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## 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.

Here we are again, Lord, a people in need of Your presence and power in order to meet life with courage, faith, and perseverance. Today, strengthen the Members of this body with a faith that will ever choose the harder right over the easy expedient.

Lord, give our Senators wisdom to follow Your example of sacrificial service, infusing them with the courage to do right as You give them the light to see it. Lift from our world the burdens of loss and sorrow when forces beyond our control invade our lives and seek to rob us of Your peace.

Lord, bless the people of our world with the assurance that they are never alone, for You have promised never to forsake them.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 6, 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.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication of the Secretary of the Senate regarding a message from the President received during the adjournment of the Senate.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Friday, November 3, 2023, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelopes addressed to the President of the Senate dated November 3, 2023, said to contain messages regarding the President's notification to the Congress consistent with section 8 of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967, as amended, and regarding the continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Threat From Securities Investments That Finance Certain Companies of the People's Republic of China. The Senate not being in session on the day which the President delivered this message, I accepted the message at 3 p.m., and I now present to you the President's message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate.

Respectfully,

SONCERIA A. BERRY,  
Secretary of the Senate.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

### ISRAEL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, as Israel continues to root out the Hamas terrorists who savaged innocent civilians on October 7, the political left here in America appears to be engaged in a loud public debate with itself over how, exactly, to differentiate indiscriminate slaughter and lawful self-defense.

Last week, an especially radical House Democrat repeated to her followers a call to eliminate the Jewish State "from the river to the sea." Then she attempted to explain away the undeniably genocidal connotation of this longstanding anti-Israel slogan as "peaceful coexistence."

Apparently, Jews can live in peace with Palestinians as long as they vacate Israel.

Unfortunately, the shameful moral equivalence that has been creeping across elite and influential corners of the left has now been embraced by a former Commander in Chief. Just a few

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



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days ago, President Obama used the same breath to express his horror at both Hamas violence and a supposed Israeli “occupation” of Gaza. In reality, the only force that has occupied Gaza since 2007 is Hamas, not Israel.

The former President also said “all of us are complicit to some degree.” That is simply false. Responsibility lies with the terrorists.

So perhaps President Obama has forgotten the bloody campaign to defeat ISIS over which he presided or the destruction of cities like Mosul and Raqqa in pursuit of medieval Islamic tyrants who terrorized innocent civilians.

I don’t recall President Obama doubting the righteousness of American efforts to support local partners in rooting out terrorists in Iraq and Syria. Where is that moral clarity in the face of Hamas?

Unfortunately, that brings me to the growing number of many of our Senate colleagues who have called for a ceasefire in today’s terrorist war. I would remind our colleagues that Israel had negotiated a ceasefire with Hamas over the summer, and we all saw where that led on October 7. Returning to any such arrangement right now would be amnesty for these butchers—the butchers of innocent Israelis and Gazans alike.

Once again, let’s remember who the aggressor is. Hamas is blocking citizens from leaving Gaza City. Hamas has intentionally put its weapons caches inside schools, hospitals, and mosques, and its firing positions in the midst of civilian populations. Hamas has poured countless billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance into its terror tunnels.

These people are not freedom fighters. They do not want peaceful coexistence. They are savages—savages—cut from the same cloth as ISIS and al-Qaida. There is no room for moral equivalency. The distinction between good and evil here is blindingly obvious.

Fortunately, some do recognize this. The Vice Chancellor of Germany, a member of his country’s Green Party, didn’t have any trouble finding the moral clarity this moment requires. In an address to the nation last week, he said:

Hamas does not want reconciliation with Israel, but the extermination of Israel. And this is why it is pivotal to make it clear that Israel’s right to exist must not be relativized. Israel’s security is our obligation.

American politicians who cannot bring themselves to acknowledge the same should really be ashamed of themselves.

This weekend marked 44 years since Iranian revolutionaries overran the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took 66 Americans hostage. Today, Americans are once again held hostage by forces aligned with Iranian tyranny. Many more Israelis are held alongside them, and Israel deserves the time and space and support it needs to bring these terrorist captors to justice.

In the days immediately following October 7, I warned that President Biden would be pressured to withhold this support, and that familiar and morally bankrupt calls for ceasefire would threaten Israel’s ability to see its defensive operations through. And so here we are, nearly a month later, watching the movement to grant Hamas amnesty reach the highest levels of our government.

War is a bloody business. That is the reality Israel faces. We should be careful before second-guessing their efforts to get innocent Israelis—and Americans—home safely and to destroy Hamas’s ability to wage war.

#### CRIME

Madam President, on another matter, while the United States and our allies face terrorist and authoritarian violence abroad, the American people continue to face waves of unchecked violence here at home.

Just last month, a member of our colleague Senator BRITT’s staff was robbed at gunpoint right outside of her apartment building. Thankfully, this young woman was not injured.

But stories like hers have become all too common in our Nation’s Capital. According to Washington Metropolitan Police, robbery in the city has increased by 70 percent this year—70 percent. Motor vehicle theft is up 101 percent.

And, in the midst of rising violent crime, a particularly alarming spate of anti-Semitic violence has come to a head in the wake of October 7. In New York City, authorities have recorded 66 anti-Semitic hate crimes in just the last month.

On October 14, exactly 1 week after Hamas’s deadly attack, a 29-year-old woman was beaten on the subway in Manhattan. The attacker reportedly told the victim that the reason for his attack was because “you are Jewish.”

A Jewish deli in the city was vandalized with multiple images of the swastika symbol.

And, of course, murderous threats against Jewish students at Cornell University have prompted an FBI investigation.

In just the first 2 weeks after October 7, the threat of anti-Semitic violence against American Jews nearly quadrupled. The American left has gone out of its way to downplay the threats they face with everything from “both sides” statements to outright incitement.

All Americans deserve to feel safe in their homes and in their communities. It is long past time for Democrats to take the historic waves of violence in America seriously.

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

#### UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, 7 weeks ago, on September 21, the U.S. Senate, on a bipartisan basis, gathered with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in the Old Senate Chamber. We don’t often use that Chamber. It is often used for incidents that become embed-

ded in history, and this was one of them. It was a historic moment.

Many things were said about the courage of the Ukrainian people and the heroism of the troops fighting Russian President Vladimir Putin’s unjust war, but I recall one particular plea made by President Zelenskyy—and he repeated it. So it was clear he wanted us to remember. I will stress here what he said:

Without the continued financial support of the United States and NATO, we will lose this war.

He was unequivocal.

Secretary of Defense Austin told me clearly at last week’s Senate Appropriations Committee hearing that he agreed with Zelenskyy.

Secretary of State Blinken added that such assistance is critical in thwarting not just Putin but aggressors around the world who are watching and gauging our sustained commitment.

I agree completely. Looking at the world today, I do not believe it is a stretch to say that freedom is currently under siege and fighting for its future. Right now, several democracies across the globe are fighting against tyrannical powers—in some cases, autocratic governments; in others, terrorist organizations—that seek to undermine the global order. But this much is clear: Democratic values are under siege, and the United States and our generation have a responsibility to act.

Two weeks ago, President Biden requested \$106 billion in supplemental funding for national security. This includes money to help supply Ukraine with weapons to continue its valiant fight against Russian aggression. It includes money to help Israel defend itself against Hamas, which, on October 7, perpetrated the largest attack against Jewish people than on any single day since the Holocaust. And, importantly, it also includes billions of dollars to support humanitarian needs across those conflict zones around the world, including the crisis in Gaza, because, as important as it is to support nations like Ukraine in their struggle against tyranny, it is equally as important to support innocent citizens who so often become collateral damage and bear the brunt of suffering during periods of conflict.

At the Appropriations Committee hearing last week, Secretaries Blinken and Austin underscored the necessity of this funding request. They made clear that it is critical to deliver the urgent national security priorities as laid out in the President’s request.

These challenges facing the world are interrelated. So it is important that we deliver aid in one unified package that speaks to America’s values abroad.

I asked Secretaries Blinken and Austin about the recent visit by the terrorist organization Hamas leadership to—believe it or not—Putin in Moscow. Secretary Blinken was blunt: Putin is allied with any effort that may distract the United States from the war in

Ukraine or that undermines democracy and the rule of law.

The Secretary added that other malign actors are watching closely to assess America's reaction and resolve. That is why one comprehensive supplemental that can address all of these interconnected global needs is the only way forward.

When asked about the United States' role in the world, President Biden explained that we have not only the financial responsibility but the moral responsibility to support democracies worldwide.

I agree. Right now, the global community faces profound challenges, the outcomes of which will reverberate to every corner of the world for decades to come. As a global superpower, America has an essential role to play in defending freedom. It is not only the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do.

Last week, the House provided a Republican-led plan to provide billions of dollars only to Israel, tragically ignoring this call for leadership.

Madam President, I just challenge everyone to take a look at how Republicans put together this package—even this package of aid to Israel. The House bill would cynically cut funding from the Internal Revenue Service that is being used to help auditors catch wealthy tax cheaters in America. The House Speaker wants to cut that.

The Presiding Officer and I represent thousands of Illinoisans, good families who know their tax obligations. They are not happy about them, but they face them and deal with them honestly. Only a handful of people are misusing their power and money to avoid tax responsibility. We need to stop that. They need to pay their fair share of taxes, particularly the wealthy among us.

So how does the House Republican leadership pay for aid to Israel? It eliminates auditors from the Internal Revenue Service who are trying to catch these tax cheaters.

What are they thinking?

Incidentally, that means that the auditors are not recovering the money for our Treasury that is owed to it, and they add to the deficit. This bunch of fiscal hawks, given the chance for a first real act of the new Speaker, decide to find a way to avoid holding tax cheaters responsible and adding to the national deficit. They need some work over there. That bill is a nonstarter that Putin must be enjoying.

Protecting our national security interests and defending American values will take a bipartisan effort, not political games. As such, I urge my colleagues to swiftly pass this funding package and help reassure the global community, as long as there is a United States of America, we will be standing for freedom across the world.

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. GRASSLEY. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE DEAN WELSH VFW AUXILIARY POST 4370

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, this week is the week that we honor veterans, on what we call Veterans Day, so in honor of Veterans Day, I would like to spotlight one Iowa community's exemplary support of our veterans and Active-Duty military.

This is a town of 2,000—Britt, IA—in North Central Iowa. This year, Britt's Dean Welsh VFW Auxiliary Post 4370 received the Veterans and Family Support Award. This annual award from the national VFW recognizes select local auxiliaries for their exceptional work for our servicemembers.

This community's now-far-reaching efforts started with a phone call. A volunteer with the Britt VFW auxiliary was talking to her granddaughter, who was serving on the USS *Oscar Austin*. She mentioned that some of her fellow crew members hadn't received care packages. Within 1 week, Britt residents shipped 39 packages to that crew of the USS *Oscar Austin*.

That was 11 years ago. Now, a decade later, the Britt VFW is sending care packages to crew members on the USS *Fitzgerald*, USS *John McCain*, USS *Chafee*, and Iowa National Guard units deployed to Kuwait and to Poland. They are also preparing to send packages to the USS *Carl Vinson*. Volunteers fill these packages with various items, including beaded American flag key chains that they make by hand. Britt VFW members gift thousands of their key chains to veterans they cross paths with throughout the year, whether at community events or even in their daily lives.

Britt VFW's example should be a reminder to all of us of the importance of honoring our veterans and servicemembers, and we will be doing that this weekend.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill 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.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, today, the United States is facing perhaps the greatest range of security threats both here at home and abroad that we have seen in a long time. Here at home, of course, our southern border has become a major security liability that is being exploited by terrorists, drug traffickers, and, of course, human smugglers. In the Middle East, our close ally Israel is defending its right to exist following a brutal and

unprovoked attack by the terrorist group Hamas. In Europe, Ukraine continues to defend itself in the wake of Russia's unprovoked invasion, which was nearly 2 years ago. In the Indo-Pacific, China's aggressive, belligerent behavior has threatened the stability of the entire region and the future of Taiwan. So there is a lot at stake, and the eyes of the world are firmly on the United States of America.

You know, I know sometimes people say: Well, we don't want the United States to be the world's policeman. And certainly that is true. But the fact is that there is no other nation that can actually lead the democracies in the world to a greater path of security and safety. We know that when the United States does not lead, then that is perceived as a sign of weakness and a lack of resolution, and that, I think, has contributed to where we find ourselves today with this tremendous array of diverse threats.

So there is a lot at stake, and the eyes of the world are on the United States. Terrorists and dictators, from Kim Jong Un to President Xi in China, to Vladimir Putin, to the Supreme Leader in Iran—all of them are watching to see how the United States responds when our friends and our allies become victims of authoritarian aggression. Will we brush these conflicts aside as meaningless, regional quarrels or will we lock arms with our friends and allies and commit to defeating evil in all its forms?

I am glad that the overwhelming consensus in Congress is that the only possible option is to respond with strength. Last week, the House of Representatives passed a bill to strengthen America's support for Israel while cutting wasteful government spending. That legislation provided \$14.3 billion in aid to Israel.

I am disappointed that President Biden, first thing out of the chute, threatened to veto the bill. Senator SCHUMER went so far as to call it a joke. So \$14.3 billion for Israel while it is under perhaps an existential threat by Iran and its proxies, and the majority leader of the U.S. Senate calls that \$14.3 billion a joke? I don't think there is anything funny about the strong desire that most of us have to support our ally while protecting the long-term financial health of our country.

The Nation's debt has skyrocketed over the last few years and now exceeds \$33.6 trillion. The interest on that debt alone will cost American taxpayers more than \$677 billion this year alone. Increasingly, we are seeing the amount of money we have to pay to the bondholders that own our debt creep up to approach the amount of spending we provide for the Department of Defense. And we know this is going to get worse and worse until it gets better. Congress simply cannot continue to spend and spend with no regard for the consequences.

