



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

No. 187

## 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.

Mighty God, we trust You for protection in a troubled nation and world. You are able to do far more than we can ask or imagine. Provide Your power, presence, and peace to those who feel that the foundation of their world has been shattered. May we remember that in spite of calamity, chaos, and confusion, You still rule from Heaven.

Lord, remind us again that those who do what is right will see Your face. Today, give our lawmakers a greater passion for righteousness, justice, and peace.

Lord, we thank You for the opportunity we had recently to honor our veterans.

We pray in Your strong 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 13, 2023.

To the Senate:

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

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

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

#### CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this week, President Biden will attend the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in San Francisco, where, on Wednesday, he will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Earlier today, I spoke with National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and urged that President Biden should push President Xi on some of the same things my colleagues and I did during

the bipartisan codel I led to China last month. At the top of our list is the fentanyl crisis, which has killed tens of thousands of Americans each year—so many of them young Americans—and which, in large part, originates in China.

For years, Chinese chemical companies have faced little oversight as they have sold chemicals like fentanyl analogs, xylazine, and other substances to Mexican buyers. Mexican cartels then turn these chemicals into fentanyl that they sell in the United States and ultimately into our communities, wreaking havoc, claiming tens of thousands of lives.

So when my colleagues and I met with President Xi, we explained in graphic detail how fentanyl was devastating our communities and that China needs to stop the exportation of these precursor chemicals. We spoke in very strong terms—I did, Senator HASSAN, and Senator CASSIDY. We all told him what havoc this was wreaking in America.

Then, I explained to President Xi that my dad used to be a small business owner and that it would go a very, very long way toward improving China's image for Americans if they took action to crack down on the fentanyl crisis; that the benefits China would get from cracking down on these companies, in terms of American good will, would far more than outweigh the tiny cost it would have on the economy. And I said any businessman knows that would be a good thing to do. President Xi seemed receptive to our concerns about fentanyl and said he would look into it.

So, today, I relayed to Jake Sullivan that President Biden should be really strong on this issue and ask for concrete action from President Xi on this important topic.

It sounds as if there may be a chance for progress with the Chinese Government on cracking down on exporting precursor chemicals used to manufacture fentanyl, so we are eager to hear

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S5465

more come out of Wednesday's meeting.

If they will crack down on these precursor chemicals that are used to make fentanyl, it would be of huge benefit to this country and save thousands of lives. So we are optimistic and hopeful that our codel and now President Biden pushing the issue will get some real results. It was among the highest priorities for our codel last month.

I also urged Jake Sullivan to make sure that President Biden echoes what we told President Xi about the need for reciprocity between U.S. and Chinese businesses. Time and time again, our best companies are prohibited from competing freely or competing at all in China, while many of their best companies can freely compete here.

So many of our companies are severely disadvantaged when the Chinese Government stacks the deck against them in the form of forced technology transfers, the theft of their intellectual property, and other unfair practices. This is costing countless American jobs and tens of millions—if not more—to our economy every single year.

We listed, roughly, a dozen major companies that right now face a major disadvantage competing in China, and we hope the President will strongly push President Xi on those this week.

We also stressed to President Xi last month that if the United States and China are to improve their economic relations, U.S. companies need to be able to compete freely in China, just as they compete freely here. I expect President Biden will emphasize the same this week.

Finally, I hope President Biden is adamant, as we were, with President Xi that China must lean on Russia and Iran not to exacerbate the military crises happening around the world.

On the Israel-Gaza conflict, in particular, we told President Xi that China needs to use its influence on Iran to stop them from acting in any way that would widen the conflict. China should play a positive, not a negative, role in this delicate crisis.

In fact, during my meeting with President Xi, as you may remember, I criticized the Chinese Government for issuing a statement about October 7 that failed to condemn the killing of civilians, and they ended up issuing a stronger statement the next day. When President Biden is similarly firm that China should play a stabilizing role with Iran and Russia, I think it will make a big difference.

In short, Wednesday's meeting between President Biden and President Xi will be a real test for China to show that they truly want a better relationship with the United States.

When my colleagues and I met with President Xi in person, we were pointed and specific with our questions and issues and found him to be responsive. So I expect President Biden will have the same sort of frank conversation we did a month ago.

When the President hammers home the same things we focused on in Bei-

jing on fentanyl, on reciprocity for U.S. businesses, on ensuring stability on the world stage, then, given what we saw in our conversations, we think it could make significant progress on issues we have long focused on here in the U.S. Senate.

I salute President Biden for meeting with President Xi, and I am very hopeful we will get some real results as a result of that meeting.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on avoiding a government shutdown, it is a critical week here in the U.S. Capitol. This Friday, at midnight, the Federal Government is going to shut down unless Congress acts first. The last thing the American people want to see is another unnecessary and painful government shutdown.

Democrats certainly don't want to have a shutdown, and many of our Republican colleagues have likewise claimed they don't want to see one either. Even the mere act of approaching a shutdown is damaging. Last Friday, when Moody's announced they lowered the U.S. credit rating to "negative," citing "continued political polarization" as one of its reasons, that proved to be true.

The answer for avoiding a government shutdown is what I have been saying all along: Bipartisanship is necessary. I have said on multiple occasions that if we are going to work together to keep the government open, Speaker JOHNSON will have to avoid pushing steep cuts or poison pills that Democrats can't support.

For now, I am pleased that Speaker JOHNSON seems to be moving in our direction by advancing a CR that does not include the highly partisan cuts that Democrats have warned against.

The Speaker's proposal is far from perfect, but the most important thing is that it refrains from making steep cuts while also extending funding for defense in the second tranche of bills in February, not the first in January.

Today, the House Rules Committee will take up the Speaker's bill, and that will give us the first indication of how committed Republicans are to keeping the government open.

The next few days will tell all in the House, and I hope the Speaker does not buckle to the loud voices on his hard-right flank to add partisan cuts as the price for keeping the government open.

In divided government, extremists on one side cannot expect to dictate the agenda for the rest of Congress, especially when their views are so out of line with the majority of Congress and the majority of the American people.

I hope Speaker JOHNSON recognizes that he will need support from Democrats in both Chambers if he wants to avoid causing a shutdown. He needs to stay away from poison pills and steep, hard-right cuts for that to happen.

#### MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Madam President, on military holds, it has now been 9 months since Senator TUBERVILLE began his reckless hold on hundreds of military promotions.

Frankly, patience on both sides—both sides of the aisle—is wearing very, very thin.

Every day Senator TUBERVILLE continues his reckless blockades of military promotions, America's national security pays the price. Our military readiness pays the price. Military families—spouses who need to start new jobs and children who need to start new schools—pay the price.

It is the responsibility of Senate Republican colleagues to importune Senator TUBERVILLE to stand down, let these military nominees go through, and tell him to start putting his hard-right political demands ahead of America's national security.

I know some Republicans have been trying to work with Senator TUBERVILLE over the past week to find some last-ditch solution, but he seems to remain ironclad in his stubbornness. So, tomorrow, the Senate Rules Committee—led by Senator KLOBUCHAR—will mark up a resolution allowing the Senate to quickly confirm the promotions currently blocked by Senator TUBERVILLE. I thank my colleague and chair of the Armed Services Committee, Senator REED, for his work on this resolution.

If Senator TUBERVILLE continues his blanket holds on military nominations—if he won't even listen to Members on his own side of the aisle—I will bring Senator REED's resolution to the floor for a vote as soon as possible; that way we can end Senator TUBERVILLE's farce and quickly confirm the over 350 military promotions—people who have served their country long and well—we can finally move them to their rightful promotions.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 STEPHEN R. DWYER, CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 SHANE M. BARNES, STAFF SERGEANT TANNER W. GRONE, SERGEANT ANDREW P. SOUTHARD, AND SERGEANT CADE M. WOLFE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I need to begin today with some tragic news. This weekend, as Americans joined together to salute our heroes, five soldiers deployed out of Fort Campbell, KY, were killed while operating in dangerous conditions in the Mediterranean Sea: CW3 Stephen Dwyer, CW2 Shane Barnes, SSG Tanner Grone, SGT Andrew Southard, and SGT Cade Wolfe.

These fallen warriors were members of Fort Campbell's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, known by their brothers- and sisters-in-arms as Night Stalkers.

The Night Stalkers are elite, highly trained fighters who take on the most sensitive missions. They are ready to respond at any time there are serious threats anywhere in the world, and they ground their service in two principles: never quit and never surrender.

Night Stalkers live, breathe, and—tragically—often die by a creed which reads:

I serve with the memory and the pride of those who have gone before me, for they loved to fight, fought to win, and would rather die than quit.

This weekend, five brave men honored their creed. Their memory will live on, carried by Night Stalkers who continue to profess it and by every American who mourns their loss. This tragedy is a stark reminder of the incredible dangers our men and women in uniform face and of the debt we owe them.

So, today, I join our Nation in grieving these fallen warriors, and I extend my prayers to their families, children, and comrades.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Madam President, now, on an entirely different matter, I have been encouraged this year by the progress our Appropriations Committee has made toward restoring regular order to the way we fund the Federal Government. As I have said before, shutting down the government does nothing—nothing—to advance that work.

Regular order requires that Congress provide itself the time for careful consideration and thorough amendment. I am glad to see that Speaker JOHNSON has produced a continuing resolution that would do exactly that.

There is a lot of work left to do, and aside from the remaining full-year appropriations bills, glaring national security priorities continue to demand our attention: from Israel to Ukraine to the Indo-Pacific, and, of course, our southern border.

House Republicans have produced a responsible measure that will keep the lights on, avoid a harmful lapse in government funding, and provide the time and space to finish that important work. I will support their continuing resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

#### DEFENSE

Madam President, now, on a related matter, as I have said for months, Congress also has a responsibility to help our Nation meet a growing network of serious threats from adversaries like Russia, China, and Iran.

As one recent analysis put it, “Each of these revisionist states aids the others in their goals to . . . subvert or destroy democratic nations.”

Just consider the lengths that authoritarians in Beijing and terror sponsors in Tehran are going to prop up Putin’s brutal war in Ukraine. The PRC has massively ramped up its purchases of Russian energy to help Moscow subvert Western sanctions. And Chinese materials are helping produce 80 million rounds of ammunition for Russian invaders.

Meanwhile, Iran is providing maintenance for Russian aircraft that are subject to U.S. sanctions. And Iranian personnel are on Russian soil training Putin’s forces to use their lethal kamikaze drones.

