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Senate

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

PRAYER

Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Capt. Volodymyr Marius Steliac. He is the installation chaplain for the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, and pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Silver Spring, MD.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You today, humbly seeking Your guidance and wisdom as we gather in the Halls of the U.S. Senate. We recognize the importance of this esteemed institution and the impact it has on the lives of millions of people, both within this Nation and around the world.

We are grateful for the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy the United States represents. We acknowledge this Nation's role as a beacon of hope and a force for good in the world.

We lift up in our prayers the Senators and all those who serve in this honorable Chamber. May You grant them the insight to make decisions that align with Your divine will, decisions that promote life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We also pray for the continued pursuit of peace, freedom, and dignity for all people. We thank You for the compassion and solidarity shown by this Nation under Your leadership, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Almighty God, bless and guide this Senate session. May it be conducted with integrity, wisdom, and a commitment to the common good. May Your presence be felt in every deliberation, and may the decisions made here be in accordance with Your divine plan.

I offer this prayer in Your Holy Name, for Yours is the glory now and forever. Amen.

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

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

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive ses-

sion to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Shanlyn A.S. Park, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, I spoke here on the Senate floor about a subject that is highly personal and yet of immense importance: the rise of anti-Semitism in America. I spoke out because as the highest Jewish elected official in the country and in American history, I felt an obligation to say aloud what is felt within the hearts of so many Jewish people across the country and around the world.

After October 7, Jewish Americans are feeling singled out, targeted, and isolated. In many ways, we feel alone. The solidarity that Jewish Americans initially received from many of our fellow citizens was quickly drowned out by other voices.

I want to be clear. I believe most Americans who are criticizing Israel's policies are not anti-Semitic, nor that the vast majority of criticism of Israel's policies is inherently anti-Semitic per se. But it cannot be denied that in too many instances, anti-Semites are taking advantage of the pro-Palestinian movement to espouse hatred and bigotry toward the Jewish people. Similarly, on the hard right, the poison of anti-Semitism has reached levels over these past few years we have not witnessed perhaps ever in America.

All Americans share a responsibility and an obligation to fight against anti-Semitism. We have an obligation to fight back against all forms of bigotry, be it Islamophobia or racism against

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



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JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on nominations, today on the floor, the Senate will proceed with the nominations of two extraordinary judicial nominees. We will first confirm Shanlyn Park to serve as a district judge for the District of Hawaii. Once confirmed, Judge Park will become the only Native Hawaiian woman on the Federal bench.

Later this afternoon, we will move forward with the nomination of Irma Ramirez to serve as a circuit judge for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Ramirez is an accomplished and well-respected litigator who would bring over 30 years of legal experience to the Fifth Circuit. If confirmed, Judge Ramirez will be the first Latina to serve on the Fifth Circuit and the only active Latino judge on the court.

I will enthusiastically support both nominees today, and this Senate majority will continue to prioritize judges moving forward.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, on AI and our insight forums, yesterday, the Senate held our seventh bipartisan AI Insight Forum. We had an enlightening and informative discussion, and I want to thank my Senate colleagues who stopped by to listen and learn from the experts.

Our discussion focused on a few of the most critical issues we face with AI: transparency, explainability, intellectual property, and copyright. We had a consensus on a few important points: We must create and enforce protections for creators to maintain their identities in the age of AI. We must protect American companies' IP and make sure America sets the international standard for IP. We must make sure AI systems are transparent and that the public can understand why AI systems produce the answers they do. And we must do all this while continuing to prioritize our North Star when it comes to AI: innovation.

Thanks again to Senators ROUNDS, YOUNG, and HEINRICH for helping organize these AI Insight Forums.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, on the Judiciary Committee's actions today, the words etched on the front of the Supreme Court read "Equal Justice Under Law." But when ultrarich ideologues can use their wealth to potentially leapfrog to the front of the line of justice, the promise of equal justice is violated, and the result is a crisis of confidence in the integrity of our courts.

So, today, the Senate Judiciary Committee is taking an important step to restore Americans' confidence in the Supreme Court by voting to authorize subpoenas to Harlan Crow and Leonard Leo, who have both used their power and wealth to gain undisclosed access to Supreme Court Justices.