Years ago, Admiral Mullen, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

said something that at the time I found a little odd. He said our greatest national security threat is our national debt. But, as we have come to see, those are wise words, because as the interest we have to pay to those who own our debt continues to grow with the size of that debt, that means less and less money is available for priorities here at home and for priorities to help prevent wars and aggression around the world.

Nowhere is this more apparent now than with the \$677 billion we are paying not for some program that we could agree is important here at home or to provide border security or to help arm Ukrainians in their fight for survival against the Russian invasion; that money is gone to the bondholders, the people who own that debt. We just cannot continue down that path without further endangering, as Admiral Mullen wisely said years ago. This has created a national security threat we cannot ignore as well. We have an obligation to make tough decisions to right the ship, and this is as good an opportunity as any to start making progress.

Despite the majority leader's current refusal to allow a vote on the House bill—that is his current position, one I hope will change—the fact remains, we do need to take action. The Senate must find a path forward to strengthen our support for Israel and Ukraine while making meaningful steps to address the out-of-control crisis at our southern border. Senate Republicans are discussing ways to do this in a thorough and thoughtful manner, and I expect that to remain a focus of our work for the next couple of weeks.

This is an important and long-overdue debate, but it cannot distract from our other fundamental responsibilities to support our Nation's security. We have other longstanding tasks that need to be completed, starting with the National Defense Authorization Act. That bill passed the Senate in July with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 86 to 11.

This year's Defense bill helps replenish our defense stockpiles—something that has been exposed, the inadequacy of our defense industrial base, and our ability to replenish those stockpiles is very much in question and needs to be addressed. This year's National Defense Authorization Act does that. It also supports modernization efforts across the board, from the nuclear triad to next-generation weapons. It will help us regain a credible military deterrent by investing in modernized aircraft, weapons, and facilities. These were the important goals when the National Defense Authorization bill passed the Senate 3 months ago, and they are even more critical now.

Despite the fact that the Senate and the House each passed a version of the NDAA, as it is called, we have yet to formally begin the conference process where those differences can be worked out and where that bill can be signed

into law. This legislation should have reached the President's desk earlier, but we are now a month past the due date and watching a new war unfold in the Middle East. So it is absolutely critical that we get the NDAA conference process moving as soon as possible.

As the Senate and the House prepare to iron out the differences between the two bills, there are two items in particular that I have been fighting to include. One is called outbound investment transparency, which was included in the Senate bill but not the House bill.

Senator CASEY from Pennsylvania and I offered our bipartisan bill as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill here in the Senate, and it was adopted by a vote of 91 to 6. The reason this measure receives such strong bipartisan support is because it provides much needed visibility into a looming national security threat.

We know that American investors have been sending capital intellectual property and some of our cutting-edge innovation to China by investing in that country, but unfortunately, as we have learned, the Chinese Communist Party, which controls that country, basically is using that investment from American investors to fuel its economic and military rise.

At the end of 2020, U.S. investments in Chinese companies totaled \$2.3 trillion in market value. That includes \$21 billion in semiconductors, \$54 billion in military companies, and a whopping \$221 billion in artificial intelligence. Those are enterprises that are being funded by U.S. investment in China, which is now turning out to be our near-peer competitor and a threat to stability not only in Asia but worldwide. Intentionally or not, American companies are investing in products and capabilities that one day could be turned against us.

A recent investigation by Newsweek uncovered another grave cause for concern. Private U.S. entities aren't the only ones fueling China's rise; taxpayer-funded research is being exploited by the Chinese Communist Party. The scientist who is now at the forefront of China's artificial intelligence development received at least \$30 million in Federal grants—U.S. Federal Government grants—through the Pentagon and the National Science Foundation. He received this amount of funding from American taxpayers as he built up a parallel research system in China.

The United States, simply stated, cannot continue to bankroll China's economic and military rise, and that is why this outbound investment transparency provision that Senator CASEY and I have authored and which is included in the Senate version of the NDAA is so important.

This legislation requires U.S. companies to notify the Department of the Treasury of certain investments in China and other countries of concern.

This is a targeted measure. It only applies to sensitive technologies like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, hypersonics, and other capabilities that can ultimately be used against the United States.

To be clear, this does not stop investments from happening or interfere with the free market. It is strictly about transparency. It is about visibility. It will help us as policymakers see and understand the threats from China and other countries of concern so we can respond accordingly. I don't care how much American investors want to build a Burger King or Starbucks in China, but I do care if they are investing in cutting-edge technology that is going to be used to compete against the United States, either economically or militarily.

The second provision I am fighting to include is an extension of something called lend-lease authority, which expired at the end of September. This provision was created by legislation I introduced with Senator CARDIN from Maryland which is modeled after a similarly named program in World War II. But this is called the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, and it was signed into law in May of last year. It was rooted in the same principle as the World War II provision, which allowed the United States to supply Great Britain and other allies with military resources during World War II. President Roosevelt at the time vowed to transform the United States into the arsenal of democracy, as he called it, and the Lend-Lease Act is how he did it.

As I said, Senator CARDIN and I introduced this bipartisan legislation to remove some of the big bureaucratic hurdles that prevent us or slow us down from providing Ukrainian forces with the weapons they need, when they need them. Given the level of aid being provided by Congress for Ukraine, the Biden administration hasn't explicitly used that authority granted under that bill, but it doesn't mean it is not needed now.

Ukraine has committed to doing what it needs to do to defeat this invasion by Russia, but it will need additional assistance from the United States and our other allies in order to succeed. We all know that Ukraine's arsenal is shrinking, and it has asked the United States and other democracies around the world for additional aid, but the path forward, as we all know, is extremely muddy.

There is broad bipartisan support for the fact that America should support Ukraine, but there is growing concern over the cost of that assistance. That is why this legislation is so important. Lend-Lease is not a blank check. It gives the administration the option to lease or rent defense articles to Ukraine, just like we did Great Britain in World War II. This legislation will allow us to answer Ukraine's call to provide more of what they need and ensure it is done in a fiscally responsible way.

Over the last several months, the United States has provided Ukraine with unprecedented defense aid—Javelins, Stingers, grenade launchers, small arms, tanks, ammunition, and much more. These weapons have allowed the brave Ukrainians to punch above their weight against the Russian Army, which was once thought to be among the strongest in the world.

Additional American and allied assistance is vital to Ukraine's ultimate success, and we need to reauthorize the Lend-Lease authority as part of the Defense Authorization Act. This provision was included also in the House's NDAA, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to fight for its inclusion in the final version of the bill.

Given the threats democracies are facing around the world, there could not be a more important time to prioritize America's defense. The National Defense Authorization Act, which I believe has been signed into law for 60-plus years in a row, should have already been signed into law before the end of September. Given the threats we face around the world, it is absolutely crucial that we finish the job as soon as possible.

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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee considered several of President Biden's recent judicial appointments.

I would have thought that they would have figured out by now that they hit rock bottom a few months ago with some of these nominees that are not out of the mainstream, but they really are far left.

Here are some examples: Nancy Abudu, she endorsed political violence against conservatives; Todd Edelman used his authority to release a known criminal who then went on to participate in the murder of a child; Marian Gaston opposed residence restrictions for convicted child sex offenders; and DeAndrea Benjamin released violent criminals on bond, only to watch them offend again.

But not to be outdone, the White House has continued this trend with Seth Aframe's nomination to the First Circuit. The White House and Senate Democrats don't have a great track record when it comes to putting a nominee forward for this seat.

Back in February, I came to the floor to oppose Michael Delaney's nomination to the First Circuit bench. You will remember that Mr. Delaney threatened to expose a 15-year-old sexual assault survivor if she came forward with her story. That is right—he

threatened to expose a 15-year-old sexual assault survivor if she went public.

Well, that was a shameful debacle. Everyone saw it. You would think the President's team would have learned their lessons. But I think we were wrong on that, because out of all the talented attorneys and judges that are in the State of New Hampshire, the President has nominated Seth Aframe, who is disturbingly similar to Mr. Delaney in his disregard for victims.

I want to walk you through two of the cases that Mr. Aframe prosecuted. And these cases are things that should disqualify him from ever having a seat on the Federal bench.

Now, the first case that we will go to is U.S. v. Carpentino. This involved a criminal defendant guilty of extreme sexual violence against a 14-year-old girl with a hearing impairment.

Now, this defendant kidnapped this precious child and took her to an abandoned motel in Vermont, and he raped her. This defendant had just been released from a 13-year prison sentence for sexually assaulting minors in particularly violent ways. In one case, he smothered a little girl with a pillow while he raped her. This is a violent repeat offender.

There was no doubt this person was a clear and present danger to the community. Despite all of this, Mr. Aframe, as the prosecutor in this case, recommended a sentence far below the probation officer's suggested guidelines. Can you even imagine hearing this? And then saying: Let's go light on this guy. Let's go light. Let's go easy on him.

Now, what we have learned is that it is clear that Mr. Aframe wanted the low sentence. And I will tell you why, and I am going to use his own words.

And I think when the Presiding Officer hears this, you will see, this is someone who is not qualified for the Federal bench. He wanted the low sentence. He wrote he wanted the low sentence.

And I quote, he said he felt the low sentence will "incapacitate the defendant until he is in his 60s. Hopefully, by that time, the danger that the defendant presents will have subsided."

Now, think about this. He wants the low sentence because at the end of that low sentence, the guy would be in his sixties and, you know, hopefully, by then he won't be such a danger. I tell you, imagine this: "hopefully," using that. Can you imagine telling this little girl's family that, hopefully, this rapist won't do it again? Bear in mind, he had already been in prison for 13 years. He gets out, and he does it again. And Mr. Aframe is the prosecutor. What does he do? He wants a low sentence because the guy is going to be in his sixties and maybe he won't do it. Hopefully, he won't do it again. Hopefully, he won't be a danger. Hopefully, he will be too old and frail to go rape little girls. Unbelievable.

This is sickening. And this case alone should disqualify Mr. Aframe. But

there is more. And let's go to this second case.

Mr. Aframe was the prosecutor in United States v. Smith. And this case, reading this made me absolutely sick to my stomach. It is repulsive.

Mr. Smith was found guilty of conduct connected to the manufacturing of child pornography. He created not one or two, but six videos of himself sexually abusing a 3-year-old girl. Six videos. The details of the case are far too disgusting to repeat aloud. But to be clear: He raped a 3-year-old girl on camera.

As prosecutor in this case, Mr. Aframe said the most poignant evidence of the harm this defendant caused was—and I quote—"the look of fear in the young victim's eyes."

Poignant evidence, the look of fear in a toddler's eyes while somebody is raping her.

Despite this, Mr. Aframe recommended a 60-year sentence, nowhere near what this sick and depraved and disgusting human being deserved. Mr. Aframe noted that the perpetrator was a close friend of the victim's family. He worked to gain their trust for years just to commit these heinous acts, but Mr. Aframe still recommended a lenient sentence.

But what did the sentencing guidelines recommend? Life in prison. Mr. Aframe himself noted this in his sentencing memo, but when I pressed him under oath on why he refused to follow the guideline, he misrepresented the facts.

So let me set the record straight. The sentencing memo, that Mr. Aframe wrote himself, stated that the guidelines recommended a sentence of life in prison. That is what he should have gotten.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a portion of that sentencing memo be printed in the RECORD.

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V. BRAD SMITH

Crim. No. 1:16-cr-00091-JL

UNITED STATES' SENTENCING MEMORANDUM AND OBJECTION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR A DOWNWARD VARIANCE

#### I. Background

On May 26, 2015, defendant Brad Smith created six videos of himself sexually abusing a three-year-old girl. From 12:42 p.m. to 1:47 p.m., the defendant instructed his victim to perform various sexual acts on him and ultimately placed her on her back, pulled her diaper around her ankles, and raped her. The defendant wore Google glasses while he did so in order to surreptitiously film the abuse.

On April 7, 2017, a jury found the defendant guilty of six counts of manufacturing child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a), for which the Sentencing Guidelines recommend a sentence of life imprisonment (Total Offense Level 43, Criminal History Category V). For the reasons set forth in greater detail below, the government proposes an incarcerative sentence of sixty years (720 months) to be followed by lifetime

supervised release, a sentence which meets the objectives described in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and accounts for the many aggravating circumstances in this case.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I think it is so important that we include that in this. This should have been a life in prison sentence for what was done.

You know, I will say to my Democratic colleagues what I said about Michael Delaney's nomination: For the sake of men, women, and children around this country who are victims of sexual assault, join me in opposing this nomination if the President refuses to withdraw this nomination.

Someone who has gone light on sentences that affect these children. Someone who has committed crimes against these children and then they have sought to get lesser sentences against these pedophiles and predators, they have no place on the Federal bench.

Now, this week, my Democratic colleagues will have two opportunities to oppose individuals that I feel are unfit judicial nominees. The Judiciary Committee will mark up Mustafa Kasubhai to serve on the district court in Oregon. Now, there is a reason that, in my opinion, Mr. Kasubhai is not fit.

He has displayed a disturbing affinity for Marxism. This is something that we found in his records. Someone who is displaying an affinity for Marxism has no place on our Federal bench. So I would ask that our colleagues vote no on him.

#### NOMINATION OF KENLY KIYA KATO

Madam President, likewise, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Kenly Kato to serve as a district judge in California. You will remember that in her nomination hearing, she refused to condemn racial discrimination. That should be an easy "no" vote for every Senator.

And you know when we talk about the Federal judiciary, when we look at these nominations—and the Senate's job is to provide advice and consent. What we need to do is make certain that people are going to abide by the Constitution; that they are going to abide by the rule of law; that they have that judicial philosophy; that they are going to stand for equal justice for all.