So, Madam President, our adversaries are showing us by their actions that they are heavily invested in Russia’s war in Ukraine. They clearly understand that their own ability to threaten America and the West is tied directly to what is happening in Eastern Europe.

Our allies understand this reality as well. It is why allies from Japan to Poland are making massive new commitments to modernizing their own defenses and expanding their defense industrial bases. This is good news for burden-sharing and for collective security. In some cases, like Germany, our allies’ investments into Russia’s escalation into Ukraine mark a long-overdue departure from years of neglect for hard power.

Today, as Berlin continues to pour new resources into its own military strength, our German allies have also announced a plan to double—double—their direct military aid to Ukraine in the coming year.

Of course, some of our European allies have never had the luxury of taking a holiday from history. For example, since the beginning of Russia’s escalation, our NATO ally Estonia has allocated a nearly unparalleled share of its GDP in direct assistance. Estonians know that Vladimir Putin does not intend to stop at Kyiv.

America’s friends understand that failing to check Putin’s aggression in Europe would have far-reaching consequences. So do our biggest adversaries. We cannot afford to neglect this reality ourselves, and we cannot deny the clear ways that America’s support for Ukraine is driving our growing readiness to face other threats.

The emergency investments we have made in the U.S. defense industrial base as a result of Russia’s war on Ukraine are doubling production capacity of 155-millimeter artillery rounds. They are driving a 40-percent increase in production of long-range precision fires and nearly doubling our capacity for air-to-air missiles.

Denying the obvious connections between the threats we face can’t obscure the fact that the benefits of investments in Western strength are also connected. Expanding our defense industrial bases means making America and our allies stronger—from Europe to the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific.

The most important thing anyone who is truly concerned about growing threats from China or Iran can do is support investments in American military capabilities and our defense industrial base. That includes both supplemental resources and full-year defense appropriations. If we fail to take these steps, we won’t just be starving our friends and allies but our own military.

The threats we face are not divisible, but neither is the progress we are mak-

ing toward restoring American strength.

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

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, history was made today with the release of a document by the U.S. Supreme Court. Today, for the first time in the history of the United States, the Supreme Court has issued a code of conduct for Supreme Court Justices. Most Americans will be surprised to learn that this was the first time this code of conduct has been issued, but that is a fact.

I know this issue better than most because 11 years ago, I wrote to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts—along with several of my colleagues—and told him that the establishment of a code of conduct for the Supreme Court Justices was long overdue.

After years of refusing to act, a series of scandalous disclosures involving several Justices on the Court, and the Senate Judiciary Committee passing legislation sponsored by Senator SHELTON WHITEHOUSE on ethical reform, the Supreme Court has finally responded. Today, for the first time in history, the Supreme Court of the United States is at least saying to the American people: We hear you and understand that the nine Justices on the Supreme Court are members of a democratic form of government, not royalty, and that they should be held accountable as all public servants in the Federal Government are held accountable.

At a glance, this Code of Conduct for Justices of the Supreme Court is similar to the standards that apply to all other lower court Federal judges. The Court’s code of conduct sets forth several important canons of conduct, including canons on upholding the integrity and independence of the judiciary and avoiding impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

All of these are important steps, but they fall short of what we could and should expect when the Supreme Court issues a code of conduct. The Court’s statement on the code specifically notes:

For the most part these rules and principles are not new.

That is a problem because the Court’s previous practices were plainly inadequate. The Court’s new code of conduct does not appear to contain any meaningful enforcement mechanism to hold Justices accountable for any violations of the code. It also leaves a wide range of decisions up to the discretion of individual Justices, including decisions on recusal from sitting on cases.

I am still reviewing the Court’s new code of conduct. For now, I would note that the Court’s adoption of this code marks a step in the right direction. It may fall short of the ethical standards which other Federal judges are held to, and that is unacceptable. And if it falls

short, the American people will ultimately have the last word, and the integrity of the Court is at issue.

We are going to carefully review this proposed code of conduct to evaluate whether it complies with our goal that the highest court in the land not languish with the lowest standard of ethics in our Federal Government. But this release today, long overdue, begins a dialogue which could end in restoring the integrity of the Court, and that is long overdue.

#### TRIBUTE TO LEILA DE LIMA

Madam President, on a separate topic totally unrelated, after nearly 7 years—6 years 8 months 21 days—of being unjustly jailed, former Philippine Senator Leila de Lima was finally released. This is a picture of her waving from the window as she was released.

In a moving interview just after leaving the prison camp, she stood by her defense of democracy, human rights, and truth and reflected on the importance of not succumbing to hate—a reminder of courage and grace.

I welcome her release and urge any and all remaining charges against her be immediately dropped. I look forward to seeing her soon. I hope she can make it to Washington.

Several Senators have followed this case carefully and closely, including the Presiding Officer. We have sent letters. We have encouraged her over the years to be strong, and she was. Senator MARKEY was also involved in this effort, and I want to commend him as well.

You often wonder, when you hear about these unjust jailings in lands far away from the United States, whether there is anything we can do on the floor of the Senate Chamber that can change history.

Today, finally, after 6 years 8 months 21 days, history came around for Leila de Lima, the Senator from the Philippines. She is an extraordinary woman who showed extraordinary courage. I am glad to plead her case before the American people and to plead it to the President of the United States before he met with Filipino leadership.

This is an important thing to remember: that each and every one of us have the power to speak out for those who are otherwise voiceless. She was one, and it ended with good news today.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on another topic of urgent importance, 45 days have passed since we narrowly avoided a government shutdown by passing a continuing resolution or CR.

And it is hard to believe that we face the same dilemma again now. So much has happened in the last month, all of which only underscores the importance of funding our government. From the outbreak of war in Israel to the tragic murder of 18 people in Maine in a mass shooting, these last 45 days have shown the importance of illustrating to the world that the United States is a responsive ally and illustrating that we

have a functioning government that rises above partisanship to meet the needs of Americans.

And yet, 45 days after passing the short-term spending bill to keep the government's lights on, here we are again . . . with another government shutdown looming. In order to avoid a shutdown at the end of this week, Congress must pass a bipartisan CR to keep the government open so we can continue to do our jobs and fully fund the government for the next year. At this point, folks are probably tired of hearing the term "government shutdown." But it is not just a political buzzword. It is a quickly approaching reality that would have devastating impacts on our Nation.

Recent reports show that our economy is recovering from the depths of the pandemic. However, a government shutdown would have disastrous effects on it. It has been estimated that the last shutdown in 2013 reduced GDP growth by \$20 billion and the 5-week partial shutdown in 2018 reduced economic output by \$11 billion.

A government shutdown would mean that essential social services would be slowed and federal employees and military service members would go without paychecks for their families as the holidays approach. But more than just hurting those who work for the government, a government shutdown would also hurt every American who relies on the government to get by. It would halt small business loans, stall life-saving medical research, and jeopardize nutrition assistance for low-income women, infants, and children. Further, ahead of one of the busiest travel weekends of the year, a shutdown would cause travel delays, because thousands of air traffic controllers and TSA officers would work without pay.

And as Israel continues to defend itself against Hamas and Ukraine against Russian aggression, a government shutdown would jeopardize America's ability to support our allies and keep Americans safe. It also would hamper our life-saving foreign assistance programs, keeping us from providing food and medicine to those desperately in need, from Gaza and Haiti to the DRC and Sudan.

That is why it is essential that Congress pass another short-term spending bill ahead of the shutdown deadline on November 17. The United States of America must prove to our allies and enemies that we can rise to the occasion when the world needs our leadership most and to our own people that we can keep the lights on to govern. And after we pass a short-term CR, the only path forward to fund the government for the next fiscal year is one of bipartisanship and cross-chamber unity.

For 3 essential weeks during the current short-term funding period, the Republican-led House was without a Speaker. While the House was paralyzed, the Senate was busy negotiating bipartisan funding bills. Two weeks

ago, we passed three spending bills with the support of 82 senators, and we continue to work across the aisle on the remaining bills.

The Republican chaos has finally ended in the House—but while there may be a new Speaker, House Republicans are still plaguing the Chamber with their old problems. Unlike the Senate, the only funding bills they've passed are deeply partisan ones that do not adhere to the budget agreement Congress passed earlier this year.

It is time for *both* parties in *both* Chambers to come together and fund our government. And I sincerely hope that my Republican colleagues in the House will approach that task in good faith—without hard-right proposals and drastic budget cuts that they know Democrats, and the American people, will never support.

Funding the government is one of the essential parts of this job. It is time to fulfill our basic duties in a way that doesn't disrupt Americans' livelihood and well-being during what should be a joyous time of year. We need to finish the full-year appropriations process. And to do that in a responsible way, we need to keep the government open and operational.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, shortly after President Biden took office, I gave a speech wondering whether this new President Biden's tough-on-Russia rhetoric would be matched by his administration's actions. I wondered about President Biden because the actions of the Obama-Biden administration were dangerously weak.

We all know that when it comes to Russia, weakness is provocative. It encourages aggression. Russians follow the maxim attributed to Lenin:

You probe with bayonets: If you find mush, you push. If you find steel, you withdraw.

The same is true when dealing with Iran and China. Only 6 months after Russia invaded and occupied portions of the Republic of Georgia, then-Vice President Biden went to Munich to deliver a speech calling for the United States to hit the "reset button" with Russia. When Russia invaded, the Republic of Georgia was westernizing and had gone out of its way to cement close ties with our country.

Georgia even sent soldiers to fight and die alongside American soldiers, but that support from Georgia was quickly forgotten in order to reset relations with Russia. Secretary of State Clinton actually did hit the "reset button" in an embarrassing, chummy ceremony with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

As part of the Obama-Biden reset, the United States unilaterally canceled planned missile defense cooperation with our allies the Czechs and the Poles, and the administration did so on the anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland.

All of these actions then sent the exact wrong message to both Russia and to our allies. No doubt the Obama-Biden administration thought our unilateral show of goodwill would be warmly received and reciprocated by Russia.

Instead, we know that Russia under Putin invaded and occupied Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula and chunks of eastern Ukraine. The Obama-Biden administration responded with angry words but refused to send Ukraine defensive weapons of any kind.

President Obama urged Ukraine not to fight the 2014 Russian invasion. The priority was to avoid escalation. The Obama-Biden administration backed negotiations and a diplomatic solution.

