employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. VANCE, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3168. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S.J. Res. 47. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice relating to "Office of the Attorney General; Home Confinement Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act"; 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. WHITEHOUSE:

S. Res. 440. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2023 as "National Youth Justice Action Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 441. A resolution designating October 2023 as "National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 140

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title

28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 462

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

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1375, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply additional payments, discounts, and other financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

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

S. 1884

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 2085

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

S. 2286

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2286, a bill to improve the effectiveness and performance of certain Federal financial assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2407

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2407, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2415, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the

health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 2569

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful.

S. 2755

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2755, a bill to extend the requirement to staff Department of Defense Education Activity schools to maintain maximum student-to-teacher ratios.

S. 2778

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2778, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on competition among suppliers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2866

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2866, a bill to improve the customer experience of the Federal Government, ensure that Federal services are simple, seamless, and secure, and for other purposes.

S. 2986

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2986, a bill to prohibit the issuance of an interim or final rule, and to prohibit the inclusion in certain oil and gas leases, exploration or development plans, or well permits requirements or recommendations, that establish a vessel speed or operational restriction in the Central or Western Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico of the outer Continental Shelf until the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce complete a study demonstrating that proposed mitigation efforts would have no negative impact on supply chains, United States offshore energy production and generation, military activities, including readiness, and United States commercial and recreational fishing maritime commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 3006

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3006, a bill to ensure comprehensive wraparound services for families

impacted by substance use disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 3041

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3041, a bill to reinstate certain sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

S. 3094

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3094, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a proposed rule with respect to emissions from vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 3132

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3132, a bill to require regular reporting to Congress on individuals encountered along a border of the United States or a port of entry, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 38

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers".

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the article of amendment commonly known as the "Equal Rights Amendment" has been validly ratified and is enforceable as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and the Archivist of the United States must certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment without delay.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 413

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 413, a resolution condemning foreign nationals in the United States who have endorsed and espoused the actions of foreign terrorist organiza-

tions (FTO) in Gaza who, on October 7, 2023, launched attacks against the State of Israel, and killed innocent Israeli and United States citizens.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3165. A bill to help persons in the United States experiencing homelessness and significant behavioral health issues, including substance use disorder, by authorizing a grant program within the Department of Health and Human Services to assist State and local governments, continuums of care, community-based organizations that administer both health and homelessness services, and providers of services to people experiencing homelessness, better coordinate health care and homelessness services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Homelessness and Behavioral Health Care Coordination Act of 2023, Which I introduced today.

On any given night in the United States, more than 582,000 people are experiencing homelessness. An estimated 20 percent of those experiencing homelessness also have a behavioral health condition, including substance use disorders. While we know that the primary driver of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing units, we know that these behavioral and substance use disorders and conditions can further exacerbate homelessness.

In order to ensure that those experiencing these conditions can obtain and retain housing, we need to ensure that both housing and social service providers have the resources to work together to increase access to supportive services. That is why I am proud to introduce this bill that would establish a grant program through the Department of Health and Human Services that would award 5-year grants of up to \$500,000 to eligible entities to improve their capacity to coordinate culturally competent, trauma-informed behavioral health and homelessness services.

The bill would also create a Federal interagency working group, with representatives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to advise on how to carry out the program. The working group would also develop materials to facilitate understanding between Agencies offering health services and homelessness services.

I want to thank Representative MADELINE DEAN for introducing this bill with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in taking this key step to addressing the homelessness and behavioral health crises.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 440—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2023 AS "NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE ACTION MONTH"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 440

Whereas the historical role of the juvenile court system is to rehabilitate and treat young people while holding them accountable and maintaining public safety, and the juvenile court system is therefore better equipped to work with youth than the adult criminal justice system, which is punitive in nature;

Whereas youth are developmentally different from adults, and those differences have been—

(1) documented by research on the adolescent brain; and

(2) acknowledged by the Supreme Court of the United States, State supreme courts, and many State and Federal laws that prohibit youth under the age of 18 from taking on major adult responsibilities such as voting, jury duty, and military service;

Whereas youth who are placed under the commitment of the juvenile court system often do not receive access to age-appropriate services and education and remain far from their families, which increases the likelihood that those youth will commit offenses in the future;

Whereas every year in the United States, an estimated 76,000 youths are tried, sentenced, or incarcerated as adults, and most of those youth are prosecuted for nonviolent offenses;

Whereas most laws allowing the prosecution of youth as adults were enacted before the publication of research-based evidence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice demonstrating that prosecuting youth in adult court actually decreases public safety as, on average, youth prosecuted in adult court are 34 percent more likely to commit future crimes than youth retained in the juvenile court system;

Whereas youth of color, youth with disabilities, and youth with mental health issues are disproportionately represented at all stages of the criminal justice system;

Whereas it is harmful to public safety and to young people in the legal system to confine youth in adult jails or prisons where they are significantly more likely to be physically and sexually assaulted and often placed in solitary confinement;

Whereas youth sentenced as adults receive an adult criminal record that hinders future education and employment opportunities;

Whereas youth who receive extremely long sentences deserve an opportunity to demonstrate their potential to grow and change; and

Whereas in October, people around the United States participate in Youth Justice Action Month to increase public awareness of the issues facing youth transferred to the adult criminal justice system and to provide people across the United States with an opportunity to develop action-oriented events in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the collateral consequences normally applied in the adult criminal justice system should not automatically apply to youth arrested for crimes before the age of 18;

(2) expresses support for the designation of “National Youth Justice Action Month”;

(3) recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Youth Justice Action Month; and

(4) recognizes the importance of the continued implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, in a manner in keeping with the spirit and intent of the law.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 441—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 441

Whereas, in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401), a specific learning disability—