And when you have individuals with records and writings that are in opposition to that, they are unfit to serve on the Federal bench.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The majority whip.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 373.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028. (Reappointment).

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 373, Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028. (Reappointment)

Bernard Sanders, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Lujan, Peter Welch, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Duckworth.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 310.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 310, Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 126.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 126, Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 222.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 222, Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Mark Kelly, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz, Elizabeth Warren, Sherrod Brown, Ron Wyden, Tim Kaine, Raphael G. Warnock, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Tammy Duckworth.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 6, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

## BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, there has been a lot of conversation about this body—quite frankly, around the Nation—about border security. Rightfully so. It has been top of mind for a lot of cities, States, for a lot of families, school districts, businesses, especially along the border States as they have had a disproportionately large number of people who have come, many of them from all over the world, many of them non-Spanish speakers, not from Central America and South America but literally from everywhere.

The Wall Street Journal had a piece just this weekend where it detailed how hundreds of thousands of migrants from all over the world are making their way to the southwest border which is causing a surge in apprehensions, but it is especially people from Asia and Africa.

Human smuggling networks, it says, are widening their reach around the globe.

Arrests at the Southwest border of migrants from China, India and other distant countries, including Mauritania and Senegal, tripled to 214,000 during the fiscal year that ended in September.

That was up from 70,000 just the year before. That is tripling that number.

What is happening is on our southern border, the cartels are finding it more profitable to be able to move people in from farther. So they are organizing flights for people to go through seven or eight countries to be able to then arrive in Mexico, and they are moving them through in what they affectionately call “donkey flights” to be able to reach farther for the cartels to be able to make more and to exploit our laws.

America has always been open to people and immigration. We are a nation of legal immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. And what we are finding at this stage is those laws are being exploited and being exploited dramatically. Let me give you just an example. There has been no change in the asylum law since 2010, but, in 2010, we had 21,000 people request asylum on our southern border for the year—21,000 the entire year of 2010. That wasn't an anomaly. That was about a normal amount of people requesting asylum on our southwest border. Now, we have that many requests of asylum on our southwest border every 3 days. So it has gone from 21,000 in a year to now every 3 days.

Everyone knows this is an issue. Last week, Secretary Mayorkas was in front of the Homeland Security Committee, and I asked him about this in a public hearing. I asked him whether there were policy changes that were needed.

His answer was very direct. He said:

Yes, policy changes are needed.

I asked him specifically on reforming the asylum system, knowing that it has been exploited. His exact answer was:

The asylum system needs to be reformed from top to bottom.

I asked him about the issue of withholding of removal, which now about 55 percent of the people who were released into the country were actually released under something called withholding of removal. I asked him about that. His response was:

[Withholding of removal and] the companion element is the convention against torture our system needs to be able to work efficiently and expeditiously while not compromising due process.

I asked him about repatriating individuals in difficult countries that are called recalcitrants. He said:

Our ability to repatriate individuals to the countries of origin when they do not qualify for relief under our laws is of vital importance.

Why am I bringing this up? Because it is not just me saying we need to reform the asylum process. The head of Homeland Security is saying we need to reform this process. And it is just not the head of Homeland Security saying we need to reform the asylum process. It is the administration.

Two weeks ago, the administration requested additional dollars for the border to be able to put in the supplemental. They asked for funding for Israel, for Ukraine, for Taiwan, and for border security. But then, after they put that request out, Homeland Security released an op-ed in the Washington Post, which said this:

To be clear, this supplemental funding is like a tourniquet—urgently needed and critical in the short-term, but not a long-term solution to a deep-seated problem. Our national immigration laws, having gone through major revisions by Congress in 1996, are severely out-of-date, and our system is completely broken. On this, everyone agrees.

The administration itself, just this past March, put out a release dealing with what they call “circumvention of lawful pathways.” In it, they did a Q&A back and forth to ask people questions on how it would function. This is one of the answers from the administration talking about what is happening currently at our border. They said:

[Such a high rate of migration] risks overwhelming the Department's ability to effectively process, detain, and remove, as appropriate, the migrants encountered. This would put an enormous strain on already strained resources, risk overcrowding in already crowded [U.S. Border Patrol] stations and border [ports of entry] in ways that pose significant health and safety concerns, and create a situation in which large numbers of migrants—only a small portion of whom are likely to be granted asylum—are subject to extreme exploitation . . . by the networks that support their movements north.

I would be glad to have written that myself.

The administration sees the same thing that everyone else who looks at the border sees. If you take an honest assessment of what is happening, our system is being exploited by cartels, and people from around the world are answering ads that are on TikTok and messaging services saying: I can get you into the United States if you pay me enough money.

That is why 45,000 people from India came last year requesting asylum in the United States—because it is easier to get in and to pay the cartels than it is to go through the legal process. We are incentivizing illegal activity, and this body knows it.

We are a nation of laws. We should prioritize the law. We should be open to legal immigration, but we should be opposed to illegal immigration and what is happening to enrich dead, dangerous criminal cartels in northern Mexico.

Again, the administration in their public statement made this statement just a few months ago:

The current asylum system—in which most migrants who are initially deemed eligible to pursue their claims ultimately are not granted asylum in the subsequent [immigration court] proceedings—has contributed to a growing backlog of cases awaiting review by asylum officers and immigration judges.



What are they saying? The system is broken because it is packed with people who do not actually qualify for asylum coming in to flood the system and request asylum.

We all see the challenge. Now the question is, Are we going to do something about it?

Republicans in the Senate, this past weekend, released a very simple proposal to deal with what we all know are the problems—closing the loopholes in the law that have been exploited. And, yes, it deals with asylum, and, yes, it deals with withholding because those are the areas that are being exploited. We see it. The administration sees it. The question is, Do Democrat Senators see it? That is really the issue now. Everyone else seems to see it and admit to it.

So what did we propose? We proposed some pretty straightforward things. One is what is called “safe third country” transit. These are individuals like the 45,000 people who came from India last year. They fly through four or five countries—including dangerous countries like France—to be able to land here and to be able to cross the border and say: I need to find asylum.

Almost everyone sees that as an exploitation, and it is not just us. There is almost no other country that does what we do. This whole issue about picking and choosing where I want to request asylum is not how asylum really works. You see, asylum under international law—and most people in this body know it—“asylum” and “refugee” have the same definition under international law. A refugee doesn’t pick nine different countries and then pick the one that they want. They flee to the next safe place. That is the same international rule for asylum.

If you were to request asylum right now in Canada—cross the border into Canada and request asylum—do you know what is the first question they would ask you? The first question they would ask you is: Did you just cross from the United States?

If you answered yes, they would then say: Did you request asylum there, and were you denied?

If they say, “I didn’t request asylum,” Canada will turn you right back around.

And that is not just Canada. That is most of the EU. If you went to Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, the UK—if you went to any of them, they would ask: What country did you transit through before you got here, and did you request and were you denied asylum before you came in? If you said, “I didn’t request asylum in the places I transited from,” they would turn you around because that is not an unreasonable thing.

When you go through five other countries and then request asylum in the last one, you are actually trying to emigrate to that country, not request-

ing asylum under international law. You are trying to pick the place.

And, by the way, I don’t blame them for picking America. It is the greatest country in the world. But that is economic opportunity, that is not asylum.

So the question is, Can we incentivize those individuals to not try to run a loophole through our system but to actually go through the legal process and request to come here as a legal immigrant?

We love to see people from all over the world, as we always have, come into the United States legally, just not exploiting a loophole in the asylum law. That is the wrong way to be able to do it.

The bill that Republicans have proposed also deals with streamlining the process. Right now, it can take up to 10 years just to get a hearing with an immigration judge under a standard that most people know, and the administration has admitted, people won’t qualify for asylum at the end.

Why is that? Because, when you come across the border, you encounter Border Patrol or CBP or an asylum officer. They do an initial screening, and the screening is far lower than the actual standard. So you may qualify under the screening standard, but everyone knows you are not going to actually qualify for the actual standard for asylum.

So there are two simple things that can be done here. One is to make the screening standard equal to the actual standard—to say: We all know this is what you have got to achieve. So screen for that. Is it reasonable? Is it even a 51-percent chance that you are going to get to that standard? If it is, then you come in. If you are not, then you are screened out.

The second is that we actually have three different screenings. Many people don’t know this. We screen for asylum, and then we separately screen for what is called withholding, and we separately screen for Convention against Torture. Those three different screenings are made at three different times—sometimes across a decade of time. Everyone knows, if you don’t qualify for the first one, you are likely not going to qualify for the other two, either. But you can request it, and you can run that loophole, and then you are in the United States. And the cartels literally teach people exactly what to say in their last step so that they can exploit that loophole.

So let’s actually have a screening standard that is the same standard you have to get to, and let’s screen for all three of those things at the same time. That actually sounds like government efficiency. I know we are not good at that as a nation, but, if we screen all three of those things at the same time, it allows somebody to have due process. We don’t want someone not to have due process. If someone is a victim of torture, we want to make sure they have an opportunity to go through that process. But why

wouldn’t we go through all three of those at the same time, rather than across 10 years, waiting for multiple different hearings?

Republicans also proposed something pretty simple. Right now, the law says that if you committed a felony, then you are not eligible for asylum. But the problem with that is, there are some crimes that are not considered a felony at the earliest days, and we are still allowing them in.

Let me give you a for instance. What if you had three DUIs? What if you are dealing meth? What if you are a member of a gang and you show it? What if you have a domestic violence conviction?

If you have a domestic violence conviction, you can’t own a firearm in America, but you could get asylum in America. We literally invite people to be able to come in whom we already know have domestic violence convictions.

So we are making it pretty simple. We are saying: Hey, listen, let’s keep the standard where it is for a felony, but let’s actually prevent the loopholes.

Why would we invite someone into the country whom we know has had multiple DUI convictions? Why would we do that? It is not safe for our streets.

Do any one of you want to sit down with a dad and say: Your daughter was killed in a DUI because we were loose on our asylum rules? I would assume not.

We are not asking for something extreme. Again, it is typical for many places around the world that this is how it would be done. All we are trying to do is to be able to fix the loopholes and to be able to secure our Nation.

This proposal we put forward keeps families together. I know there is going to be an immediate thing that this is about separating families at the border. Actually, no, it is very explicit that if families travel together, families stay together for their hearing, to be able to make sure that we are protecting that family. But we are also raising a simple question. We all know and we have all seen the stories, and for those of us who have gone to the border, we have seen it with our own eyes: children traveling with adults that—we are all parents, and we can see clear enough that is not really your child—where children are literally used as a free pass to be able to get into the country and to be able to expedite.

We would like to be able to protect those children and make sure children are actually not used to be a free pass into the country. There is a way to be able to prevent that and to be able to protect those families that are actually real families at the same time.

We do a couple other things. We also raise just a very simple statement about the Border Patrol. Many people here may or may not know, but the Border Patrol can’t actually get overtime if you are at a certain level. If



you are other Federal law enforcement, you do get overtime. But if you are Border Patrol, you do not.

So these guys may work 100 hours for 2 weeks, but for the additional hours they are working, they don't actually get overtime pay. That is not right.

So what happens is, Border Patrol has a hard time with retention, not just because the job is incredibly difficult but, once they get to a certain level, their families encourage them and say: Why don't we do another Federal law enforcement somewhere else—still stay in Federal law enforcement, but we can actually earn overtime pay at that point rather than actually being punished for staying in the Border Patrol and trying to be able to serve?

Why don't we fix that?

Why don't we fix some of the training issues that have come up?

Why don't we actually try to respond to those things?

Why don't we provide the opportunity for the Biden administration to be able to lay out a strategy for how to secure the border? We are not writing it. Just give them the opportunity to be able to do it.

And here is one thing that has been interesting that I have already heard pushback from. We have a section where we talk about the border wall. What is interesting is, what we have actually proposed is we actually fulfill the border wall portion that President Biden has already said he is going to do. We actually just want to put it in writing so the President can't just say orally, "I want to do this." We have to actually put it in writing to be able to do it. That is a reasonable thing to be able to do.

Listen, we are not asking for crazy stuff. We are asking for what Americans are asking for: Just secure the border. We want to be a nation that welcomes immigrants, but we also want to be a nation that honors the law. We can do both. That is what we are setting in front of this body—to say: When we are talking about the supplemental, let's actually talk about not just securing Israel and securing Ukraine and securing Taiwan; let's also secure the United States of America.

With that, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant bill 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. 372, Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of National Institutes of Health.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Mark Kelly, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Christopher Mur-

phy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto.

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 Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, 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), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 59, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 292 Ex.]

YEAS—59

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

NAYS—32

Blackburn	Hagerty	Rubio
Budd	Hawley	Sanders
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young
Grassley	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—9

Barrasso	Fetterman	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Schumer
Britt	Ossoff	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 59, the nays are 32.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

TRIBUTE TO DAN MAHR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, the great American labor organizer Delores Huerta said:

Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person [is a] potential activist, [and] every minute [is] a chance to change the world.

In that spirit, I rise to bid farewell to a member of my team, Dan Mahr.

Dan sees every constituent as an opportunity to connect and every townhall meeting as a chance to change someone's world.

I host a lot of townhall meetings in Oregon—one in every one of our 36 counties every year. One time, Dan and I were hosting a townhall meeting in rural eastern Oregon, where an older, conservative rancher was waiting in line to talk to me and had that look on his face where he just knew he was pretty unhappy and wanted to let me know why. Well, Dan noticed him too. He started chatting with him, and pretty soon, that stony expression began to crack, and the conversation began to warm up. By the time that stern rancher had made it to me, he was chuckling and patting Dan on the back.

As we left that meeting, everyone, including our church ladies and our ranchers and our farmers—everyone—to our rural hippies, was giving Dan extra handshakes on the way out the door. That is how it was in townhalls where Dan was staffing.