Now, we all know Russia has a history of using negotiations to create frozen conflicts that it can use then to destabilize and control its neighbors. Historically, Russia will snatch a piece of land and then demand a ceasefire and negotiations, allowing it to keep the ill-gotten gains indefinitely. Meanwhile, Russia builds up its next aggression while weakening its target.

The Obama-Biden reset and subsequent Ukraine policy was a disaster for peace and security. In August 2013, the regime of Syrian President Assad used chemical weapons. By doing so, it crossed President Biden's redline—that famous “redline” that he spoke about. When nothing happened, then, the world took notice.

Meanwhile, the Obama-Biden administration sought to strike an Iran nuclear deal at all costs, alienating regional partners and emboldening the Iranian regime.

In June of 2019, President Trump repeated a version of President Obama's redline mistake. At that time, Iran had shot down a U.S. drone, and the U.S. military had prepared a retaliatory strike, as you would expect their defense to do. But President Trump stepped in, calling off the strike, and, then, you know, he publicly announced that he had done so 10 minutes before that attack was supposed to be launched.

President Trump's aborted retaliation then led to further escalation by the Iranian regime, including attacks on U.S. soldiers; that is, until President Trump finally took some solid action, making that bold decision to restore deterrence by killing General Soleimani, as he was plotting further attacks against U.S. forces. Iran responded with a token missile barrage, but the dramatic escalation of the conflict with Iran, predicted by some, fortunately, never materialized. In fact, Iran was deterred.

Then, the Biden administration came into office and began negotiations to resurrect the Iran deal.

Of course, who can ever forget the disastrous withdrawals from Afghanistan? In time, we will learn more about the decisions that lead to such enormous loss of American military equipment to the Taliban, while leaving

many Afghans who worked with our military still under Taliban control—and still today.

Both of these losses sting this very day and influence others to see us as weak or somebody who can't be counted on, as far as our friends are concerned. But there is another loss that is harder to quantify; that is, the loss of the reputation of the United States.

Like it or not, stacked on top of the other expressions of American weakness that I have described, the Afghanistan debacle led to a perception that the United States is weak and unwilling to stand behind its commitments. After the Afghanistan embarrassment, our allies and partners worried that we were no longer reliable. Worse yet, those countries that have long sought America's downfall no longer feared us. Our enemies were emboldened.

According to Russian opposition journalist Mikhail Zygar, in his recent book, the fall of Kabul was a turning point in Putin's mind. Putin became convinced then that he could conquer Kyiv, President Zelenskyy would flee the country, and the United States would do nothing to stop that takeover of Ukraine.

Today, we face the consequences of an emboldened Russia and an emboldened Iran. And, two, China is increasingly aggressive in the South China Sea and the Strait of Taiwan. To be sure, our responses are being closely watched by all three of these adversaries: Russia, China, and Iran. This is a critical time when sending more messages of weakness would be very dangerous.

Today, some people—even in my own political party—are reverting to the Obama-era stance, arguing that we cannot afford the actions necessary to deter all three would-be adversaries of our country. I am convinced that we must deter further aggression from our enemies. We must restore credible deterrence before we reach the point where we have to expend much more, both in American blood and American treasure.

Estonia's Prime Minister is in town this week. Remember that little country that was taken over by the Soviet Union in 1940 and, until the early 1990s, was still under their control? Now they are a free nation. We ought to listen to them of what freedom really means.

So I recommend to my colleagues to listen to Prime Minister Kallas, if you have any chance to do that. She has shown remarkable clarity and leadership since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. She often points out:

If Putin wins, or if he even has the view that he has won this war, his appetite will only grow.

Meanwhile, that old impulse to deter ourselves is still evident in this present administration when the U.S. National Security Advisor says he is worried about starting World War III. That is a way of convincing Putin to hang on a little longer.

We should have learned by now that escalation of aggression happens when

the United States demonstrates weakness. Telegraphing that we are afraid to give Ukraine what it needs to win is deeply counterproductive to freedom and, most importantly, to the Ukrainian people, but also encouraging Russia because, remember, for Russians, weakness, not strength, is provocative.

I urge Members of both political parties to discard the failed Obama policies of weakness toward Russia and give Ukraine what it needs today. Reset didn't work, and ignoring Russia's ambitions in that area is harmful for peace around the world and, particularly, for national security. Our national security is tied, through NATO, with Europe.

The more advanced weapons that Ukraine can obtain quickly, the faster that war will be over. When it comes to quick decisions to send needed weapons to Ukraine to defeat Russia, several countries have shown great leadership: the United Kingdom, Poland, and the three Baltic countries, for example.

Now, for sure, yes, the United States has provided many advanced weapons to Ukraine—the most of any country helping Ukraine—but usually only months after they are needed to have the maximum effect that these good weapons provide.

Ukraine didn't get the tanks needed to launch the counteroffensive until after the Russians had months to dig in and fortify their frontlines.

After months of dithering, President Biden finally gave permission for the Dutch and Danish to send their F-16s to Ukraine, but it will still take months to train the pilots.

The United States military would never launch a ground campaign without controlling the skies, but that is what Ukraine has been forced to do without the F-16s. After all the public hemming and hawing, President Biden finally approved sending a version of the ATACMS missiles to Ukraine, but shorter range cluster munitions were the variant that was sent, not the most destructive.

Meanwhile, President Biden is still withholding the long-range versions needed to take out the Russian supply lines in the Crimean Peninsula. Now, I can only assume this is another example of self-deterrence that has proven so misguided a policy of the past.

Ukrainians are making steady progress, but they could be doing it faster and at less cost in American dollars and Ukrainian lives if President Biden would not be so hesitant, as he is, to take bold action.

The United States has spent roughly \$44 billion on military aid to Ukraine. That happens to be roughly 5 percent of the U.S. military's own budget. Ukraine remains in control of roughly 83 percent of its territory, and the U.S. intelligence community believes the war has severely degraded Russia's military power and its ability to threaten NATO allies. That is a victory not just for Ukraine's independence but for our own national security, as it is

tied to the invoking of article 5 of the NATO alliance.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine sent a wake-up call to our military that we need to increase our capacity to produce munitions. We have ramped up production and are already investing in new capacity so we will not be caught flatfooted in any future conflict. I am glad to say this is already in evidence at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in West Burlington in my State. The dedicated workforce in Iowa is cranking out 155-millimeter howitzer shells and a host of other key munitions. Ground was recently broken for \$1.2 billion in upgrades to the Iowa plant, paid out of the Ukraine funding package passed by the Congress.

I know people talk like the money Congress allocated was literally sent over to Ukraine and every dollar was spent within that country, but the reality is that most of the money stayed right here in the United States to produce arms and ammo and to build production capacity.

I am proud that the portion of the Ukraine funding sent to Iowa will help keep the United States the "arsenal of democracy" for years to come.

Ramping up our military production capacity is good news for our U.S. military readiness. It is also good news for Taiwan. The closed production line for the Stinger air defense system has meant Taiwan's orders have gone unfulfilled for years. That Stinger line is now reopening.

I do not believe the United States is incapable of addressing the multiple international challenges we face, and I fear the consequences if we don't face strongly those challenges.

The United States believed that it could ignore World War I and World War II until those wars became so large that we got dragged into those conflicts. Once the United States joined the fight, our participation was decisive but at enormous cost in American lives and American dollars. We learned our lesson after World War II and took action to make sure it wasn't repeated, and it hasn't been repeated. We did that by helping form NATO to keep the peace in Europe for now 70 years.

Putin's Russia is continuing the Russian tradition of imperial conquest and will not stop unless they are stopped. All you have to do is look at what Putin himself has said. In addresses going back to 2008 and a couple of times since then, he said that his goal was to reestablish the old Soviet Union. I guess he put it in the strongest terms when he said that the breakup of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century. So you know he is going to welcome the support he is getting from Iran, and Iran happens to be sending drones to Russia to attack the civilian areas of Ukraine.

Iran also funds and backs Hamas as it inflicts a reign of terror on innocent Israeli citizens. And for all those people who are demonstrating around the

country that you see on TV over the last 4 weekends against what is going on in Israel and Gaza, it seems to me it ought to be pretty clear that there wouldn't be a single killing going on today in that region of the country if Hamas had not invaded Israel. That seems to be forgotten by all the people who are demonstrating. I know they are peacefully demonstrating for the most part, and that is their constitutional right, and I defend that right. But we have Iran involved in this as well because it funds and backs Hamas as it inflicts a reign of terror on innocent civilians.

Iran is firing rockets at U.S. soldiers in the region, resulting in injuries—I guess if you believe the TV reports, about 48 instances of attacks against American soldiers. Thankfully, nobody has been killed at this point, but there have been injuries and some of them very serious injuries, and we have not responded accordingly, showing weakness. Iran respects our weakness and attacks more.

China is backing Russia diplomatically, economically, and with technology that is being used to attack in Ukraine.

So I hope you see this China-Iran-Russia axis against the interests of NATO, against the interests of peace, against the interests of liberty and the independence of countries as something we should take very seriously.

China is deterred also from attacking Taiwan and dominating other neighbors in Asia largely based on its assessment of America's military strength and political will.

So whether it is Russia, Iran, China, it ought to be a concern for all of us. It is just not Russia v. Ukraine. What would China make of the United States throwing in the towel again so quickly? It is pretty clear from history, we must not find out. We know what Russia is up to. We know what China is up to. We know what Iran is up to. We have to make sure they don't succeed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. 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.

#### ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, throughout my more than 30 years in Congress, I have pushed our Nation to stand up for human rights around the world. Why?

Because to me it is an essential component of our foreign policy, a hallmark of both Democratic and Republican administrations, and a cornerstone of American leadership on the international stage.

Now, some may ask why I do this in the face of pressing global challenges.

Why speak out for what is right even when it is not popular? It is simple. When we guard against genocide, when we prevent ethnic cleansing, when we speak out against atrocities, we uphold America's standing as a global force for good.

And we recognize that countries that observe the human rights of its people are less likely to create conflict with other countries. However, when the United States fails to carry out this responsibility, when we turn a blind eye in order to suit other interests, then we do irreversible damage to our moral authority and our ability to stand up for human rights worldwide.

Moreover, we allow malign actors like China and Russia, Turkey and Iran to fill the void and expand their influence. What I am describing isn't some hypothetical scenario—no. In fact, it is happening right now.