(1) is defined as a disorder in 1 or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations;

(2) includes conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia; and

(3) does not include a learning problem that is primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of intellectual disabilities, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage;

Whereas a specific learning disability is the most prevalent disability of students who are served by parts A through D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), impacting 34 percent of all students who received special education services;

Whereas, for academic year 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress reports that—

(1) more than 95 percent of 4th and 8th grade students with a specific learning disability were not proficient in reading; and

(2) more than 93 percent of 4th and 8th grade students with a specific learning disability were not proficient in math;

Whereas the math and reading scores reported by the National Assessment of Educational Progress for academic year 2022 indicate that Black and Hispanic students with a specific learning disability experience greater opportunity gaps than White and Asian students;

Whereas research shows that students with specific learning disabilities can achieve success commensurate with their peers, if given appropriate instruction and support;

Whereas developmentally appropriate universal screening should begin as early as possible to assess which students demonstrate the most pervasive risk factors for specific learning disabilities; and

Whereas research rooted in the science of reading establishes an evidence base of effective instructional methods for developing reading skills for students with or at risk for specific learning disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2023 as “National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month”; and

(2) calls on State and local education agencies to continue to meet the needs of stu-

dents with specific learning disabilities through a free and appropriate public education.

## MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3168

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3168) making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

## FIND AND PROTECT FOSTER YOUTH ACT

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 1146 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1146) to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to reports of children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1146) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1146

*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 “Find and Protect Foster Youth Act”.

### SEC. 2. ELIMINATING OBSTACLES TO IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF CHILDREN MISSING FROM FOSTER CARE AND OTHER VULNERABLE FOSTER YOUTH.

Section 476 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 676) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) EVALUATION OF PROTOCOLS RELATING TO CHILDREN MISSING FROM FOSTER CARE AND

OTHER VULNERABLE YOUTH; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the protocols established by States in accordance with the requirements of section 471(a)(35) and, to the extent applicable, by Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in section 479B(a)) or tribal consortia with a plan approved under section 471 in accordance with section 479B.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The evaluation shall include the following:

“(A) A review of relevant aspects of reports submitted by States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia under this part and part B, and data and other information reported pursuant to the system established under section 479.

“(B) Analysis of the extent to which States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia comply with, and enforce, the protocols required by section 471(a)(35).

“(C) Analysis of the effectiveness of such protocols.

“(D) Identification of obstacles for States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia to identifying and responding to reports of children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth.

“(E) Identification of best practices for identifying such children and youth and intervening with effective services.

“(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia with information, advice, educational materials, and technical assistance relating to eliminating identified obstacles to identifying and responding to reports of children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth and providing such children and youth with effective services. Such assistance may include dissemination of—

“(A) processes and tools to identify and examine risk factors and potential trends related to children who go missing from foster care and other vulnerable youth;

“(B) best practices for runaway tracking and recovery; and

“(C) guidelines for intervention, including with respect to services, types of providers, and placement settings.

“(4) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on the results of the evaluation conducted under this subsection and the technical assistance provided in accordance with paragraph (3).”.

### SEC. 3. IMPROVING SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN RETURNED TO FOSTER CARE AFTER GOING MISSING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WERE, OR ARE AT RISK OF BECOMING, VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING.

Section 476 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 676), as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) IMPROVING IDENTIFICATION OF, AND SERVICES FOR, CHILDREN WHO RETURN TO FOSTER CARE AFTER RUNNING AWAY OR OTHERWISE BEING ABSENT FROM FOSTER CARE AND WHO ARE, OR ARE AT RISK OF BEING, VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING.—

“(1) ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) SCREENING AFTER A RETURN TO FOSTER CARE.—The Secretary shall provide States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia, with information, advice, educational materials, and technical assistance to improve compliance with section 471(a)(35)(A)(iii).

“(B) IMPROVING OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The information, advice, educational materials,

and technical assistance provided may include information, advice, educational materials, and technical assistance to improve or modify policies and procedures (including relevant training for caseworkers) developed by States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia under section 471(a)(9)(C), including the following:

“(i) Identifying, through screening, whether the State has reasonable cause to believe the child or youth is, or is at risk of being, a victim of sex trafficking.

“(ii) Documenting the results of such screening in agency records.

“(iii) Determining appropriate services for a child or youth for whom the State determines there is reasonable cause to identify the child or youth as a victim of sex trafficking, or as at risk of being a victim of sex trafficking.

“(iv) Documenting in agency records the determination of appropriate services for a child or youth described in clause (iii).

“(2) FORMS OF ASSISTANCE.—The assistance provided under this subsection shall include the following:

“(A) Assisting States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia, with developing oversight mechanisms to assess their compliance with section 471(a)(35)(A)(iii).

“(B) Assisting States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia in developing—

“(i) assessments for screening children who return to foster care after running away or otherwise being absent from foster care for risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking; and

“(ii) effective and robust policies relating to the use of the assessments.

“(C) Working with States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia to improve or modify policies and procedures developed under section 471(a)(9)(C).

“(D) Providing technical assistance on how States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia may best use data collected pursuant to section 479 for oversight of, and to ensure compliance with, the requirements of paragraphs (9)(C) and (35)(A)(iii) of section 471(a).

“(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, consult with internal and external offices with expertise on sex trafficking, including the Office on Trafficking in Persons of the Administration for Children and Families, on the development and dissemination to States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia of the assistance required under this subsection.”.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 31; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Maddox

nomination postcloture; further, that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and that following the cloture vote on the Lew nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Lew nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:30 p.m. and, upon disposition of the nomination, the Senate resume legislative session to consider Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Ms. SMITH. For the information of the Senate, Members should expect additional rollcall votes during Tuesday's session.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. SMITH. 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 7:03 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 10 a.m.