He joined my team in 2016, 7 years ago, after a decade of fighting for unions and working families across America. As my senior labor adviser, he has stood up to the powerful on behalf of the working people all across our State. He has been one of my field representatives, serving folks in North Central Oregon, in Clackamas County and Wasco and Hood River and Sherman and Gilliam Counties. But he didn't just get the job done in those counties; he was always the first person to volunteer to staff a townhall meeting for his teammates no matter how far away it is across the State. He just loves being out on the road in Oregon. He has driven thousands of miles, set up thousands of chairs, met thousands of Oregonians. Whenever a new field representative joined our team, he was the first to welcome that individual to Team Merkley, to go with him or her to their first townhall, to lend a helping hand at the events.

Our work is important to him because if folks are taking their time out of busy lives to come to a townhall meeting, he wants to give them the respect that goes with feeling welcome and feeling heard. And, of course, that is exactly the attitude I take to those meetings.

Well, Dan's dedication to constituents' services is renowned on the team, not just for his personal touch but also for his personal tenacity. There is a saying—a saying I like a lot—that tenacity is a superpower. I experienced that a few times in my life. I certainly believe it is true.

Ever since I was first elected to the Senate in 2008, I have been hearing about funding for economic development in the Columbia River Gorge.

That funding had been authorized when the Columbia River National Scenic Area was established in 1986. In that scenic area, every community had restrictions on what additional buildings they could create, so they felt for sure the Federal Government would hold up its side of the deal and deliver that money for economic development in compensation. They did get some of that money in the 1990s but not the full amount. They were millions of dollars short. It came up at meeting after meeting after meeting: Where is that money the Federal Government promised us? It was an issue folks were not going to let go of.

Of course, I wanted to deliver that funding, but I had to have a key staff member work on it, and that key staff member was Dan—working on it for 5 years, finding strategies in which we could get additional pieces of funding delivered until every single dollar had made it through tricky local politics, bistate politics, to help the stakeholders who live throughout the Columbia Gorge. There was no silver-bullet moment; it was just year after year of planning and pushing and seizing key opportunities to fulfill promises to ordinary Oregonians. In the end, fulfill they did. Dan secured those millions of dollars in economic development for the Columbia Gorge.

He was just as tenacious about protecting local services, too, like when he kept open the West Linn Post Office. After 2 years of searching for a permanent site, one day in August, we heard that the U.S. Postal Service had decided to just close the doors on the post office in September, right before the November election. Just 6 weeks before the 2020 Presidential election, in a State where we vote by mail, in the midst of COVID, right before the holidays, the post office is going to close the doors on that post office. They had just given up on finding a new location. That post office serves a city of 26,000 people.

Dan went immediately to work, organizing our delegation, our local officials, working with the Postal Service to find a better solution, insisting that no way those doors could be closed, making sure that everyone felt the urgency, and ultimately secured the extension of that post office and kept it open. At the election, people could cast their ballots. People could receive their medications, and they could mail their gifts to their loved ones during the holidays.

But there is more to the story because the post office continued to insist on closing. Well, again, Dan helped organize. He helped carry the message that that was unacceptable, and eventually the U.S. Postal Service got the message, found a suitable location, and the people of West Linn, OR, were overjoyed. But it took tenacity, and that is what Dan brought to the ballot.

He is also tenacious, by the way, when he is trying to win a game of table tennis. I can neither confirm nor

deny that he ripped a pair of suit pants in a table tennis match with an unnamed U.S. Senator.

He has been tenacious as my labor adviser. Whether working with bakers, the building trades, nurses, teachers, timber workers, public employees, everyone knows that Dan is a partner they can trust. He has navigated countless labor issues to ensure the working families of Oregon get the pay and benefits they earned.

A few years ago, there was a difficult discussion about a major project in Oregon. It would have created a lot of construction jobs, but it also would have done a lot of damage to the climate. In that situation, with this benefit and this problem, Dan was a supreme professional, the supreme diplomat, ensuring that full and accurate information was brought to bear and that everyone's perspectives was carefully considered and weighed. In the end, of course, not everyone agreed with the ultimate outcome, but so many were impressed by the thorough and transparent process that Dan facilitated.

Dan is the kind of guy who brings a positive angle to every situation. One time, my team members, after driving 8 hours across Oregon—big State; I know that is hard to envision here on the east coast—they were driving 8 hours to host an event and discovered the local motel rooms were out of commission, so they would have to drive after the event an additional 3 hours to find accommodation. The team really was exhausted and just wanted to climb in bed and go to sleep, but they couldn't. But Dan said:

Hey, let's use this as an opportunity to see Oregon's only geyser.

The water table had come up, and the geyser was back in action. So they went in search of the geyser before hitting the road, and they found it, and they were thrilled to see it because few in Oregon ever have. It was an effective pivot for an exhausted and quite cranky crew. As one of them said afterward:

It was very, very cool. I'm so grateful that Dan made us slow down a bit. He always encourages us to enjoy the trip, enjoy the sights, and enjoy each other's company.

I know he has done that for me. I remember a day after many miles and many events when we had a little bit of time before our next stop. We went by his house in Hood River, sat on his porch—sat on his rocking chairs on his porch—hung out, laughed, relaxed, and played with his dog. It was just what we all needed, and Dan knew it.

I began these remarks quoting Dolores Huerta, who said that "every minute is a chance to change the world." She also said:

I think the importance of doing activist work is to engage people and give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow. Hope that change is possible, and that they can be part of that transformation.

Dan has engaged and given hope to so many ordinary people—hope for a bet-

ter Oregon, hope for a better community, hope for a better tomorrow. Most importantly, he has shown folks that, working together, change is possible and that they can be part of that transformation.

So many people I met have a great story about Dan and some way he has helped them or helped their town or just that they have enjoyed knowing him. He embodies the best spirit of Team Merkley. So it is with deep gratitude that Team Merkley and I thank Dan Mahr for his service to the people of Oregon, and we wish him all the best in his next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

### REMEMBERING DONNA LEE NELSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, throughout my years of public service, I have had the honor to meet citizens from all walks of life across my home State. As Iowa's senior U.S. Senator, today I pay tribute to a dynamic civic and business leader who passed away earlier this year.

Donna Lee Nelson was an indomitable pillar in her community who leaves behind a legacy of leadership, service, and entrepreneurial spirit for which the city of Waterloo and the Cedar Valley will benefit for generations to come. She also was the family matriarch, lovingly recalled as a "force of nature," and her long list of achievements and traveling adventures will be fondly remembered by her family and friends for years to come.

Donna and her husband Verner D. Nelson, Sr., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in January. That was a remarkable milestone and testimony to their faith-filled partnership. They were high school sweethearts who together launched a business enterprise that started with insurance and ventured into many others, including construction, trucking, and real estate.

Looking back at her 89 years of life, Donna certainly didn't let any grass grow beneath her feet. She traveled all over the world but never lost sight of home. The city of Waterloo benefited from what you might call her Midas Touch with her tireless, decades-long efforts to preserve the vitality, culture, heritage and history of downtown, including the Black's Building and the old YMCA.

Her selfless approach to leadership and ability to mobilize others carried

over from business and industry to philanthropy, as well. Donna was recognized by more than 20 achievement awards, including being named Citizen of the Year in 1985 and Eight over Eighty in 2015. Donna chaired and served on numerous boards, from the United Way to the American Heart Association and the Salvation Army.

Barbara and I extend our condolences to Donna's family and friends, particularly to her beloved husband Vern. We were blessed by her friendship and thank the Nelson family for their support over many years.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-63, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$300 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$ 0.  
Other \$300 million.  
Total \$300 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case IQ-B-AQJ was below the congressional notification threshold at \$28 million (\$0 in MDE) and included a Bell Contracted

Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) contract in support of the following types of Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH-58A/C Kiowa, and Huey II. The Government of Iraq has requested the case be amended to include additional option years on the current contract and to add contract support for Bell 505 aircraft as indicated below. This amendment will push the current case above the total case value notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None  
Non-MDE: Bell Contracted Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) maintenance in support of the following Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH-58A/C Kiowa, Huey II and 505. Also included is U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (IQ-B-AQJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: IQ-B-UDZ, IQ-B-ADQ.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 2, 2023.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Iraq—Bell Helicopter Contracted Logistics Support (CLS)

The Government of Iraq has requested to buy additional services, as indicated below, that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at \$28 million, included a Bell Contracted Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) contract. This notification is for the combined CLS and FSR maintenance support for the following Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH-58A/C Kiowa, Huey II and 505. Also included is U.S. Government and Contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$300 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner.

The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Iraq's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the strength of its homeland defense. The Republic of Iraq will have no difficulty absorbing these services into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be Bell Helicopter Company, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of four (4) additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Iraq for a duration of one (1) year to support CLS for Bell 505 aircraft. There are currently seven (7) U.S. Government or contractor representatives in Iraq that will stay an additional two (2) years to provide support for the contract option years for CLS and FSR service support for the three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH-58A/C and Huey II aircraft.

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

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on roll-call vote No. 291, confirmation of Lt. Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney for appointment as Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps, and to be General.

#### HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF BRAVO COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise today to honor the soldiers of Bravo Company (Wolfpack), 3rd Battalion (Warrior), 124th Infantry Regiment Florida Army National Guard. This year marks the 20th anniversary since Bravo Company was deployed to the Middle East. The 137 soldiers were the first Florida Guardsmen deployed to war since World War II.

These brave soldiers conducted thousands of patrols, hundreds of checkpoints, performed raids, and participated in countless supporting operations. Most importantly, all soldiers returned home. These soldiers earned their Combat Infantryman Badge and their Presidential Unit Citation.

I want to welcome them to Pensacola, FL, 20 years after being downrange protecting our great Nation. As a Navy veteran and the son of a World War II veteran, I know firsthand the sacrifices made by our military members and their families. Thank you for your service; your courage and dedication to our country will never be forgotten.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING BRANNON MONUMENT COMPANY

● Ms. ERNST. Madam 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 Brannon Monument Company of Dubuque, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Brannon Monument Company was founded by Henry Kies in 1926 as Kies Monument in Dubuque, IA. In 1961, Vince and Mary Lou Brannon bought Kies Monument and shortly thereafter changed the name to Brannon Monument Company. In 1991, Vince and Mary Lou's son Michael Brannon started working at the company. Michael purchased the family business from his parents in 1993 with his wife Stasia and moved the company in 1996 to a larger location. Brannon Monument Company

moved again in 2021 to a new location and now includes Novak and Brannon Monuments in Marion, IA, and Manchester Monument Company in Manchester, IA. Vince Brannon passed away in 2004, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, service, and dedication to the Dubuque community.

Brannon Monument Company has been instrumental in building memorials to honor our Nation's veterans. They were a key partner in the construction of the Dubuque Veterans Memorial Plaza, which honors Dubuque veterans who fought in major military conflicts. On July 4, 2019, the Buchanan County Veterans Memorial opened with members of the Brannon family in attendance for the dedication. Brannon Monument Company has been involved in building veteran memorials in Central City and Kolona, IA, as well as Platteville, WI.

In addition to providing memorials, Brannon Monument Company is also actively involved in the Dubuque community. Michael and Stasia Brannon are famous in the Dubuque community for their yearly Halloween decorations that were covered by the local newspaper. Michael is a member of the Monument Builders of North America, where he served as president from 1999 until 2000. He has also been a member and served as the president of the Monument Builders of Iowa. Brannon Monument Company has been involved with local philanthropic efforts in the Dubuque community, including Rotary International, Mercy Service Club, Alzheimer's Association, Oldorf Hospice House, and the Boys and Girls Club. In 2023, Brannon Monument Company celebrated its 97th business anniversary.

Brannon Monument Company's commitment to providing high-quality memorials in northeast Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate Michael and Stasia Brannon, Mary Lou Brannon, and the entire team at Brannon Monument Company for their dedication to the Dubuque community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

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TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C. OWEN,  
JR.

● Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, today I recognize Charlie Owen, as he concludes his remarkable tenure as president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees—AFSCME—Council 93.

Charles C. Owen, Jr., was born on January 29, 1950, a son of the tightly knit Irish community in South Boston, MA. In 1968, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany before heading to Vietnam, where he fought for his country. He returned to the United States with an honorable discharge in 1971. In 1975, he went into the public service, securing a job working as a mechanic in the city of Boston Police Department, repairing police cars. He went on to serve the city of Boston for 46 years.

Charlie almost never worked just one job. Like many people in this country, he had to work multiple jobs to support his family. He worked as an emergency medical technician, and for 20 years, he was a day-of-game employee for his beloved Boston Red Sox. He was a part of the Red Sox operation not just for the storied—and curse-breaking—2004 championship season, but also for the 2007, 2013, and 2018 World Series winning seasons. And, typical of Charlie, he didn't just work the games. For over a decade, he ran his own charitable golf tournament, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Jimmy Fund, the Red Sox charitable foundation that fights both childhood and adult cancer.

But it was as a city of Boston employee that Charlie really found his niche as a union activist. He got involved in his local and eventually became the president of AFSCME Local 804, which represents supervisors and managers across the city of Boston. To this day, he remains a loyal, dues-paying member of Local 804. Across decades of union activism, Charlie learned to negotiate contracts, to stand up for his members at work, to work with management to solve complicated workplace problems, to figure out which political candidates would stand up for workers, to help elect those candidates to office, and to persuade elected officials to pass laws that would help working families. In 2011, he ran for the vice presidency of AFSCME Council 93, the umbrella organization for all AFSCME Locals in Northern New England. He won his election and, in 2012, ascended to the presidency of the council.