As I speak on the Senate floor, the ancient Armenian community of Nagorno-Karabakh has been hollowed out by a brutal Azerbaijani regime, one that is hell-bent on erasing them off of the map. For months, we have seen this humanitarian crisis unfold in slow motion. First, it was the Azeri blockade of the Lachin corridor, a blatant violation of the 2020 ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. As the only road in and out of the Karabakh Mountains, Azerbaijan's blockade of Lachin corridor effectively cut off the flow of people, food, medicine, and basic supplies.

It went on for months, even as Russian peacekeeping forces—supposedly there to enforce the ceasefire—stood idly by. In this way, Azerbaijan's Government carried out an intention campaign of suffering and starvation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

With the corridor blocked, shelves cleared out. Fuel shortages prevented ambulances from responding to emergencies. Rolling blackouts kept hospitals from performing basic procedures, and studies found out that 1 out of every 3 deaths in the region was from malnutrition alone, with children waiting in line for bread in order to feed family members who were too weak to leave the house.

By July, the Azeri Government was denying even the Red Cross from access to the region. And in blatant violation of the Geneva Conventions, Azerbaijan began detaining medical patients who were being transported through the corridor for treatment. Make no mistake, the 10-month Lachin corridor blockade was part of a diabolic plot to force the Armenian enclave to submit. That isn't just my firm belief. It is also the conclusion of the former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo.

In a report calling on the global community to recognize the blockade as a genocide, he said:

There are no crematories and no machete attacks. Starvation is the invisible genocide weapon. Without immediate dramatic change, this group of Armenians will be destroyed in a few weeks.

He wrote those words on August 8, over 3 months ago. What we have seen since then has been nothing short of barbaric. On September 19, Azerbaijan launched a full-scale invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh. The next day, President Aliyev delivered a televised address from Baku stating and speaking of his “iron fist” and declaring that “Karabakh is Azerbaijan.”

It was a harbinger of things to come. After quickly overwhelming Armenian forces, the Azeri army seized control of the region and forced the local government to capitulate at gunpoint. Azerbaijan pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians, but after decades of violence, repression, and broken promises, those in harm's way knew better.

Of the estimated 120,000 residents in the region, which we call Artsakh, more than 100,000 fled their ancestral homes. On-the-ground reports of this forced exodus are brutal. Buses were packed to the rim with refugees clinging to the very few items they could carry. Journeys as long as 40 hours were documented on the only mountain road leading into Armenia.

And among the exhausted and suffering Armenian refugees, nearly all were deprived of food and medicine as they hurriedly fled their homes. The Armenian Health Minister announced that some people, including elderly patients, died on the journey, and it is no surprise really when you consider the eyewitness account of a health clinic director in the Armenian border city of Goris.

According to him, most of the patients that they treated at a health clinic on the border were “cases of malnourishment, dehydration, people who'd been unable to take prescriptions because they simply didn't have access after being on the road for two or three days.”

The clinic treated these patients as well as others suffering from bullet wounds and broken limbs, bruises consistent with beatings, and hundreds of cases of shrapnel injuries, some of which required amputation.

If this is not evidence of human rights abuses, then what is? Make no mistake, this year alone, the Armenian people have suffered through a 10-month siege, a lightning military campaign that killed hundreds of civilians, and the forced departure of tens of thousands of residents from their homes.

These refugees need our help, and they need it now. With temperatures poised to drop during the brutal winter months in the mountainous region, these newly displaced refugees will need food, shelter, warm clothes, and essential services like healthcare.

They will need assistance as they try to pick up the pieces that were shattered in the frantic rush to flee. And they will need long-term support in the midst of a chronic housing crisis in Yerevan that prices many families out of the capital city.

The United States can—and it should—fill this need with clothing and

blankets, energy assistance, and other humanitarian aid.

To those who point to the acute suffering currently going on around the world, particularly in the Middle East, I ask you this: Should we be in the business of picking and choosing which humanitarian crises we respond to?

Whether it is Palestinians being used as human shields by Hamas or Armenians forced to leave the only homes they have ever known, should we ever ignore the human suffering of those crying out for help?

To me, it is a false choice to support aid for refugees in some circumstances but not others. America has to continue to show up for displaced individuals everywhere they are found, especially as we defend human rights wherever they are violated.

Above all, we must continue to press for accountability when it comes to those who violate human rights. Whenever assaults are launched without warning or provocation, whether it is Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine, Azerbaijan's invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh, or Hamas's barbaric terrorist attack on Israel, we have to stand with our allies as they seek justice for victims in a way that upholds human rights and follows the laws of war.

The eyes of the world are watching as the United States responds to these conflicts. And as we have done so many times before, we must leverage our position as a moral authority for good in order to deliver necessary aid to the affected regions.

As I have said, human rights are a central tenet of our foreign policy. We cannot afford to lose sight of that in this moment, which is why we must continue to raise the plight of Nagorno-Karabakh in the Halls of Congress. This cannot be a forgotten genocide as so many others have been throughout history. We cannot lose sight of the task at hand, which is to stand in the breach and address the Azeri threat before it presses its advantage and seeks to seize more territory. That is right, more territory.

President Aliyev has openly stated he would like to “unite” his country with its exclave in Nakhchivan by cutting through sovereign Armenian territory.

The potential catastrophe that that could set off cannot be overstated. The last thing we need in this region is further conflict between two states that share their borders with Iran and Turkey.

Therefore, I submit to my colleagues that our top priority must be to stand in the breach and address the threats that Armenia continues to face before tensions, again, spiral out of control. We must invoke the language of what has happened here in terms of genocide, vowing to never forget the horrific actions that Azerbaijan carried out in its ruthless campaign.

I, for one, will not stop or rest until a full accounting of Azeri atrocities is

completed. I will continue to oppose any and all military aid to Azerbaijan in light of their horrific human rights record. And the Biden administration should not be using the waiver authority it has to give Azerbaijan U.S. military assistance.

And I will make sure that what happened in Nagorno-Karabakh is never forgotten by the powers that be.

Many of my colleagues will recall a previous instance when the moral line between right and wrong was so clear. It was during our successful effort to recognize the Armenian genocide after more than 100 years of equivocation and denials. That resolution did not come about in a single day. It did not come about in just one Congress. When I was a Member of the House of Representatives, I helped introduce these resolutions every single Congress, and when I came to the Senate, I introduced them every single year as well until it finally passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in December of 2019.

That victory, that long-awaited moment, was the result of years—if not decades—of dogged advocacy until justice was finally achieved.

I will never forget then, and I will never forget now. And in this same spirit, we cannot let this crisis fade from the memory.

In the same way that we remember the millions of Armenians who were ruthlessly slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire, so, too, must we remember the lives lost in Nagorno-Karabakh and the tens of thousands of refugees who have been forced from their homes. We have to stand in solidarity with them today, tomorrow, and every day going forward. We must end our support for the Azeri Government that perpetuated this assault, and we must sanction all those responsible for carrying out these despicable crimes against humanity.

That, I believe, is the task before us in the Senate. It is a goal we must commit to if we are to shine as a beacon of hope for oppressed peoples around the world, to be that moral voice of clarity as it relates to human rights.

You can't pick and choose, and so this is a moment to make sure that we stand up for those who have had their human rights ultimately denied as a result of the Azeri Government, who were forced out of their historic homes and now face the challenges of a bitter winter.

We can make that bitter winter better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as we all are painfully aware, at home and around the world, America is facing a vast array of security threats. There is war in the Middle East, war in Europe, growing instability and threats of conflict in the Indo-Pacific, and, of course,

there is the unprecedented security crisis at our own southern border.

Unlike threats in other parts of the world, the border crisis wasn't caused by our adversaries. It wasn't caused by the actions of an authoritarian leader or events beyond our control. The border crisis is an unforced error. It is a result of intentional decisions and policy positions taken by the Biden administration.

For nearly 3 years, President Biden and leaders in his administration have sent a signal to people around the world that America's southern border is open. All you need to do is show up. Clearly, their message came through loud and clear, much to the delight of the criminal organizations that transport people—human smuggling—and the drug dealers who have exploited this vulnerability. Clearly, they got the message, too, and they are getting richer every day.

Since President Biden took office, we have logged nearly 6.3 million illegal border crossings, plus at least 1.7 million known “got-aways.” Now, the Border Patrol calls a “got-away” somebody who has been detected on a camera or on a radar screen, but when they show up to try to detain them, they simply have vanished. Those are the “got-aways,” and there were 1.7 million known “got-aways” in just 3 years. So that is, all told, roughly 8 million people crossing our border during the Biden administration.

People from every part of the globe are showing up at our border. In a single year, migrants from 174 different countries crossed our southern border. What they have learned to do is to claim asylum, and then they know they will be released to await a potential future court date that may be as long as 10 years in the future. In the meantime, they get on with their lives. They marry. They have children who are American citizens. And the simple truth is, they are not going anywhere. We know that if they did show up for their immigration court hearing, only about 15 percent would legally qualify for asylum under the current law.

So word has gotten out that under the Biden administration, our southern border is open, and if you show up, you will be released into the interior. That has provided an enormous magnet or, in the nomenclature of the Border Patrol, they call that a pull factor. It is a huge pull factor or magnet for people around the world, saying: All have you to do is show up, and the Biden administration will release you into the interior of the United States.

So it should be no surprise that migrants are pouring across the border in record numbers. So is fentanyl, which took the lives of 71,000 Americans last year alone.

We also know there are people on the Terrorist Watchlist who are showing up at the border, but what I really worry about are those on the Terrorist Watchlist who were part of the 1.7 million “got-aways.” In other words, we

don't know how many people on the Terrorist Watchlist have made their way into the interior of the United States as a result of the Biden border crisis.

So what do we do? Well, the Biden administration thinks that all we need to do is spend more money on the current system. We know that tends to be a common response around here—just throw more money at a problem. They tried to solve the inflation problem by spending hundreds of billions of dollars on things like EV tax credits and a supersized IRS. That gave us a 40-year high inflation rate that still hasn't abated yet. Then they tried to address the student loan crisis by shifting the debt from the people who owed it and who borrowed it and who are legally responsible for it to taxpayers—another massive fail. Now they claim they can solve the border crisis by writing another big check. Needless to say, we should all be skeptical.

To be clear, funding is important, but funding for the right things is even more important. In order for anything to change at the border, we need real, substantive policy changes.