He has travelled all over New England, and indeed all over the country, talking to workers in Tennessee, Texas, Colorado, and elsewhere about standing together to have a voice at work. He has spoken with elected officials at every level about the concerns of workers—the need for a living wage, decent health insurance, and a dignified retirement. This includes three American Presidents—President Bill Clinton, President Barack Obama, and President Joe Biden—as well as any number of Presidential candidates.

In short, Charlie Owen is a great American. He has served his country from almost the moment he turned 18, as a member of the armed services, in public service, and as a union activist. Everywhere he went, everything he did, he looked for ways to serve others, whether those others be his coworkers, children with cancer, or simply his fellow Americans.

In January 2021, Charlie retired from his job at the city of Boston, and in November of this year, his term as president of AFSCME Council 93 will end. He has dedicated over 40 years of his life in service to his coworkers. As he ends his professional career and steps down from decades of service to his union, we salute him. He will spend time with his seven children, his many

grandchildren, and great-grandchild, and he will continue to travel around the country talking to people seeking a voice at work. I thank Charlie for his unending dedication and look forward to seeing what great things he will do next.●

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REMEMBERING KELLY AND NOAH  
ROSEBERRY

● Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to the family of Kelly M. Roseberry and Noah Ryan Roseberry, who tragically passed away on October 28, 2023.

Born and raised in a military family, Kelly touched countless lives with her bright, infectious personality and appreciation for service and sacrifice. After earning her doctorate of physical therapy, Kelly underwent training at Quantico Officers Candidate School, Landstuhl Hospital in Germany, and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where she specialized in care for injured servicemembers, often providing care within 24 hours of their lifechanging injuries.

Kelly then worked for 7 years as a physical therapist and amputee specialist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Walter Reed National Medical Center. She accompanied a countless number of people through devastating injury and helped them to walk, run, and pick up their children again. Kelly devoted her life to helping those who needed it most. We need more people like Kelly. I know that her memory will live on in the colleagues she worked alongside, the patients whose lives she changed, and in people she has never met that are inspired by her selfless years of service.

Kelly leaves behind her husband Chris, and their beautiful daughter Emma Grace. Their second child Noah Ryan passed on with Kelly.

I once again offer my sincerest sympathies to the Roseberry and McGaughey families.●

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MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

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EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE THREAT FROM SECURITIES INVESTMENTS THAT FINANCE CERTAIN COMPANIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13959 OF NOVEMBER 12, 2020, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2023—PM 28

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People's Republic of China (PRC) that was declared in Executive Order 13959 of November 12, 2020, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 14032 of June 3, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond November 12, 2023.

The PRC exploits United States capital to resource and to enable the development and modernization of its military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses, which continues to allow the PRC to directly threaten the United States homeland and United States forces overseas. Through the national strategy of Military-Civil Fusion, the PRC increases the size of the country's military-industrial complex by compelling civilian Chinese companies to support its military and intelligence activities. Those companies, though remaining ostensibly private and civilian, directly support the PRC's military, intelligence, and security apparatuses. At the same time, those companies raise capital by selling securities to United States investors that trade on public exchanges both here and abroad, lobbying United States index providers and funds to include these securities in market offerings, and engaging in other acts to ensure access to United States capital.

The PRC military-industrial complex, by directly supporting the efforts of the PRC's military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses, continues to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in

whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. In addition, the use of Chinese surveillance technology outside the PRC and the development or use of Chinese surveillance technology to facilitate repression or serious human rights abuse continue to constitute unusual and extraordinary threats, which have their source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13959, expanded in scope by Executive Order 14032, with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the PRC.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 3, 2023.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS RELATIVE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE FISHERMAN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967, AS AMENDED (THE "PELLEY AMENDMENT") (22 U.S.C. 1978) THAT NATIONALS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) ARE ENGAGING IN TRADE OR TAKING OF EIGHT SPECIES OF PANGOLIN THAT DIMINISHES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES), RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2023—PM 29

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

On August 24, 2023, the Secretary of the Interior certified under section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the "Pelly Amendment") (22 U.S.C. 1978), that nationals of the People's Republic of China (PRC) are engaging in trade or taking of eight species of pangolin that diminishes the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This letter constitutes my notification to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

Pangolins, the world's only scaly mammal, are captured and trafficked at a higher rate annually than rhinoceroses, elephants, and tigers combined. Consumer demand for pangolin scales for traditional medicinal practices has pushed all eight pangolin species, originating from across Africa and Asia, toward extinction. Effective January 2,

2017, all species of pangolin were included in CITES Appendix I, which prohibits international trade for primarily commercial purposes. Despite this prohibition, the PRC remains the largest destination country for pangolin scales.

The PRC has taken some steps to curtail pangolin trafficking at its international ports and has uplisted pangolins under its Wildlife Protection Law. Yet the PRC maintains a system that allows for the legal commercial trade of pangolin scales for medicinal use from its national stockpiles, thereby indirectly providing commercial avenues for selling illegal pangolin specimens through its domestic pangolin market. Provincial governments within the PRC are allowed to issue permits to designated pharmaceutical companies and other entities to acquire pangolin specimens from the PRC's national stockpiles for medicinal use.

According to the United Nations, pangolin seizures have increased tenfold since 2014; moreover, based on data collected between 2007 and 2018, 71 percent of seizures were destined for the PRC. The size of individual seizures has also increased; for example, in 2019 Malaysian authorities reported seizing a record-setting 30 tons of pangolin products. My Administration therefore remains concerned that, despite assurances from the PRC regarding its anti-trafficking efforts, demand for pangolin scales appears to be growing. The PRC must do more to close domestic markets for pangolins and pangolin specimens that provide cover for the illegal market. Without these actions, it is likely that pangolin populations will continue to decline, bringing the species closer to extinction.

Since the Secretary of the Interior's certification on August 24, 2023, executive departments and agencies have outlined conservation and anti-trafficking conditions that must be met by the PRC to ameliorate United States concerns that the PRC is undermining pangolin conservation under CITES. Necessary actions by the PRC that would demonstrate its commitment to pangolin conservation and compliance with CITES directives include completely closing its domestic market for pangolins and pangolin parts, transparent accounting of domestic stockpiles, and fully removing pangolins and pangolin parts from the national list of approved medicines. The PRC has made some progress towards its international commitments, but given the complexity of the PRC's domestic pangolin market and its overlapping jurisdictions, more time is needed to ensure that the appropriate agencies from the PRC are implementing the necessary steps to protect pangolin species from possible extinction.

That is why I have directed the Department of State and the Department of the Interior to continue their ongoing efforts and to report back to me on

the outcome of the ongoing negotiations at the CITES Standing Committee meeting taking place in Geneva from November 6-10, 2023. If significant commitments by the PRC to implement CITES-directed measures to protect pangolin species have not been made by December 31, 2023, I plan to direct certain prohibitions on the importation of, and impose trade measures on, certain products from the PRC.

The United States will take the steps necessary to end illegal trade in order to save pangolins from extinction, with the goal of demonstrating progress by the end of this year.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 3, 2023.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3774. An act to impose additional sanctions with respect to the importation or facilitation of the importation of petroleum products from Iran, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6126. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 340. AN ACT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING HAMAS AND THE PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3774. An act to impose additional sanctions with respect to the importation or facilitation of the importation of petroleum products from Iran, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6126. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

BY MR. SCHATZ, FROM THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, WITHOUT AMENDMENT:

S. 306. A BILL TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WATER RIGHT CLAIMS OF THE TULE RIVER TRIBE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (REPT. NO. 118-110).

#### 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. THUNE (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 3227. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative

manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3228. A bill to prohibit certain members and former members of the Armed Forces from accepting employment with government entities of the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUDD:

S. 3229. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from restricting the use of convertible virtual currency by a person to purchase goods or services for the person's own use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 3230. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3231. A bill to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 450. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that paraprofessionals and education support staff should have fair compensation, benefits, and working conditions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. Res. 451. A resolution permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LUJAN):

S. Res. 452. A resolution designating October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 135

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 135, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 140

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) 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. 537

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 954

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 954, a bill to provide for appropriate cost-sharing for insulin products covered under private health plans, and to establish a program to support health care providers and pharmacies in providing discounted insulin products to uninsured individuals.

S. 960

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 960, a bill to replace the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases with 3 separate national research institutes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal



Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1829

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

S. 1842

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1842, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of zootechnical animal food substances.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2460

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2460, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify the availability and appropriateness of training for local food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2700

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to require investment advisers for passively managed funds to arrange for pass-through voting of proxies for certain securities, and for other purposes.

S. 2917

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2917, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made disasters.

S. 3119

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Mis-

issippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3119, a bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from reclassifying broadband internet access service as a telecommunications service and from imposing certain regulations on providers of such service.

S. 3168

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 3200

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3200, a bill to reauthorize the loan repayment program for the substance use disorder treatment workforce.

S. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 20, a resolution condemning the coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Burmese military, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 408

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 408, a resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 3227. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

S. 3227

*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 "Paperwork Burden Reduction Act".

#### SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATEMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS.

(a) REPORTING OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Section 6055(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, any person required to make a return under subsection (a) shall be treated as timely furnishing the written statement required under paragraph (1) if—

"(A) such person provides clear, conspicuous, and accessible notice (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) that any individual to whom a statement would otherwise be required to be furnished under paragraph (1) may request a copy of such statement, and

"(B) such person, on request of any such individual, furnishes a copy of such statement to such individual not later than the later of—

"(i) January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was required to be made, or

"(ii) 30 days after the date of such request."

(b) CERTAIN EMPLOYERS REQUIRED TO REPORT ON HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Section 6056(c) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, any person required to make a return under subsection (a) shall be treated as timely furnishing the written statement required under paragraph (1) if—

"(A) such person provides clear, conspicuous, and accessible notice (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) that any individual to whom a statement would otherwise be required to be furnished under paragraph (1) may request a copy of such statement, and

"(B) such person, on request of any such individual, furnishes a copy of such statement to such individual not later than the later of—

"(i) January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was required to be made, or

"(ii) 30 days after the date of such request."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to statements with respect to returns for calendar years after 2023.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PARAPROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF SHOULD HAVE FAIR COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND WORKING CONDITIONS

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

S. RES. 450

Whereas paraprofessionals (also sometimes known as "paraeducators") include education assistants and instructional assistants who work in elementary schools, secondary schools, or public institutions of higher education;



Whereas education support staff (also sometimes known as “classified school employees” or “education support professionals”) include professionals who work in elementary schools, secondary schools, or public institutions of higher education in clerical and administrative services, transportation services, food and nutrition services, custodial and maintenance services, health and student services, technical services, and skilled trades;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 paraprofessionals and education support staff are the frontline workers who transform schools in the United States from brick and mortar buildings to places of learning and support for more than 49,000,000 students across the United States;

Whereas, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, school staff employment has fallen across positions and there are still 331,000 fewer school staff than before the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving schools without the necessary staff in almost every position;

Whereas, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a shortage of teachers has resulted in some paraprofessionals and education support staff being expected to assume the duties of teachers without commensurate compensation or benefits;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff are undercompensated for their work, and do not receive a living wage, much less a competitive, family-sustaining living wage;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff are, as a matter of practice, laid off at the end of each school year and rehired annually, and lack job security;

Whereas, unlike most school employees, many paraprofessionals and education support staff are not full-time employees because their services, including those of bus drivers and food service workers, are time delimited;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff lack access to high-quality, affordable health care because they are intentionally hired for insufficient hours to receive health and retirement benefits, or otherwise are charged exorbitant employee premiums for health insurance;

Whereas, while paraprofessionals and education support staff are often the most diverse subset of school employees, are more likely to have grown up in the communities they serve, and are the trusted school community members for many students and parents, the voices of paraprofessionals and education support staff are not always valued in forming school policies;

Whereas paraprofessionals and education support staff often serve students facing systemic barriers, but are often excluded from professional growth and development opportunities;

Whereas, like many school employees, paraprofessionals and education support staff are too often subject to workplace violence and other safety hazards, including contaminants and extreme temperatures;

Whereas paraprofessionals and education support staff deserve real solutions that would empower them to—

- (1) work in a stable, safe environment;
- (2) have multi-year job security;
- (3) receive livable and competitive wages, access to sufficient hours, and fair compensation for their work; and
- (4) have a voice on the job and meaningful input in school policy;

Whereas respecting paraprofessionals and education support staff is essential to creating and maintaining safe and supportive school environments that are conducive to students learning and thriving; and

Whereas Congress seeks to recognize the rights, respect, and dignity that paraprofes-

sionals and education support staff deserve as they continue to care for and educate the next generation: Now, therefore, be it:

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) paraprofessionals and education support staff—

(A) should be compensated at a rate that is a livable, competitive wage;

(B) should have access to high quality, affordable healthcare and healthcare benefits at a de minimus personal cost;

(C) should be considered to be eligible employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.);

(D) should be entitled to 16 weeks of paid family and medical leave;

(E) should have paid leave for all planned and unforeseen school closures, including weather-related closures, professional development days, and other short-term closures;

(F) should have access to meaningful and free or affordable professional growth and development opportunities during regular paid working hours that provide a path to career advancement;

(G) should have sufficient resources and supplies to enable them to do their job effectively and efficiently, including up-to-date technology;

(H) should have access to training and appropriate personal protective equipment;

(I) should have representation in organizations that determine policies that may affect the working conditions of paraprofessionals and education support staff;

(J) should receive notification and the opportunity to provide significant input about the implementation of electronic monitoring, data, algorithms, and artificial intelligence technology in the applicable school and should receive high-quality professional development as new technologies are introduced;

(K) should have adequate notice and opportunity to participate, when appropriate, in individualized education program meetings, behavior intervention team meetings, and other similar meetings relating to the students the paraprofessionals and education support staff support, to the extent permitted by law;

(L) should experience a safe and healthy working environment free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm;