Last month, the White House issued a supplemental funding request to respond to major national security threats we are facing today, including the border, but, as I and others have pointed out, the border portion of President Biden's funding request is completely inadequate. His request would actually worsen the border crisis—such as a request for more non-custodial housing options for migrants in expedited removal proceedings. This would allow migrants who are on the verge of being deported to be released into the United States—the opposite of what we should be doing. It would constitute yet another pull factor for anyone considering a journey to the border.

On the whole, the Biden administration's request demonstrates exactly how nonserious they are about solving this crisis. One example is their request for more detention beds. Now, to be clear, more detention beds are needed, but I think it would be helpful for President Biden and some of our colleagues to review the math here. Border Patrol has roughly 20,000 detention beds now, which are strictly for short-term detention. ICE, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has another 20,000 beds for migrants in expedited removal. Now, those may sound like big numbers, but the beds fill up quickly. In September, nearly 270,000 migrants crossed the southern border. That is an average of 9,000 a day. If we were to start with a clean slate, all the Border Patrol beds would be filled in 2 days.

Migrants who are placed in expedited removal and are seeking asylum are supposed to complete a credible fear screening—a process which takes approximately 13 days. If the administration wanted to do things by the book—in other words, if they wanted to follow the law—we would need the capacity to

hold every person who crossed the border for 2 weeks just to figure out whether they had a serious claim for asylum and then a longer period to evaluate those claims, and what they have requested clearly will not allow that to happen. Just to reemphasize the point, that is just to figure out if an asylum claim is plausible on its face before an immigration court determines whether it is supported by adequate evidence. That success rate is roughly 15 percent, which means the people who are waiting in line—those 15 percent who have legitimate claims—can't even get their claims heard because of all the people who have no legitimate claims clogging the dockets of the immigration courts.

So, as you can see, at current levels, we would need hundreds of thousands of detention beds. That is because the Biden administration has allowed this crisis to grow to such epic proportions that it can't be fixed by just more officers or a small increase in detention beds. Nine thousand illegal border crossings a day is evidence of a policy problem, not just a funding problem. More funding would actually be useless until we address the pull factors that are bringing these people here.

Last week, a group of Senate Republicans released a proposal that could serve as a starting point for negotiations in the Senate, but, unlike the President's request, it includes real, substantive policy changes to address the pull factors that are drawing people from around the world to our southern border.

In order to restore some control, we need deterrence. We need consequences for people breaking the rules and trying to come in illegally. We need to show people who have no legitimate claim to remain in the United States that if they come, they will not be able to stay. That is what will provide the consequences and deterrence that will prevent massive numbers of additional migrants from attempting the trip to our border.

If they know they are unlikely to be successful, they are unlikely to spend the thousands of dollars they have to spend now to the criminal organizations to transport them to our border. If they don't come, that will alleviate some of the massive influx of humanity which has prevented the Border Patrol from interdicting the drugs that took the lives of 108,000 Americans last year alone. That is where the criminal organizations or cartels are also getting rich—smuggling people, smuggling drugs.

I continue to be dumbfounded by the unwillingness of our Democratic colleagues and the President of the United States to recognize what a disaster this really is. Since President Biden took office, our country has logged more illegal border crossings than it did under the previous two administrations combined.

We know that migrants are placing a massive strain on many of our major

American cities, including sanctuary cities like New York and Chicago. At the same time, fentanyl and other dangerous drugs are killing our youth.

Fentanyl or synthetic opioids are now the leading cause of death for 18- to 45-year-olds in America. Do you think that will get somebody's attention here in the Nation's Capital or at the White House? No community has been spared from the devastation of these drugs.

As I said, last fiscal year so far, we have seen about 169 people on the Terrorist Watchlist encountered at the border. Last year, the Border Patrol detained more people on the Terrorist Watchlist than it did in the previous 6 years combined. So our adversaries clearly see this as an opportunity to enter the United States with nobody the wiser. And, of course, as I said, this doesn't account for all the people who came in who were on the Terrorist Watchlist or who do have evil designs on our country who were part of the 1.7 million "got-aways."

It is no overstatement to say that a border crisis is a massive security threat to our country. It is putting every community in America at risk. If our Democratic colleagues are willing to help America's friends and allies like Israel and Ukraine, they should be willing to help their own constituents and help defend their own country against this influx of humanity.

Biden's mishandling of the border has created a major national security risk, and the Senate deserves and needs to treat this matter with all seriousness. Republicans are not interested in just throwing money at the current system. Wasteful, inefficient spending is not the solution here. We need to fundamentally shift the dynamics at the southern border, and that will require real, substantial policy changes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 815

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 815 occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, but no later than Saturday, November 18; further, that if the cloture vote does not occur under this order, the cloture motion be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now a few moments ago, I asked for consent that the Senate delay today's cloture vote and allow for it to be re-

scheduled to a time to be determined later this week.

We are pausing on our plans to move forward on a Senate vehicle to allow the House to move first with their proposal.

I have said since the very beginning that bipartisanship is the only way to avoid a government shutdown; and for that reason, I am heartened that the bill Speaker JOHNSON is advancing omits the sort of devastating cuts that are nonstarters for Democrats.

The Speaker's proposal is far from perfect, but the most important thing is that it refrains from making steep cuts while avoiding a costly government shutdown—two things we very much believe in and need.

I hope the Speaker continues to acknowledge that he will need Democratic votes in both chambers if he wants to avoid a government shutdown. He needs to stay away from poison pills and steep, hard-right cuts to make that happen. Bipartisanship is the only way to get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 STEPHEN R. DWYER, CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 SHANE M. BARNES, STAFF SERGEANT TANNER W. GRONE, SERGEANT ANDREW P. SOUTHARD, AND SERGEANT CADE M. WOLFE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. On November 10, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment lost five soldiers when their helicopter crashed during a training flight over the Mediterranean sea. Their names are CW3 Stephen R. Dwyer of Clarksville, TN; CW2 Shane M. Barnes of Sacramento, CA; SSG Tanner W. Grone of Gorham, NH; SGT Andrew P. Southard of Apache Junction, AZ; and SGT Cade M. Wolfe, of Mankato, MN.

In honor of the brave Night Stalkers of 1st Battalion, Charlie Company, I want to recite a few portions of the Night Stalker Creed for the record.

Service in the 160th is a calling only a few will answer for the mission is constantly demanding and hard. And when the impossible has been accomplished the only reward is another mission that no one else will try.

... I serve with the memory and pride of those who have gone before me for they loved to fight, fought to win and would rather die than quit.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the complete Night Stalker Creed.

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

#### NIGHT STALKER CREED

Service in the 160th is a calling only a few will answer for the mission is constantly demanding and hard. And when the impossible has been accomplished the only reward is another mission that no one else will try. As a member of the Night Stalkers I am a tested volunteer seeking only to safeguard the honor and prestige of my country, by serving the elite Special Operations Soldiers of the United States. I pledge to maintain my body, mind and equipment in a constant state of readiness for I am a member of the fastest deployable Task Force in the world, ready to

move at a moment's notice anytime, anywhere, arriving time on target plus or minus 30 seconds.

I guard my unit's mission with secrecy, for my only true ally is the night and the element of surprise. My manner is that of the Special Operations Quiet Professional, secrecy is a way of life. In battle, I eagerly meet the enemy for I volunteered to be up front where the fighting is hard. I fear no foe's ability, nor underestimate his will to fight.

The mission and my precious cargo are my concern. I will never surrender. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy, and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

Gallantly will I show the world and the elite forces I support that a Night Stalker is a specially selected and well trained soldier.

I serve with the memory and pride of those who have gone before me for they loved to fight, fought to win and would rather die than quit.

Night Stalkers Don't Quit!

Mrs. BLACKBURN. On behalf of all Tennesseans, I want to offer my prayers and support to those soldiers' families and to the brave men and women of the 160th. Their motto is "Night Stalkers don't quit." And I would encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting them as they bring the spirit of those words to bear against our enemies around the globe.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, every year I visit all 95 counties in Tennessee; and while the expectations of local leaders vary from urban to suburban to rural areas, two things remain constant. They expect lawmakers to act in the best interests of the American people and act in good faith.

Last Thursday, Chairman DURBIN and Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee seemed to fail those tests, according to Tennesseans, because when they convened the hearing, they wanted to authorize subpoenas for Harlan Crow, Leonard Leo, and Robert Arkley.

Now, the claim was: This is all about transparency. But the only thing that they are willing to be transparent about is the contempt for the Supreme Court and for the American people who still believe in the importance of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Now, if they cared about protecting the Supreme Court, they would have shown more concern about the death threats against the conservative Justices that were coming from the far-left wing of the Democratic party.

There is no good faith to be found here. This is yet another political assault against conservative Justices who issue decisions that many of the Democrats do not like—and we have seen it before.

So they take this approach: If you can't pack the Court, rewrite the ethics rules; if you can't rewrite the ethics rules, just use the Senate to launch a mass prosecution of your political rivals.

In an effort to force my colleagues to show the American people where Democrats truly stand on protecting the country's best interests, I proposed

a few amendments of my own to that subpoena authorization. Well, those amendments proved to be a little bit too politically inconvenient for the Chairman. So here are the amendments that I proposed and things Tennesseans have wanted answers to.

Now, this summer, we learned that Justice Sotomayor's staff had been pressuring the public institutions that host her speaking engagements to buy her books. She got a \$3 million book advance—not reported. She has made \$4 million on the sale of the books.

We also know she has refused to recuse herself in not one but two copy-right infringement cases that involve the publisher of her book. So I filed an amendment issuing subpoenas to her staff and her publisher so we can get to the bottom of this ethical conundrum.

I also proposed we subpoena Jeffrey Epstein's estate to provide the flight logs for his private planes. Given the numerous allegations of human trafficking and sexual abuse surrounding the late Mr. Epstein, I believe the committee has an interest in identifying everyone complicit, no matter their political affiliation.

And we also need to get to the bottom of the investigation into Elon Musk. We know that the Biden administration gets nervous at the thought of conservatives speaking freely online. So, it is no surprise they are trying to weaponize multiple Federal Agencies against Mr. Musk and his company. I proposed a subpoena to compel the DOJ and the FTC to turn over all documents related to that sham investigation.

The far left is the enemy of free speech, and their hostility toward conservatives is on display in the form of their repeated efforts to take down President Trump. So I filed a subpoena amendment for all documents related to any political donations made by Special Counsel Robert Mueller's staff.

And for the executive branch, we have a couple of amendments that I have filed. The first would authorize a subpoena for Secretary Becerra to come before the Committee and explain to us how his Agency has lost track of 85,000 unaccompanied children—migrant children—who have come to this country. I have talked about this several times on the floor.

How can you lose track of 85,000 migrant children? They did it. We need to know. So that is why they are getting a subpoena.

The second would subpoena the DOJ to provide all documentation concerning the termination of the China Initiative. Now that was one of the best tools we have had to fight against Chinese espionage and Chinese spies on U.S. soil.

Now, if I were Chairman DURBIN, I wouldn't want to debate those subpoenas either because they strike at the heart of one of the Biden administration's most dangerous governing principles.

There are two tiers of justice in this country. Obviously, that is the way

this administration wants it. There is one tier of justice for people the Democrats need to protect and for their cronies and buddies and friends and one for people that the Democrats need to destroy to maintain their hold on power.

Tennesseans are deeply afraid of what this means because they know where they stand in this new approach of two tiers of justice.

I don't know if or when Chairman DURBIN will reconvene to discuss these subpoenas, but I hope that, when the time comes, he will abandon this latest assault on the Supreme Court and allow the committee to pursue real accountability.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Madam President, I came to the floor back in June to talk about Biden's border crisis, and I called for my Democratic colleagues to join me in passing legislation to stop the invasion occurring at the southern border. That month, Border Patrol recorded almost 145,000 enforcement encounters with illegal immigrants.

I had hoped that the numbers would convince my colleagues across the aisle and this administration to step up and do something about it, but, over the last 5 months, it seems that my colleagues across the aisle have put their heads in the sand and that the border crisis has reached catastrophic levels.

In September, Border Patrol reported almost 270,000 enforcement encounters. Think about that—270,000 enforcement encounters.

My colleague from Texas was just on the floor a few minutes ago, talking about this very issue.

Now, as wars rage on two continents, we have more to worry about than just drug smugglers and gun runners and human traffickers, who are exploiting our open border. Suspected terrorists are infiltrating our southern border at unprecedented rates. Thousands of people from Russia, China, Iran, and other nations aligned with the new "axis of evil" have tried to enter this country undetected. If something doesn't give, an attack on our homeland is inevitable. It is not a matter of if it will happen. It is a matter of when.

I am truly at a loss for what will finally convince my Democratic colleagues to take back control of our border. It is wide open. But, today, I want to appeal to them using an idea I hope everyone can agree on, and it is all about protecting children.

Children are being used, abused, and trafficked by the cartels at the southern border. These sick individuals view these precious children as cargo, and the stories you hear from survivors are unimaginable. I think my Democratic colleagues are well aware of this practice of child recycling. Adults at the border who want an easy way into the United States will rent or buy children and present themselves as family. So the children are then dragged across the border with that unrelated adult who is often a single male. When they

are no longer useful to the disgusting criminals, they are taken by the cartels and smuggled back into Mexico to be used again and again and again. Border Patrol says there are some children who have been recycled eight and nine times. The Border Patrol sees them coming across. They have identified some of these children.

This is a completely disgusting practice, and I have proposed two pieces of legislation to stop this evil practice.

Earlier this year, I introduced the End Child Trafficking Now Act, which would criminalize child recycling, reinstate the DNA testing program, and create harsh penalties for migrants who want to skirt the law. This legislation would require DHS to deport illegal aliens who refuse to take a DNA test. If the DNA test proves that the migrant is lying and that there is no proof of a family relationship, then HHS would step in and process that child as an unaccompanied minor, and the trafficker would face a maximum 10-year prison sentence for falsely posing as a family.

Now, my colleagues and this administration wanted to stop DNA testing. They said it took too much time. It takes 45 minutes—45 minutes. This is something that is common sense. We need to get that bill to the President's desk and test for that DNA.

Last Tuesday, I led 17 of my Senate Republican colleagues in introducing the PRINTS Act. Currently, Federal law prohibits Border Patrol from fingerprinting children under the age of 14. This doesn't make any sense, and experts agree that fingerprinting these children would make it easier to investigate and eliminate these trafficking rings. It would also help the Federal Government keep track of the unaccompanied migrant children entrusted to their care. The legislation is simple. It would give our law enforcement at the border the authority to fingerprint noncitizens under the age of 14.

Like the End Child Trafficking Now Act, it would finally criminalize this horrific practice of child recycling, and it would remove the authority of unelected bureaucrats to waive fingerprinting requirements for illegal immigrants. This legislation would save lives. This would protect children. It would help cut into all of this human trafficking and sex trafficking that is exploding in this country.

You have heard the Governor of New York and the mayor of New York City talk about prostitution rings that are popping up all over the city—the same for Chicago, the same for Minneapolis, the same for Boston, the same for Denver. We are hearing it from these big sanctuary cities. So it is important that we pass the PRINTS Act and that we save these lives. I think this is an important step—both of these pieces of legislation—to protect children who are coming to our border.

#### CHINA

Madam President, this week, President Biden plans on meeting with

President Xi Jinping, and I would ask the President and his advisers: What have we gotten out of previous talks with the Chinese Government? Do they have any goal other than appeasement?

Several American officials have already sat down for this same photo op. So we know exactly what we are going to get out of it—not much.

What we do know is that Chinese drug lords will continue killing Americans with the fentanyl they are smuggling across our southern border via all of the drug cartels that are bringing it in. The Chinese military will continue menacing our partners in Taiwan and the Pacific island nations, and the Chinese spies who control TikTok will continue pushing terrorist propaganda at our American teenagers and college students.

We should not reward this behavior by lending legitimacy to the Chinese Communist Party, and we certainly should not allow this latest diplomatic charade to lure the country into a false sense of security. China is our adversary. We ought not to be sitting down with China until they stop shipping fentanyl into this country, until they stop participating as a part of the “axis of evil,” and we need to make certain that we treat them as an adversary, not as an ally.

#### NOMINATION OF ANA DE ALBA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Ana de Alba to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Born and raised in California's San Joaquin Valley, Judge de Alba attended the University of California, Berkeley as an undergraduate and law student, receiving her B.A. with highest honors in 2002 and her J.D. in 2007.

Judge de Alba began her legal career as an associate at Lang, Richert & Patch, PC. There, her practice spanned business, employment, construction, and personal injury law. Within just 5 years, she became a partner. While at the firm and in honor of the challenges her own family faced while working as migrant farmworkers, Judge de Alba established a monthly worker's rights clinic to help low-wage workers understand their employment rights.

In 2018, she began her service on the bench as a superior court judge for the Fresno County Superior Court. Last year, after this body confirmed her by a vote of 53–45, Judge de Alba joined the Federal bench as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge de Alba as “qualified,” to serve on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The late Senator Feinstein strongly supported her nomination, as does Senator PADILLA. With significant judicial experience and an unwavering dedication to equal justice under law, Judge de Alba will serve honorably on the Ninth Circuit.

I am proud to support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON DE ALBA NOMINATION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) 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 Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 43, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 308 Ex.]

##### YEAS—48

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

##### NAYS—43

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

##### NOT VOTING—9

Barrasso	Kennedy	Sanders
Braun	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Hagerty	Mullin	Welch

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

#### NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO COMMITTEE

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the following nominations be returned to the Committee on the Judiciary: Calendar Nos. 405 and 406.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

#### DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Washington, DC.

Hon. 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. 23-71, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Romania for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.53 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-71

*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 Romania.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment \* \$0.97 billion.  
Other \$1.56 billion.  
Total \$2.53 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Fifty-four (54) M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Main Battle Tanks.

Fifty-four (54) M1A1 Structures.  
 Four (4) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles.  
 Four (4) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges.  
 Four (4) M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicles.  
 Four (4) Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge (HASB).  
 Fifty-four (54) M240C 7.62mm Machine Guns.

Ten (10) AGT1500 Gas Turbine Engines.  
 Five thousand nine hundred forty (5,940) 120mm M1147 High Explosive, Multipurpose, Tracer (HEMP-T) Cartridges.  
 Four thousand two hundred thirty (4,230) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose, Tracer (TPMP-T) Cartridges.

Non-MDE: Also included are mine rollers; Enhanced Heavy Equipment Transporter (EHET) M1300 tractors with M1302 trailer with B-Kit/Frag Kit; Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) M978A4 with B-Kit/Frag Kit; Tank Rack Modules (TRM) M107A1 fuel trailer (2500 gal) with B-Kit/Frag Kit; HEMTT A4 M1120 Load Handling System (LHS) with B-Kit/Frag Kit; M1076A1 with flat rack and B-Kit/Frag Kit; Forward Repair Systems; trailer mounted generators; Common Remote Operated Weapons Station Low Profile (CROWS-LP); M2A1 .50 caliber machine guns; communications equipment; global positioning system (GPS) receivers; service and training ammunition; spare and repair parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); technical manuals and publications; maintenance trainers; gunnery training systems; tank driver's trainers; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services; concurrent spare parts; Field Service Representative (FSR) support; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); Next Generation Automatic Test System (NGATS); logistics products; tank range upgrade; Intensive Management Office (IMO); Foreign Liaison Officer (FLO); Program Management Reviews (PMR); test measurement and diagnostic equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (RO-B-UGI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 9, 2023.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Romania—M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks

The Government of Romania has requested to buy fifty-four (54) M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Main Battle Tanks; fifty-four (54) M1A1 Structures; four (4) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles; four (4) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges; four (4) M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicles; four (4) Heavy Assault Scissor Bridges (HASB); fifty-four (54) M240C 7.62mm machine guns; ten (10) AGT1500 Gas Turbine engines; five thousand nine hundred forty (5,940) 120mm M1147 High Explosive, Multipurpose, Tracer (HEMP-T) cartridges; and four thousand two hundred thirty (4,230) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose, Tracer (TPMP-T) cartridges. Also included are mine rollers; Enhanced Heavy Equipment Transporter (EHET) M1300 tractors with M1302 trailer with B-Kit/Frag Kit; Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) M978A4 with B-Kit/Frag Kit; Tank Rack Modules (TRM) M107A1 fuel trailer (2500 gal) with B-Kit/Frag Kit; HEMTT A4 M1120 Load Handling System (LHS) with B-Kit/Frag Kit; M1076A1 with flat rack and B-Kit/Frag Kit;

Forward Repair Systems; trailer mounted generators; Common Remote Operated Weapons Station Low Profile (CROWS-LP); M2A1 .50 caliber machine guns; communications equipment; global positioning system (GPS) receivers; service and training ammunition; spare and repair parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); technical manuals and publications; maintenance trainers; gunnery training systems; tank driver's trainers; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services; concurrent spare parts; Field Service Representative (FSR) support; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); Next Generation Automatic Test System (NGATS); logistics products; tank range upgrade; Intensive Management Office (IMO); Foreign Liaison Officer (FLO); Program Management Reviews (PMR); test measurement and diagnostic equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$2.53 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally which is an important force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that is capable of deterring adversaries and participating in NATO operations. Romania will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractors will be General Dynamics Land Systems, Sterling Heights, MI; BAE Systems, York, PA; Leonardo DRS, Arlington, VA; Honeywell Aerospace, Phoenix, AZ; Raytheon Company, McKinney, TX; Lockheed Martin, Orlando, FL; L3 Harris, Melbourne, FL; American Apex Corporation, Delaware, OH; Allison Transmissions, Indianapolis, IN; Pearson Engineering, New Castle, United Kingdom; Amentum, Chantilly, VA; CAE, Chantilly, VA; Palomar, Carlsbad, CA; Boeing Company, Arlington, VA; Fibrotex, Stearns, KY; and US Ordnance, McCarran, NV. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately (22) U.S. Government and (52) U.S. contractor representatives to travel to Romania for a duration of up to five years to support equipment fielding and training.