(M) should experience appropriate staffing levels to ensure that students have adequate support and that paraprofessionals and education support staff can complete their jobs effectively, efficiently, and safely;

(N) should receive adequate notification regarding the duration of their employment;

(O) should have an employment contract that includes a provision for the automatic renewal of the contract at the expiration of the contract, rather than the automatic termination of the contract at such expiration, and a provision for termination of employment for just cause, rather than termination of employment at will; and

(P) should have a process for reporting workplace issues and concerns to their employer in a manner that protects paraprofessionals and education support staff and other employees from retaliation;

(2) in recognition of the importance of collective bargaining in maintaining good working conditions, employers of paraprofessionals and education support staff should—

(A) engage in good faith negotiations;

(B) strive to reach timely and just contracts that fairly compensate and protect paraprofessionals and education support staff;

(C) refrain from replacing paraprofessionals or education support staff who engage in a strike; and

(D) refrain from locking out such workers; and

(3) nothing in this resolving clause should be interpreted to supersede, or as an expression of the Senate’s support for any law that would supersede, employment terms or conditions agreed upon in collective bargaining agreements that are more beneficial to paraprofessionals and education support staff than those described in this resolving clause.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 451—PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

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

S. RES. 451

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*,

#### SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within a Senate building or other office secured for a Senator non-monetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a non-profit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the first session of the 118th Congress.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 452—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2023, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 452

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of patriotic men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas dedicated workers paid a high price for advancing a nuclear weapons program at the service and for the benefit of the

United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contributions, services, and sacrifices that those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in—

(1) Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009;

(2) Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010;

(3) Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011;

(4) Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

(5) Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

(6) Senate Resolution 417, 113th Congress, agreed to July 9, 2014;

(7) Senate Resolution 213, 114th Congress, agreed to September 25, 2015;

(8) Senate Resolution 560, 114th Congress, agreed to November 16, 2016;

(9) Senate Resolution 314, 115th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2017;

(10) Senate Resolution 682, 115th Congress, agreed to October 11, 2018;

(11) Senate Resolution 377, 116th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2019;

(12) Senate Resolution 741, 116th Congress, agreed to September 30, 2020;

(13) Senate Resolution 438, 117th Congress, agreed to February 25, 2022; and

(14) Senate Resolution 785, 117th Congress, agreed to December 22, 2022; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contributions, services, and sacrifices they made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States, including the uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1362. Mr. MERKLEY proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 126, recognizing the vital importance of the Mekong River to Southeast Asia and the role of the Mekong-United States Partnership in supporting the prosperity of the region.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1362. Mr. MERKLEY proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 126, recognizing the vital importance of the Mekong River to Southeast Asia and the role of the Mekong-United States Partnership in supporting the prosperity of the region; as follows:

Beginning on page 12, line 20, strike “to support” and all that follows through “to contribute to” on page 13, line 3, and insert “to encourage”.

Beginning on page 13, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 14, line 2.

On page 15, line 1, strike “to support” and insert “to encourage”.

In paragraph (2), redesignate subparagraphs (D) through (Q) as subparagraphs (C) through (P), respectively.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 340

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 340) to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for terrorist organizations, including Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Mr. MERKLEY. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3774 and H.R. 6126

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3774) to impose additional sanctions with respect to the importation or facilitation of the importation of petroleum products from Iran, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6126) making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

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

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

#### READ ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 41 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 41) to reauthorize the READ Act.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MERKLEY. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 41) was passed, as follows:

S. 41

*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 “READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2023”.

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 4(a) of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act (division A of Public Law 115-56; 22 U.S.C. 2151c note) is amended by striking “during the following five fiscal years” and inserting “during the following ten fiscal years”.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MEKONG RIVER TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE ROLE OF THE MEKONG-UNITED STATES PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORTING THE PROSPERITY OF THE REGION

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 95, S. Res. 126.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 126) recognizing the vital importance of the Mekong River to Southeast Asia and the role of the Mekong-United States Partnership in supporting the prosperity of the region.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to the preamble to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

S. RES. 126

【Whereas the Mekong River supports the livelihoods of approximately 60,000,000 people, making it the most important river in Southeast Asia and one of the most important rivers in the world;

【Whereas the Mekong-United States Partnership, comprising the United States, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the predecessor of that partnership, the Lower Mekong Initiative, have contributed greatly to the economic, social, and human resources development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin and the protection of the Mekong River;

【Whereas the United States has longstanding diplomatic relations with the countries in the Mekong River Basin, including a nearly 200-year-old relationship with treaty ally Thailand;

Whereas the development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin is critical for the unity, economic strength, and institutional development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the Mekong River is increasingly imperiled by the threats from worsening and extreme changes in the environment, coupled with the construction of upstream dams that have altered the natural flow of the river and vital ecological processes supported by natural flow;

Whereas, since 2019, the flow of water in the Mekong River during the wet season has been abnormally low;

Whereas the Nuozhadu and Xiaowan Dams in China account for more than 50 percent of the water storage of all dams in the Mekong River Basin and can restrict up to 10 percent of the total wet season flow of the Mekong River, exacerbating drought conditions downstream;

Whereas the Mekong River Commission is an integral partner in ensuring the long-term health of the Mekong River;

Whereas the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy can be a leader in supporting river development and protection;

Whereas the Mekong Dam Monitor, funded partly by the Mekong-United States Partnership, has provided essential data and information about the impacts of hydropower dams along the Mekong River to the people and governments of the Mekong River Basin to allow them to prepare for irregular water flows and mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of those flows;

Whereas the Mekong River has become a hub for criminal elements to traffic in drugs, people, and wildlife, undermining the rule of law in the countries in the Mekong River Basin and impacting the world through the proliferation of illegal drugs and fauna that can cause spillover of zoonotic diseases;

Whereas the international community has committed to support the development of countries along the Mekong River through internationally recognized development goals;

Whereas the Friends of the Mekong, which includes the countries in the Mekong River Basin, the United States, Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and the World Bank, is committed to supporting the shared principles that have underpinned peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific for decades;

Whereas close coordination and collaboration with civil society groups throughout the Mekong River Basin is essential to the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas, among the countries in the Mekong River Basin, there has been a negative trend toward the detention and detainment of civil society actors and journalists and an increase in violations of human rights;

Whereas the February 1, 2021, military coup in Burma was illegal and unjustified and has resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, more than 1,000,000 people displaced, and tens of thousands of people in detention, and continued violence threatens the stability of the entire region, especially those countries along the borders of Burma; and

Whereas diaspora communities from countries in the Mekong River Basin are a vital part of the United States and help build thriving people-to-people ties between those countries and the United States that lead to strong commercial, civil society, and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Whereas the Mekong River supports the livelihoods of approximately 60,000,000 people, mak-

ing it the most important river in Southeast Asia and one of the most important rivers in the world;

Whereas the Mekong-United States Partnership, comprising the United States, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the predecessor of that partnership, the Lower Mekong Initiative, have contributed greatly to the economic, social, and human resources development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin and the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas the United States has longstanding diplomatic relations with the countries in the Mekong River Basin, including a nearly 200-year-old relationship with treaty ally Thailand;

Whereas the development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin is critical for the unity, economic strength, and institutional development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the Mekong River continues to be affected by environmental changes, coupled with the construction of upstream dams that have altered the natural flow of the river and vital ecological processes supported by natural flow;

Whereas, since 2019, the flow of water in the Mekong River during the wet season has been abnormally low;

Whereas the Nuozhadu and Xiaowan Dams in China account for more than 50 percent of the water storage of all dams in the Mekong River Basin and can restrict up to 10 percent of the total wet season flow of the Mekong River, exacerbating drought conditions downstream;

Whereas the Mekong River Commission is an integral partner in ensuring the long-term health of the Mekong River;

Whereas the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy can be a leader in supporting river development and protection;

Whereas the Mekong Dam Monitor, funded partly by the Mekong-United States Partnership, has provided essential data and information about the impacts of hydropower dams along the Mekong River to the people and governments of the Mekong River Basin to allow them to prepare for irregular water flows and mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of those flows;

Whereas the Mekong River has become a hub for criminal elements to traffic in drugs, people, and wildlife, undermining the rule of law in the countries in the Mekong River Basin and impacting the world through the proliferation of illegal drugs and fauna that can cause spillover of zoonotic diseases;

Whereas the international community has committed to support the development of countries along the Mekong River through internationally recognized development goals;

Whereas the Friends of the Mekong, which includes the countries in the Mekong River Basin, the United States, Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and the World Bank, is committed to supporting the shared principles that have underpinned peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific for decades;

Whereas close coordination and collaboration with civil society groups throughout the Mekong River Basin is essential to the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas, among the countries in the Mekong River Basin, there has been a negative trend toward the detention and detainment of civil society actors and journalists and an increase in violations of human rights;

Whereas the February 1, 2021, military coup in Burma was illegal and unjustified and has resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, more than 1,000,000 people displaced, and tens of thousands of people in detention, and continued violence threatens the stability of the entire region, especially those countries along the borders of Burma; and

Whereas diaspora communities from countries in the Mekong River Basin are a vital part of the United States and help build thriving people-to-people ties between those countries and the United States that lead to strong commercial, civil society, and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses sincere concern over the environmental, economic, and humanitarian threats to the Mekong River and the communities of the Mekong River and continued support to counter those threats; and

(2) declares it is the policy of the United States Government to—

(A) through the Mekong-United States Partnership and the Friends of the Mekong, promote the economic and environmental well-being of the people of Mainland Southeast Asia in the 5 countries through which the Mekong River flows, namely, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam;

(B) support a whole-of-government approach in providing and coordinating Federal aid and assistance throughout the Mekong River Basin under the Mekong-United States Partnership, including programmatic support provided by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other Federal agencies;

(C) contribute to the development of quality infrastructure, the development of national electricity markets, cross-border energy trade, the facilitation of cross-border transport, clean energy acceleration and deployment, the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, agriculture, transportation, the facilitation of trade and investment, strengthened subregional production linkages and supply chains, digital infrastructure, and the digital economy in the Mekong River Basin;

(D) promote engagement and buy-in of the United States private sector to support inclusive economic growth, resilience, global health, education, and long-term development in the region;

(E) leverage the expertise of the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and other partners in high-quality infrastructure to support the economic development needs of the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(F) support the development of quality infrastructure, including through projects financed by the United States International Development Finance Corporation, as appropriate, in the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(G) encourage all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to view the environmental, humanitarian, and economic threats to the Mekong River as a danger to the entire region;

(H) promote effective water use policies, natural resources management, and environmental conservation and protection, including—

(i) through support for a technically sound, well-coordinated, and consensus-based approach to managing the shared resources of the Mekong River Basin;

(ii) through support for environmental conservation, protection, and resilience in the Mekong subregion; and

(iii) by enhancing the capacity of countries in the Mekong River Basin in the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources, including fishery resources, for sustainable food security;

(I) continue the important work that provides vital data and monitoring to the people and Governments of the Mekong River;

(J) support the development of the capacity of the region to respond to a variety of threats, including countering transnational crime such as trafficking of drugs, wildlife, timber, and persons, and criminal activity

associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to improve health security, including emergency preparedness and response for pandemics and epidemics, cybersecurity, and disaster response and preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

[(K) promote the development of human capital through education, medical and public health partnerships, vocational training, youth empowerment, women's economic empowerment, gender equality, university cooperation, and educational and professional exchanges;

[(L) work together with countries in the Mekong River Basin to combat pollution, over fishing, natural resource degradation, and the effects that changes in the global climate systems are having on the Mekong River, and the communities that depend on the river, and to support the abilities of such communities to adapt and build resilience capacities of those countries;

[(M) encourage all countries in the Mekong River Basin to provide timely early warning for natural and unnatural operations of the river;

[(N) support freedom of expression in the countries in the Mekong River Basin through promoting independent journalism and the freedom to access information;

[(O) continue to call for the cessation of violence in Burma and support the return of Burma to a path of inclusive democracy, so that it can fully contribute to regional development;

[(P) prioritize the strengthening of people-to-people ties through United States exchange programs such as the Fulbright Program, the Peace Corps, the International Visitors Leadership Program, and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Program, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Academy at Fulbright University Vietnam; and

[(Q) recognize that strong democratic institutions, the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms, independent civil society, and free and fair elections are central to implementing the shared vision of a Mekong River region, and an Indo-Pacific region, that is free, open, secure, and prosperous.]