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

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-71

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

#### Annex Item No. vii

##### (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Tank: The M1A2 Abrams is a third-generation American main battle tank, produced by General Dynamics Land Systems and named for General Creighton Abrams. The M1A2 SEPv3 (System Enhancement Package version 3) features include a multi-fuel turbine engine, composite armor, an advanced computer fire control system, separate ammunition storage in a blow-out compartment, and 120mm main gun. Extensive improvements have been integrated into the latest M1A2 SEPv3 configuration. These improvements include improved digital systems, increased electrical power margin to support demands of future technologies, line replaceable modules

(LRM) to reduce operational support costs, ammunition data link to support new tank main gun rounds, and an auxiliary power unit (APU). M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams tank components include:

a. Export Thermal Imaging System (TIS) and Export Commander's Independent Thermal Viewer (CITV): The TIS and CITV constitutes a target acquisition system which, when operated with other tank systems, gives the tank crew a substantial advantage over the potential threat. The TIS provides the Abrams M1A2 crew with the ability to effectively aim and fire the tank main armament system under a broad range of adverse battlefield conditions. The TIS can be operated and viewed by the tank gunner or tank commander and is the main sighting system for the tanks' main gun (cannon). The CITV provides the same target acquisition system as the TIS but provides the tank commander a separate system that can be controlled and operated independent of the TIS.

b. Special Armor (Foreign Military Sales-released version of special armor): Major components of special armor are fabricated in sealed modules and in serialized removable sub-assemblies.

c. 120mm Main Gun (Cannon) & M256 Gun Barrel: The Abrams 120mm main gun system is composed of: a 120 millimeter (mm) smoothbore gun (cannon), also referred to as the M256 gun barrel, manufactured at Watervliet Arsenal; armor-piercing, fin stabilized, discarded sabot (APFSDS) and other warheads; and combustible cartridge case ammunition.

d. AGT-1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System: The use of AGT-1500 gas turbine propulsion system in the M1A2 is a unique application of armored vehicle power pack technology. The hardware is composed of the AGT-1500 engine and transmission.

e. Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station—Low Profile (CROWS-LP): The CROWS-LP (M153A2E1) is a commander's weapon station. It allows for operation of weapons—M2HB, M2A1, M240B and M240 machine guns. The CROWS-LP is an updated version of the M153A2 CROWS, The CROWS-LP M153A2E1 has improved performance over M1553A2.

f. Ammunition Data Link (ADL): The Ammunition Data Link (ADL) is a system consisting of hardware, electronics, software and an upgraded fire control system. The ADL is required to effectively fire the latest generation of "smart" 120mm main gun ammunition. The ADL offers the capability to supply data to the main gun ammunition to increase the capability and effectiveness of the smart round. The Advanced Multipurpose (AMP) smart round requires the ADL to function and is a future enhancement for use with the M1A2 Abrams.

g. Driver Vision Enhancer—Abrams (DVE-A) AN/VAS-5 and Rear View Sensor System (RVSS): The DVE-A and M88 DVEs are thermal imaging systems developed for use while driving combat vehicles and tactical wheeled vehicles. The DVE provides night vision capability for the Abrams tank driver. RVSS provides a rear-view camera for the Abrams tank. DVE, DVE-Wide (JAB), DVE-A, and RVSS allow for tactical vehicle movement in support of operational missions in all environmental conditions (day/night and all weather) and provides enhanced driving capability during limited visibility conditions (darkness, smoke, dust, fog, etc.).

h. Militarized GPS Receiver Global Positioning System (GPS) AN/PSN-13 Defense Advanced GPS Receiver (DAGR): Militarized GPS capability is currently provided to military vehicles using the DAGR. The DAGR is a handheld GPS receiver which utilizes Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) security. It is used for the Abrams

tank, the M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle, and the Joint Assault Bridge.

i. Communication Radio “Falcon III RF-7850D: The Falcon III RF-7850D is a multi-channel radio. It is a portable, compact, tactical software-defined combat-net radio manufactured by L3 Harris Corporation. It is also referred to as the Falcon III RF-7850D Multi-Channel Manpack Radio System. It is used for the Abrams tank and M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle.

j. PVS-14 Night Vision Monocular: The PVS-14 Night Vision Monocular is a rugged, lightweight, multi-purpose night vision device that has repeatedly proven itself in combat. The PVS-14 design was originally commissioned by the U.S. military to enable nighttime operations. This monocular is used globally in some of the most challenging environments. The PVS-14 can be used as a handheld device or mounted on a head harness. The PVS-14 monocular conforms to 810G Military standards and demonstrates the highest quality form and function.

2. Battle Management System (BMS): The BMS SEPv3 tank will consist of a Data Distribution Unit—Expandable (DDUX), a transceiver, and a commercial software called BC2A platform software by Interactive. It equips soldiers with secure data encryption and advanced logistics. It includes an intuitive interface with features like touch-to-zoom maps and drag-and-drop icons. It is used for the Abrams tank, M88A2 Recovery Vehicle, Joint Assault Bridges (JAB), Assault Breacher Vehicles (ABV), EHET M1300, HEMTT M978A4, and MEMTTA4A M1120.

3. M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle: The primary role of the M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lifting Extraction System (HERCULES) Combat Recovery Vehicle is recovery of the Abrams M1 Main Battle Tank. The 70-ton M88A2 Recovery Combat Vehicle is standard equipment to de-process, recover, and sustain the Abrams M1 Tank. The vehicle's role is to extricate combat vehicles that have become bogged down or entangled and to repair or replace damaged parts in fighting vehicles while under fire. The M88A2 main winch is capable of 70-ton single line recovery and of 140-ton 2:1 recovery when used with a 140-ton pulley. The A-frame boom of the M88A2 can lift 35 tons when used in conjunction with the spade down. The spade can be used for light earth moving and to anchor the vehicle when using the main winch. The M88A2 employs an Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) to provide auxiliary electrical and hydraulic power when the main engine is not in operation; the APU can also be used to slave start other vehicles. The M88A2 recovery vehicle components considered to contain sensitive technology in the proposed case are as follows:

AVDS-1790-8CR Engine Propulsion System: The AVDS-1790-8CR is a unique modification to the standard piston engine family in the M60 series and is an upgrade from the engine in the base M88A1.

4. M1110 Joint Assault Bridge: The M1110 Joint Assault Bridge (JAB) is a fully tracked armor engineer vehicle specifically designed to replace the M48/M60 AVLB and M104 Wolverine HAB and to provide assault bridging capabilities to armored forces. The JAB System consists of an M1A1 Abrams chassis (with A2 heavy suspension) and a hydraulic bridge launch mechanism that will launch and retrieve the Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge MLC-115 Normal and MLC-124 Cautious. The JAB contains:

a. Armor: Major components of the armor are fabricated and assembled into serialized removable subassemblies and installed in sealed modules.

b. AGT-1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System: The use of AGT-1500 gas turbine propul-

sion system in the JAB is a unique application of armored vehicle power pack technology. The hardware is composed of the AGT-1500 engine and transmission.

5. M830A1 120mm High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) TP-T Cartridges are a chemical energy, multi-purpose projectile with an anti-personnel capability. The round consists of a fin stabilized steel body which is loaded with Composition A3 Type II explosive. The fins are canted and impart spin to the projectile. A copper shaped charge liner and wave shaper are contained within the warhead.

6. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

7. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

8. A determination has been made that Romania will provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

9. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Romania.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO PETE GOICOECHEA

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Pete Goicoechea for a lifetime of service to Nevada and to congratulate him on his induction into the Nevada Cattlemen's Association Hall of Honor.

Pete may have been born in Salt Lake City, UT, but he came into his own in Nevada—Eureka to be specific. After attending school in White Pine County and graduating from Eureka High School, he returned to Utah to get a degree from Utah State University and married his wife Gladys “Gladys” Goicoechea in 1972. Pete's service to Nevada spans the better part of four decades, but before his public life, Pete's primary commitment was to take care of his family and their ranch in Diamond Valley. The family still owns the ranch—Pete runs it with his son, J.J.—and his children and grandchildren are still the center of Pete's life.

Pete was a leader in Eureka from the beginning as a volunteer firefighter and director of the Eureka County High School Rodeo Club. In 1987, he ran for Eureka County Commissioner, a seat he won and held for 16 years, serving 14 years as chairman. In 2002, he was encouraged to run for the Nevada Legislature and won a seat in the State assembly, where he would serve for 12 years. He moved on to the Nevada State Senate, and when his current term ends, he will term out after serving for 24 years in the Nevada State Legislature.

During his time as a State legislator, Pete was a powerful voice for rural Ne-

vada and the unique needs of the communities and constituents he served. He has always employed a collaborative approach, working with people from all corners of the State and all walks of life towards common goals. Pete has remained committed to working across the aisle for the benefit of Nevadans.