*That the Senate—*

(1) expresses sincere concern over the environmental, economic, and humanitarian threats to the Mekong River and the communities of the Mekong River and continued support to counter those threats; and

(2) declares it is the policy of the United States Government—

(A) to, through the Mekong-United States Partnership and the Friends of the Mekong, promote the economic and environmental well-being of the people of Mainland Southeast Asia in the 5 countries through which the Mekong River flows, namely, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam;

(B) to support providing and coordinating Federal aid and assistance throughout the Mekong River Basin under the Mekong-United States Partnership, including programmatic support provided by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other Federal agencies;

(C) to contribute to the development of quality infrastructure, national electricity markets, cross-border energy trade, cross-border transport, greater energy access, the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, agriculture, transportation, the facilitation of trade and investment, strengthened subregional production linkages and supply chains, digital infrastructure, and the digital economy in the Mekong River Basin;

(D) to promote engagement and buy-in of the United States private sector to support inclusive

economic growth, resilience, global health, education, and long-term development in the region;

(E) to leverage the expertise of the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and other partners in high-quality infrastructure to support the economic development needs of the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(F) to support the development of quality infrastructure, including through projects financed by the United States International Development Finance Corporation, as appropriate, in the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(G) to encourage all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to view the environmental, humanitarian, and economic threats to the Mekong River as a danger to the entire region;

(H) to promote effective water use policies, natural resources management, and environmental conservation and protection, including—

(i) through support for a technically sound, well-coordinated, and consensus-based approach to managing the shared resources of the Mekong River Basin;

(ii) through support for environmental conservation, protection, and resilience in the Mekong subregion; and

(iii) by enhancing the capacity of countries in the Mekong River Basin on conservation and management of natural resources, including fishery resources, for long-term food security;

(I) to continue the important work that provides vital data and monitoring to the people and Governments of the Mekong River;

(J) to support the development of the capacity of the region to respond to a variety of threats, including countering transnational crime such as trafficking of drugs, wildlife, timber, and persons, and criminal activity associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to improve health security, including emergency preparedness and response for pandemics and epidemics, cybersecurity, and disaster response and preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

(K) to promote the development of human capital through education, medical and public health partnerships, vocational training, youth empowerment, women's economic empowerment, gender equality, university cooperation, and educational and professional exchanges;

(L) to work together with countries in the Mekong River Basin to combat pollution, over fishing, natural resource degradation, and the effects that environmental changes are having on the Mekong River, and the communities that depend on the river, and to support the abilities of such communities to adapt and build resilience capacities of those countries;

(M) to encourage all countries in the Mekong River Basin to provide timely early warning for natural and unnatural operations of the river;

(N) to support freedom of expression in the countries in the Mekong River Basin through promoting independent journalism and the freedom to access information;

(O) to continue to call for the cessation of violence in Burma and support the return of Burma to a path of inclusive democracy, so that it can fully contribute to regional development;

(P) to prioritize the strengthening of people-to-people ties through United States exchange programs such as the Fulbright Program, the Peace Corps, the International Visitors Leadership Program, and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Program, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Academy at Fulbright University Vietnam; and

(Q) to recognize that strong democratic institutions, the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms, independent civil society, and free and fair elections are central to implementing the shared vision of a Mekong River region, and an Indo-Pacific region, that is free, open, secure, and prosperous.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Merkley amendment

at the desk to the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1362) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To make technical amendments)

Beginning on page 12, line 20, strike "to support" and all that follows through "to contribute to" on page 13, line 3, and insert "to encourage".

Beginning on page 13, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 14, line 2.

On page 15, line 1, strike "to support" and insert "to encourage".

In paragraph (2), redesignate subparagraphs (D) through (Q) as subparagraphs (C) through (P), respectively.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 126), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 126

Whereas the Mekong River supports the livelihoods of approximately 60,000,000 people, making it the most important river in Southeast Asia and one of the most important rivers in the world;

Whereas the Mekong-United States Partnership, comprising the United States, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the predecessor of that partnership, the Lower Mekong Initiative, have contributed greatly to the economic, social, and human resources development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin and the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas the United States has longstanding diplomatic relations with the countries in the Mekong River Basin, including a nearly 200-year-old relationship with treaty ally Thailand;

Whereas the development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin is critical for the unity, economic strength, and institutional development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the Mekong River continues to be affected by environmental changes, coupled with the construction of upstream dams that have altered the natural flow of the river and vital ecological processes supported by natural flow;

Whereas, since 2019, the flow of water in the Mekong River during the wet season has been abnormally low;

Whereas the Nuozhadu and Xiaowan Dams in China account for more than 50 percent of the water storage of all dams in the Mekong River Basin and can restrict up to 10 percent of the total wet season flow of the Mekong River, exacerbating drought conditions downstream;

Whereas the Mekong River Commission is an integral partner in ensuring the long-term health of the Mekong River;



Whereas the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy can be a leader in supporting river development and protection;

Whereas the Mekong Dam Monitor, funded partly by the Mekong-United States Partnership, has provided essential data and information about the impacts of hydropower dams along the Mekong River to the people and governments of the Mekong River Basin to allow them to prepare for irregular water flows and mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of those flows;

Whereas the Mekong River has become a hub for criminal elements to traffic in drugs, people, and wildlife, undermining the rule of law in the countries in the Mekong River Basin and impacting the world through the proliferation of illegal drugs and fauna that can cause spillover of zoonotic diseases;

Whereas the international community has committed to support the development of countries along the Mekong River through internationally recognized development goals;

Whereas the Friends of the Mekong, which includes the countries in the Mekong River Basin, the United States, Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and the World Bank, is committed to supporting the shared principles that have underpinned peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific for decades;

Whereas close coordination and collaboration with civil society groups throughout the Mekong River Basin is essential to the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas, among the countries in the Mekong River Basin, there has been a negative trend toward the detention and detainment of civil society actors and journalists and an increase in violations of human rights;

Whereas the February 1, 2021, military coup in Burma was illegal and unjustified and has resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, more than 1,000,000 people displaced, and tens of thousands of people in detention, and continued violence threatens the stability of the entire region, especially those countries along the borders of Burma; and

Whereas diaspora communities from countries in the Mekong River Basin are a vital part of the United States and help build thriving people-to-people ties between those countries and the United States that lead to strong commercial, civil society, and cultural ties; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses sincere concern over the environmental, economic, and humanitarian threats to the Mekong River and the communities of the Mekong River and continued support to counter those threats; and

(2) declares it is the policy of the United States Government—

(A) to, through the Mekong-United States Partnership and the Friends of the Mekong, promote the economic and environmental well-being of the people of Mainland Southeast Asia in the 5 countries through which the Mekong River flows, namely, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam;

(B) to encourage the development of quality infrastructure, national electricity markets, cross-border energy trade, cross-border transport, greater energy access, the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, agriculture, transportation, the facilitation of trade and investment, strengthened subregional production linkages and supply chains, digital infrastructure, and the digital economy in the Mekong River Basin;

(C) to promote engagement and buy-in of the United States private sector to support inclusive economic growth, resilience, global

health, education, and long-term development in the region;

(D) to leverage the expertise of the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and other partners in high-quality infrastructure to support the economic development needs of the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(E) to encourage all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to view the environmental, humanitarian, and economic threats to the Mekong River as a danger to the entire region;

(F) to promote effective water use policies, natural resources management, and environmental conservation and protection, including—

(i) through support for a technically sound, well-coordinated, and consensus-based approach to managing the shared resources of the Mekong River Basin;

(ii) through support for environmental conservation, protection, and resilience in the Mekong subregion; and

(iii) by enhancing the capacity of countries in the Mekong River Basin on conservation and management of natural resources, including fishery resources, for long-term food security;

(G) to continue the important work that provides vital data and monitoring to the people and Governments of the Mekong River;

(H) to encourage the development of the capacity of the region to respond to a variety of threats, including countering transnational crime such as trafficking of drugs, wildlife, timber, and persons, and criminal activity associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to improve health security, including emergency preparedness and response for pandemics and epidemics, cybersecurity, and disaster response and preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

(I) to promote the development of human capital through education, medical and public health partnerships, vocational training, youth empowerment, women's economic empowerment, gender equality, university cooperation, and educational and professional exchanges;

(J) to work together with countries in the Mekong River Basin to combat pollution, over fishing, natural resource degradation, and the effects that environmental changes are having on the Mekong River, and the communities that depend on the river, and to support the abilities of such communities to adapt and build resilience capacities of those countries;

(K) to encourage all countries in the Mekong River Basin to provide timely early warning for natural and unnatural operations of the river;

(L) to support freedom of expression in the countries in the Mekong River Basin through promoting independent journalism and the freedom to access information;

(M) to continue to call for the cessation of violence in Burma and support the return of Burma to a path of inclusive democracy, so that it can fully contribute to regional development;

(N) to prioritize the strengthening of people-to-people ties through United States exchange programs such as the Fulbright Program, the Peace Corps, the International Visitors Leadership Program, and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Program, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Academy at Fulbright University Vietnam; and

(O) to recognize that strong democratic institutions, the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms, independent civil society, and free and fair elections are central to implementing the shared vision of a

Mekong River region, and an Indo-Pacific region, that is free, open, secure, and prosperous.

**PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS**

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 451, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 451) permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 451) was agreed to.

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

**NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 452, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 452) designating October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 452) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK**

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee

on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 396.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 396) designating the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week".

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 396) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 4, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7; 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 Bertagnolli nomination, post-cloture; further, that all time on the nomination be considered expired at 11:45 a.m., and that following the cloture vote on the Kato nomination, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture has been invoked on the Kato nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that if cloture has been invoked on the Kobick nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; 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.

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

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### THE JUDICIARY

JACQUELYN D. AUSTIN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, VICE J. MICHELLE CHILDS, ELEVATED.

JACQUELINE BECERRA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE MARCIA G. COOKE, RETIRED.

MELISSA DAMIAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE URSULA NAMCUSI UNGARO, RETIRED.

DAVID SEYMOUR LEIBOWITZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE FREDERICO A. MORENO, RETIRED.

JULIE SIMONE SNEED, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE ROY BALE DALTON, JR., RETIRED.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. PATTI L. FRIES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. TOMMY F. TILLMAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEVEN J. BUTOW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be colonel

MICHAEL D. MCCARTHY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

MAURICIO DE CASTRO PRETEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be major

BENJAMIN T. FEDELES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be major

ASHLY C. RUF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

BRANDON L. SANDERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be major

LI ZHAO MUECKAY

ALEXANDER T. PARMATER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be major

ZARI N. COFIELD

JOSHUA D. FORSYTH

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be colonel

AGUR S. ADAMS

BENJAMIN S. ADAMS

BRIAN A. ADAMS

STEVEN C. ALLSHOUSE

CHARLES E. ANKLAM III

ROBERT C. ARBEGAST

PHILLIP T. ASH

AARON M. AVTRY

ANTHONY P. BARILETTI

PAUL T. BARTOK

SCOTT E. BEATTY

RICHARD A. BEHRMANN  
LYNN W. BERENDSEN  
MICHAEL A. BLEJSKI  
CHRISTOPHER G. BLOSSER  
STEPHEN J. BOADA  
NICOLE M. BOHANNON  
BRETT A. BOHNE

THOMAS E. BOLEN, JR.  
ANNE M. BRADEN  
BARRET F. BRADSTREET  
JOSHUA H. BRINGHURST

ARTHUR Q. BRUGGEMAN  
CARIN O. CALVIN  
JULIET H. CALVIN  
JARRAD S. CAOLA

DANIEL W. CAROFFINO  
BRYCE W. CARTER  
ALLAN S. CHIU

MICHAEL P. CICCHI  
VANESSA M. CLARK  
RYAN B. COHEN

WILLIAM E. DELEAL II  
STEPHEN E. DETRINIS  
JARROD A. DEVORE

SETH E. DEWEY  
GABRIEL L. DIANA  
PHILLIP D. DIBELLA

JOHN D. DIRK

AIXA R. DONES

BRIAN J. DONLON

TIMOTHY R. DRIESLEIN

JASON T. DUKE

HAROLD J. EVERHART

NATASHA M. EVERLY

ROBERT A. FAIRLEY

ALEXANDER FARSAAD

TREVOR J. FELTER

BENJAMIN J. FIALA

NATHAN A. FLEISCHAKER

GEORGE E. FLEMING

GEORGE J. FLYNN III

JONATHAN T. FRIEDRICH

BRADLEY N. FULTZ

THOMAS D. FUSZ

KENDRICK L. GAINES

TIMOTHY K. GALLAGHER, JR.

ALEXANDRA V. GERBRACHT

ROBERT F. GERBRACHT

ROBERT A. GIBSON

CRAIG A. GIORGIS

FRED GLENCAMP III

JONATHAN C. GLOVER

JASON R. GOODALE

ALEXANDER E. GOODNO

RYAN R. GORDINIER

DAVID J. GRABOW

MATTHEW J. GRABOWSKI

ROBERT C. GRASS

JEROME C. GRECO

CHAD R. GRIMMETT

EDWARD V. HOLTON

TIMOTHY G. HUDSON

ROBERT P. HURST

JONATHAN A. HUTCHISON

BRIAN P. HUYSMAN

BROGAN C. ISSITT

JASON R. JOHNSTON

ROBERT M. JONES, JR.

DANIEL W. KAISER

DENNIS W. KATOLIN

MEGHAN A. KENNERLY

DAVID L. KLINGENSMITH

MARK A. KOVAL

AARON R. KRUKOW

SASHA J. KUHLow

BRIAN D. LAPAINTE

KENNETH A. LARETTO

THOMAS B. LEE

ROE S. LEMONS, JR.

MATHEW K. LESNOWICZ

KEVAN D. LEWIS

CLARENCE E. LOOMIS, JR.

MICHAEL R. LUPIENT

TRACY A. MAESE

ROBERT F. MAY

FRANK P. MEASE, JR.

ANTHONY M. MERCADO

DAVID A. MERLES

BENJAMIN M. MIDDENDORF

DANIEL R. MYERS

CHARLES G. NASH

RICHARD P. NEKIRK

RANDALL L. NICKEL, JR.

EDWARD J. O'CONNELL IV

MICHAEL P. PAVIS

JASON P. PELLERIN

MICHAEL T. FERROTTET

DOUGLAS K. PETERSON

ELIZABETH PHAM

PETER F. PRIESTER

ERIK C. QUIST

TERRANCE J. REESE

MATTHEW T. RITCHIE

MASTIN M. ROBESON, JR.

KENNETH K. ROSSMAN

HEATH E. RUPPERT

ADAM R. SACCHETTI

BRIAN W. SCHWEERS

ARUN SHANKAR

THOMAS F. SHURT

ROBERT E. SHURFORD

ARLON D. SMITH

JOHN F. SOFO, JR.

WILLIAM R. SOUCIE

KEVIN J. STEPP

RICHARD J. STINNETT, JR.

NATHAN J. STORM

RUSSELL A. STRANGE  
ERIC P. TEE  
ANDREW E. TERRELL  
BJORN E. THOREN  
DANIEL L. THUNEN  
DAVID P. TUMANJAN  
JEFFERY VANBOURGONDEN  
KATHRYN E. WAGNER  
WILLIAM R. WALLACE  
DANIEL A. WEBER  
RANDALL D. WHITE  
BRAD E. WHITED  
RYAN D. WHITTY  
ROBERT E. WILLIAMSON  
ARON K. WISHERD  
CHRISTINA F. ZIMMERMAN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

*To be commander*

JOHN R. BARACHIE  
KYLE O. KENDALL  
SARA A. ZANITSCH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

*To be lieutenant commander*

MICHAEL W. BARBER, JR.  
HALEY E. BONNER  
DYLAN R. BULL  
CHARLES B. CASTIGLIONE  
GEORGE M. DAVROS  
MATTHEW G. FINLEY  
NATHAN T. FOURATT  
LUKE G. FRIZZELL  
SAMUEL L. GARGIS  
THOMAS M. GENITO  
THOMAS F. GRUEBL  
JAMES E. HANSEN  
KEVIN L. HAWKHURST  
PAUL F. JACKSON  
CONNAR M. KROB  
BARRETT W. LARWIN  
ERIK M. MARTIN  
WILLIAM T. MCSHANE  
KEITH L. MONIA  
PADRAIG R. OBRIEN  
NATHANIEL K. ROESLER  
JODY L. STUCKEY  
LUKE T. SULLIVAN  
NICHOLAS A. WESTMORELAND  
WILLIAM L. WHARTON II  
MATTHEW P. WITTE  
ERIC J. YOUNG

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E), INCLUDING THOSE RESERVE OFFICERS WHO ARE TO BE APPOINTED AS PERMANENT COMMISSIONED OFFICERS PURSUANT TO TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2101:

*To be lieutenant commander*

DANTE ADAMS  
KATHARINE F. ADAMS  
RACHEL ADAMS  
STEPHANIE M. ALVAREZ  
DOUGLAS E. ANNA  
THOMAS J. ASHLEY  
RACHEL G. AULT  
ISAAC T. BABCOCK  
KENDRA H. BACON SMITH  
COURTNEY N. BAILLY  
BRADLEY K. BAKER  
MAREN E. BALKE  
GEORGE J. BANNON  
JAH G. BARNETT  
NICHOLAS R. BARTOLOZZI  
ALEXANDRIA M. BASS  
CHRISTINA M. BATCHELDER  
ETHAN T. BEARD  
DOMINIK P. BENEDETTO  
JOHN D. BENEDICT  
NATALIE Y. BERNADT  
BRIANA L. B. BIAGAS  
SAMUEL T. BIRCH  
EMILY A. BOGDAN  
MATTHEW F. BOGDAN  
CHRISTOPHER W. BOOTH  
OMAR BORGES  
MALATONE A. BOUASYM  
THOMAS R. P. BOWER  
GEORGE W. BOWLES  
RICHARD C. BRADY  
ANDREW P. BRATMAN  
KATELYN BRAUN  
CONOR D. BRECKENRIDGE  
MATTHEW M. BRIGHAM  
BRADLEY S. BROWN  
COLLIS R. BROWN  
RYAN M. BROWN  
STEVEN J. BROWNING  
KUMAR F. BRUNHARTMCBRATNEY  
CHELSEA R. BRUNOEHLE  
JAMES C. BUSHMAN  
RYAN J. BUYS  
VIRGINIA M. BUYS  
NATHANIEL A. CAJIGAS

MARLON A. CAMEJO  
JOHN M. CAMPBELL  
JEFFREY CANCEL  
RYAN A. CANTU  
JASON P. CAPRIOLI  
LUKE W. CARANI  
DAVID A. CARRIER  
MATTHEW W. CARSON  
ALEXIS D. CHAVARRIAAGUILAR  
NEIL P. CLARKIN  
SAMANTHA M. CLAYTON  
MADELINE R. COMPAGNONI  
AUSTIN L. CONDR  
MICHAEL A. CONELL  
ANDREW R. CONNELL  
ANDREW S. P. CONSTANT  
JONATHAN C. COPLEY  
JAMES C. COPPOLA  
KATY G. COPPOLA  
SCOTT COULL  
NICHOLAS E. COUTURE  
RYAN J. CUGA  
MEGHAN M. DANIELS  
SARA L. DANIELS-JACOBS  
STEVEN W. DAUER  
AARON J. DAVIS  
JAMES P. DAVIS  
JEFFREY R. DAVIS  
LAVERNE H. DEATRICH  
JOHN D. DECASTRA, JR  
GRIFFIN J. DEITZ  
EMILY G. DENN  
JOHN L. DISIBIO  
JOSHUA J. DODSON  
FAYE I. DOHRING  
SEAN P. DOLAN  
PATRICK J. DREISS  
PETER M. DRISCOLL-KWAN  
ALEXANDRA R. DUBE  
DANIEL J. DUNN, JR  
HENRY G. DUMPHY  
LINDSAY G. DUPLISSIS  
CODY W. EAGER  
TIMOTHY J. EARLY  
CONLAN D. EDWARDS  
ANNIE R. B. ELIS  
LANDON K. ELLIOTT  
RIAN K. ELLIS  
JOHN M. EPPERLY  
CARL M. ESCHLER  
CHRISTOPHER R. FAIRES  
ZACHARY M. FARRELL  
KATERINA T. FAY  
DEVIN M. FELLMAN  
STEPHANIE A. FIGGINS  
JOSHUA FIGUEREDO  
JUAN F. FITZPATRICK  
CLAYTON G. FLINN  
ABEL FLORES  
NICHOLAS M. FOSTER  
KENNETH M. FUERSTINGER  
ALYSSA P. FULLER  
PRESCOTT T. FULLER  
AUSTIN A. FULLMER  
JOHN R. FULLWOOD  
JOHN C. GEARY  
VAUGHN D. GEHMAN  
GARY E. GEORGE  
MORIEA H. GEORGE  
CAITLYN K. GEVER  
LAUREN E. GIANCOLA  
NATHANIEL A. GIORGIO  
HANNAH C. GIOVANNI  
HERMAN C. GREEN  
BENJAMIN D. GREENE  
ERIK K. GREER  
KYLE T. GRELL  
SARA E. GRELL  
BRIAN P. HAGERTY  
MASON C. B. HALL  
MATTHEW B. HANKS  
BENJAMIN B. HANNON  
CAROLYN C. HARBERT  
GLENN R. HARGRAVE  
CHLOE C. HARMON  
SLOANE M. HECIMOVICH  
JACOB A. HELLAR  
CARL E. HENDRICKSON II  
TAMARIS HIDALGO  
EDWARD C. HOBAICA  
ADAM J. HOBURG  
CHRISTOPHER M. HOLDREN  
GORDON S. HOLLOWAY  
STEPHEN B. HORVATH  
ANTWAN O. HUGHES  
TIMOTHY D. HULSE  
ZACHARY R. HUNTER  
VADIM S. ILIN  
ERICK D. JACKSON  
KIM L. JENISH  
BARRETT A. JOHANNSEN  
CORY A. JONES  
NATHAN T. JONES  
ANDRE J. JONESBUTLER  
KASTRIOT KASTRATI  
CATHERINE E. KEALY  
NICHOLAS J. KEALY  
ZACHARY D. KEARNEY  
SCOTT N. KELLERMAN  
JOSEPH H. KELLY  
PATRICK T. KELLY  
NICOLE Y. KENNEY  
STEPHEN B. KIDWELL  
SUN K. KIM  
ALEXANDER K. KLOO  
SAMUEL A. KRAKOWER  
SAMUEL W. KULP

ALEXANDER G. KWOLEK  
JENNIFER L. LANE  
ALEXANDRA J. LARIVIERE  
JONATHAN D. LASH  
BRENT N. LAW  
JOHN C. LAWRENCE  
MARINA A. LAWRENCE  
SHANNON M. LEDET  
PARKER A. LEE  
JOHN H. LERCHBACKER III  
DANIEL N. LINDNER  
ERIN M. LISKO  
JOHN K. LOCKE  
CHARLES R. LORTZ  
ANDREW K. LUCAK  
MATTHEW A. MAGARO  
MICHAEL P. MALONEY  
AUGUSTUS P. MANZI  
MATTHEW C. MARCENELLE  
MATTHEW B. MARCHALONIS  
RAMON R. MARION  
EMILY S. MARKS  
GINA K. MARTFELD  
WILLIAM C. MARTIN II  
JAMES T. MARTIN  
JOSHUA A. MARTIN  
MATTHEW A. MARTIN  
VICTORIA J. MARTUCCI  
JAMES R. MASSINGALE  
ZACHARY C. MAUSS  
ADAM M. MAYERNICK  
JAMES M. MCDONOUGH III  
JOSHUA T. MCELHANEY  
MARIA MCELHANEY  
JACKSON L. MCGINNIS  
JOSEPH MCGOVERN  
JAMES H. MCGUIRE  
ALEXANDER M. MEAD  
JUSTINO A. MELENDEZ  
MEGAN G. MENKE  
KARINNE D. MERICAL  
JAILLE R. MERRITT  
JAMES C. MEYERS  
ANDREW J. MILLER  
MATTHEW G. MILLER  
MARY K. MILLS  
OWEN R. MIMS  
JOSHUA E. MOAN  
RYAN G. MONTYDAS  
HOLLY M. MOORE  
KAITLYN L. MOORE  
ALISON E. MRGAN  
JAMES R. MUELLER  
SEAN V. MURPHY  
STEVEN L. NAYLOR  
ANDREW J. NIELSEN  
STEPHEN T. NOLAN  
ROBERT B. NORCOTT  
JOSEPH W. O'CONNELL  
RYAN W. O'NEILL  
CHRISTOPHER D. ORMES  
ANTHONY J. ORR  
ISMEL R. ORTIZ  
JASON J. ORTIZ  
ALEX J. OSWALD  
MICHAEL C. OVERSTREET  
NICKOLAS D. PALACIOS  
DEAVEN S. PALENZUOLA  
CHRISTOPHER A. PALMIERI  
MATTHEW R. PANCIOCCO  
SAMUEL A. PAONE  
BRENT B. PEARSON  
SARA E. PEPIN  
KEVIN M. PETERS  
BRIAN J. A. PETERSON  
VICTORIA L. PHILLIPS  
MAREK A. PILARSKI  
WILLIAM T. POTEATT III  
RICHARD B. POWELL  
MICHAEL B. POWELL  
RYAN T. QUARRY  
RICHARD QUINTANA  
LYNNE RAFFERTY  
ANDREW G. RATTI  
JONATHAN A. RAY  
ANDREW M. READY  
CONOR C. REGAN  
SARAH C. REID  
JOHN J. RENDON  
JONATHAN R. RESCH  
STEVEN M. REYNOLDS  
TRAVIS A. RHEA  
JESSICA L. RICHARDSON  
PATRICK J. ROCKWELL  
NICOLAS J. ROMERO  
MICHAEL ROSSI, JR  
EMILY K. ROWAN  
LENA A. ROYSTER  
SAMUEL B. RUBY  
ELIZABETH A. RUNCI  
NOLAN K. SALLYER  
ERIC J. SCHMID  
MEAGAN L. L. SCHOLTEN  
JACOB C. SCHROEDER  
JOHN W. SCHULTZ  
WILLIAM M. SEABROOK  
SIMON P. SEKITILEKO  
MIRA R. SERRILL-ROBINS  
ROBERT J. SHAW  
ADAM R. SHERER  
JUSTIN P. SHERMAN  
VICTORIA A. SHREFFLER  
NOEL T. SHRINER  
DANIEL W. SIDERS  
LISA M. SIEBERT  
JEREMY E. SILVA  
ELIZABETH M. F. SIMIONE



LOUIS J. SIMIONE  
KEITH D. SIMMONS  
LILLIAN J. SIMON  
JENNIFER M. SIMPSON  
WILLIAM R. SINGLETARY  
KELCEY L. SMITH  
SHEA S. SMITH  
GEORGE W. SOHN  
ANTHONY I. SOLARES  
MICHAEL V. SPADAFINO  
ELIJAH C. SPONSELLER  
RICHARD K. SPROUSE  
BETHANY C. STAFFORD  
LEIGHA A. STEINBECK  
NATASHA A. STRICKLAND  
ELIZABETH R. SURGENT  
KYLE L. SUTSCHEK  
KATHLEEN M. SVENSON  
LUCAS E. TAYLOR

TRESTON T. TAYLOR  
TAYLOR T. TENNYSON  
JACOB E. THAYER  
GEORGE A. THOMAS IV  
BLAKE A. THOMPSON  
BRANDY J. THUNBORG  
TREY A. THUNBORG  
MARCO M. TINARI  
CHARLES A. R. TOTTON  
BRIANNA E. TOWNSEND  
ROCCO M. TRAMONTANO  
CYRUS P. UNVALA  
KYLE E. VANDILLEN  
PANTELIS N. VASILARAKIS  
KATELYN E. WADDLE  
CALEB W. WADSWORTH  
JESSE D. WALLACE  
ALEXANDER E. WALLER IV  
HENRY B. WARD

JOHN C. WARE  
BRIAN R. WATERS  
SAMANTHA A. WATSON  
NICOLE M. WEBBER  
DEVONTE D. WEEMS  
DAVID S. WESTLAND  
SIERRA B. WHITAKER-DAVIS  
BENJAMIN C. WOLHAUPTER  
CORY D. WOODS  
KRISTOPHER W. WRIEDEN  
CORRINE E. WRIGHT  
TYLER L. WRIGHT  
JOEL D. WYMAN  
MICHAEL A. YOUNG  
MATTHEW R. ZANELLA  
CHRISTOPHER P. ZINK  
BRITTANY L. ZIRULNICK  
GEORGE O. ZIWORITIN