Pete filled many roles during his time in the State legislature, including that of chair of the senate committee on government affairs, member of the cowboy caucus, and of the senate committee on finance and governance. He was perhaps most well-known as a long-serving member of the natural resources committee and the public lands committee in every session that he served, utilizing his expertise and experience as a rancher. He has been a strong advocate for the agriculture and mining industries that are the lifeblood of Nevada's rural economies. His tireless dedication to working with his colleagues to address these issues has been lauded by all who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

Congratulations to Pete Goicoechea on a lifetime of achievement and service. Nevadans across the State owe you their gratitude.●

#### RECOGNIZING WORTH BREWING COMPANY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Worth Brewing Company of Northwood, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Worth Brewing Company was founded by husband and wife Peter Ausenhus and Margaret Bishop in 2007. Peter started in the brewing industry as a homebrewer while working in the publishing industry. Prior to founding Worth Brewing Company, he made a career transition and worked at Summit Brewing Company, a microbrewer based in St. Paul, MN. Worth Brewing Company opened in the 1886 Worth County State Bank building on historic Main Street in Northwood, IA. During their early years, Peter both renovated and operated the brewery while Margaret ran her engineering consulting business upstairs. Due to their growing business, Peter and Margaret moved Worth Brewing Company across the street to the 1896 International Order of Odd Fellows—I O O F—Erickson building in 2015. Worth Brewing Company reopened in the new location in 2016.

Worth Brewing Company has seven year-round beers on their menu and a specialty beer every month. In addition to beer, they also host “Pizza Fridays,” food trucks, and have a rotating list of drink specials. Worth Brewing Company also hosts live music, pub trivia, the “Books A-Brewin’” Club, and other community events. In 2023, Worth

Brewing Company celebrated their 16th business anniversary.

Worth Brewing Company is actively involved in the Northwood community and has been recognized for contributions to the microbrewery and historic preservation industries. In 2019, Worth Brewing Company won the Adrian D. Anderson Award from Preserve Iowa for their preservation of the IOOF-Erickson building. Previously, in 2016, they were awarded the Preservation at its Best by Preserve Iowa for their work on the IOOF-Erickson building. In 2015, Governor Terry Branstad visited Worth Brewing Company to congratulate the business on their expansion from the 1886 Worth County State Bank building to the IOOF-Erickson building. Peter Ausehus and Margaret Bishop are actively involved in animal charities and historic preservation philanthropies in both the Northwood community and the State of Iowa.

Worth Brewing Company's commitment to providing quality beers, ciders, and arts in Northwood is clear. I want to congratulate Peter Ausehus, Margaret Bishop, and the entire team at Worth Brewing Company for their continued dedication to Worth County. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MADISONIAN

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the longstanding tradition of weekly, rural newspapers in Montana. This week, Montana's longest running weekly print newspaper is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Originally located in Virginia City, MT, dating all the way back to November 1873, the Madisonian newspaper now located in Ennis, MT, has kept residents of Madison County up to date and informed on what is happening in their community for a century and a half. From local elections, to stories about new public schools and libraries, the Madisonian has told the stories of Madison County residents for generations—heck, they have told these stories since before Montana was officially admitted to the Union.

The Madisonian is a paramount example of how folks in rural America stay informed. Rural weekly newspapers like the Madisonian are the lifeblood of engaged citizens in Montana. They tell stories, they keep us informed, and they hold elected officials—like me—accountable. The folks at these papers work long hours for little pay, and are often forced to drive long distances to chase leads, but they do it to serve their readers.

Much like hospitals and schools, rural newspapers are part of the fabric of their communities and help to keep every corner of our State strong. I appreciate the work of our weekly newspapers across Montana, but today, I especially appreciate the work of the people at the Madisonian that have kept this tradition alive for 150 years.

Thank you for keeping Montana informed, and I look forward to the next 150.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, 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. 1722. An act to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2717. An act to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2717. An act to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CASEY, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled "Fighting Fraud: Top Scams in 2022" (Rept. No. 118-111).

#### 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 Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 3290. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish improvements and structural alterations as part of home health services for disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3291. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 460. A resolution supporting the United States dollar as the reserve currency of the world and combating the economic influence of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 461. A resolution congratulating the Texas Rangers for winning the 2023 Major League Baseball World Series; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 76

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 76, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 886

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 886, a bill to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

S. 928

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

S. 1510

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1510, a bill to amend provisions relating to the Office of the Inspector General of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2014

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2014, a bill to ensure that

certain members of the Armed Forces who served in female cultural support teams receive proper credit for such service, and for other purposes.

S. 2307

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to support and strengthen the fighter aircraft capabilities of the Air Force, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2695, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

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

S. 2899

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2899, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to include Middle Easterners and North Africans in the statutory definition of a “racial and ethnic minority group”, and for other purposes.

S. 3028

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3028, a bill to continue in effect certain Executive orders imposing sanctions with respect to Iran, to prevent the waiver of certain sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran until the Government of Iran ceases to attempt to assassinate United States officials, other United States citizens, and Iranian nationals residing in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3282

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3282, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive the requirement of certain veterans to make copayments for hospital care and medical services in the case of an error by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a “Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status”.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 460—SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES DOLLAR AS THE RESERVE CURRENCY OF THE WORLD AND COMBATING THE ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 460

Whereas the United States dollar serves an indispensable role in global commerce and finance;

Whereas the United States dollar represents—

- (1) a stable, rule of law-based legal system;
- (2) democratic, representative government institutions;
- (3) highly liquid and reliable capital markets;
- (4) a robust and dynamic capitalist domestic economy;
- (5) deep and extensive global trading relationships; and
- (6) a significant commitment to market-based, free-floating exchange rates and independent monetary policy;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund reports the United States dollar accounted for approximately 71 percent of global currency reserves in 1999 and has since declined to 58.88 percent in 2023;

Whereas the People’s renminbi, the official currency of the People’s Republic of China (commonly referred to as the “yuan”), accounted for 2.45 percent of global currency reserves in the second quarter of 2023;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China appears to have built substantial “shadow reserves” that are under the control of the People’s Bank of China, the central bank of the People’s Republic of China, but are obscured from international data;

Whereas, in the fall of 2023, the People’s Republic of China reportedly intervened in international currency markets to support the renminbi;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party has disregarded the Paris Club and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and saddled developing countries with opaque and unsustainable debt, including through the Belt and Road Initiative;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party’s refusal to disclose its lending to foreign countries and reluctance to engage in significant debt restructuring is undermining the missions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank related to global economic development and stability;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party is now the largest official creditor and provider of export subsidies in the world;

Whereas the Belt and Road Initiative has led to an increased reliance on capital from

the People’s Republic of China in developing countries;

Whereas, since 2013, the Chinese Communist Party has invested more than \$1,000,000,000,000 in projects under the Belt and Road Initiative around the world;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has been taking aggressive steps towards developing its central bank digital currency, the digital yuan;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has worked to expand the use cases of the digital yuan for the Belt and Road Initiative and to settle cross-border transactions;

Whereas Brazil and Argentina, the two largest economies in South America, have taken steps to facilitate their trade with the People’s Republic of China using the yuan instead of the United States dollar;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has sought to influence the global economy by expanding the BRICS group, made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, and in August 2023, the BRICS group announced it was inviting Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates to join the group, and several members of the BRICS group have supported using the group to support a competitor currency to the United States dollar; and

Whereas the efforts of the Chinese Communist Party to develop a parallel financial system to rival United States-led institutions poses a threat to the economy and national security of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States must take steps to protect the United States dollar as the reserve currency of the world and maintain its position as a key player in the global financial system;

(2) the efforts of the Government of the People’s Republic of China to undermine the status of the United States dollar as the reserve currency of the world must be closely monitored, and appropriate measures must be taken to counter those efforts;

(3) the United States must work to strengthen its economic ties with critical regions of the world to provide an alternative to Chinese capital; and

(4) the United States must continue to work with its allies to promote economic policies that ensure growth and stability across developing countries.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 461—CONGRATULATING THE TEXAS RANGERS FOR WINNING THE 2023 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

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

S. RES. 461

Whereas, on November 1, 2023, the Texas Rangers (referred to in this preamble as the “Rangers”) defeated the National League Champions, the Arizona Diamondbacks, by 4 games to 1 to win the 2023 Major League Baseball World Series in 5 games;

Whereas this victory marks the first Major League Baseball World Series championship in Rangers franchise history;

Whereas, during the 2023 playoffs, the Rangers defeated the Tampa Bay Rays, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Houston Astros to make their third Major League Baseball World Series appearance;

Whereas the Rangers were a perfect 11–0 on the road in the 2023 playoffs;

Whereas the Rangers attained a 90-72 record in the 2023 Major League Baseball season;

Whereas General Manager, Chris Young, the front office staff, and the supporting staff of the Rangers navigated an exemplary season and made tremendous decisions to assemble the 2023 World Series Champions;

Whereas Manager, Bruce Bochy, the coaching staff, clubhouse staff, and the supporting staff of the Rangers managed the 2023 Major League Baseball season, invested in their players, and should be congratulated;

Whereas the entire roster for the Rangers proved to be instrumental in the victory;

Whereas Corey Seager was named Most Valuable Player for the 2023 Major League Baseball World Series, earning the award for the second time in his career and first time with the Rangers;

Whereas the people of Texas and Rangers fans everywhere are—

(1) proud of the Rangers organization;

(2) thankful for the hard work, dedication, and teamwork of the Rangers during the 2023 season; and

(3) thankful to the Rangers for bringing another World Series victory to the State of Texas; and

Whereas fans of the Rangers demonstrated true passion and dedication in supporting their team throughout the 2023 Major League Baseball season: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Texas Rangers on winning the 2023 Major League Baseball World Series;

(2) recognizes the achievements, contributions, and dedication of the players, coaches, management, and support staff of the Texas Rangers;

(3) recognizes the hard work and commitment of the staff of Globe Life Field; and

(4) respectfully directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Chairman of the Texas Rangers, Ray Davis;

(B) the General Manager of the Texas Rangers, Chris Young; and

(C) the Manager of the Texas Rangers, Bruce Bochy.

#### NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 427.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 427) calling on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize the significant educational implications of dyslexia that must be addressed, and designating October 2023 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month”.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 427) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.  
(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 25, 2023, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### CONGRATULATING THE TEXAS RANGERS FOR WINNING THE 2023 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 461, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 461) congratulating the Texas Rangers for winning the 2023 Major League Baseball World Series.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 461) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

#### RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:10 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

COREY ANNE TELLEZ, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE JONATHAN DAVIDSON.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAFNA HOCHMAN RAND, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, VICE ROBERT A. DESTRO.

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 13, 2023:

##### THE JUDICIARY

ANA DE ALBA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.