I support the Judiciary Committee's vote to authorize these subpoenas because, frankly, the American people are tired of seeing reports of Supreme Court Justices accepting lavish gifts and vacations from billionaires and

Black Americans or demonizing the immigrant. Whether it comes from the left or from the right, anti-Semitism is an evil that must be condemned.

So, as I said yesterday, Americans ask, how can we help combat that? As I said yesterday, my plea to the American people of all creeds and backgrounds is this:

First, learn the history of the Jewish people, who have been abandoned repeatedly by their fellow countrymen—left isolated and alone to combat anti-Semitism, with disastrous results. I talked about this issue at some length in the speech I gave yesterday, and I would urge all Americans to read it.

Second, reject the illogical and double standard that is once again being applied to the plight of Jewish victims and hostages, to some of the actions of the Israeli Government, and even to the existence of a Jewish State. The glaring double standard where so many support nationhood for so many other peoples but not for the Jews must be condemned.

Third, understand why Jewish people defend Israel—not because we wish harm on Palestinians but because we fear a world where Israel is forced to tolerate the existence of groups like Hamas that want to wipe out all Jewish people from the planet. We fear a world where Israel—the place of refuge for Jewish people—will no longer exist. If there is no Israel, there will be no place for the Jewish people to go when they are persecuted in other countries.

I want to thank my colleagues for taking the time to listen, not just to my remarks yesterday but to all Jewish Americans speaking out against the rise of anti-Semitism.

I would like to thank the Republican leader for his gracious words after my remarks and the so many Members in this Chamber, Democrat and Republican, who made comments to me that they so respected my speech. Many said it had to be given. I agree with that.

Both parties have an obligation to work together to eliminate the poison of anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance wherever we see it, regardless of who says it. I hope we can continue working together in this Chamber to advance that very noble goal.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, talks on finding a way to pass a much needed national security supplemental package continue here in the Senate.

In our supplemental, we must deliver aid to Israel, aid to Ukraine, humanitarian assistance to innocent civilians in Gaza, and fund military capabilities in the Indo-Pacific. All these national security issues are related and should move together.

Yesterday, I spoke directly to both Leader McCONNELL and Speaker JOHNSON and made clear that if Republicans don't work with us in a bipartisan way on the border, passing a supplemental is going to be very difficult.

I was deeply troubled by reports yesterday that Speaker JOHNSON joined Senate Republicans and made a push to inject more H.R. 2 provisions into the Senate supplemental. That is precisely the kind of thing that undermines the entire supplemental, including aid to Israel, aid to Ukraine, and humanitarian aid to Gaza.

We all know the border is a problem that we should deal with, but it is not related to Ukraine or to Israel or to the Indo-Pacific. It has been put in there by Republicans, and that means there is an onus on them to make sure it is bipartisan.

Democrats are willing to work with Republicans on commonsense, realistic border security, but we can't have the hard right essentially say it is H.R. 2 or nothing. If Speaker JOHNSON or, for that matter, the negotiators feel they have to listen to what JOHNSON can pass just among his caucus, we will never get anything done. Democratic votes are going to be needed in the House to pass this legislation. We all know that. So this "H.R. 2 or nothing" or something close to "H.R. 2 or nothing" is a proposal that could not pass the Senate or the House.

Democrats—the solution for passing the supplemental is bipartisan compromise, and we have shown that we are willing to do it. The wrong answer is to let Ukraine aid, let Israel aid, let aid to civilians in Gaza all get bungled because the hard right wanted H.R. 2 or something close to it.

I urge my Republican colleagues not to let that happen because at the end of the day, what is holding this up is not the issues of Israel, Ukraine, humanitarian aid, or the Indo-Pacific; it is border, and that was injected by our Republican colleagues. Please, they should work with us to fix it in a bipartisan way or we won't get anything done.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. President, on Senator TUBERVILLE, anger is reaching a boiling point in the Senate over the immense damage Senator TUBERVILLE has done to our military by holding up hundreds of critical military nominations. Soon, we will act to bring these holds to an end.

A few weeks ago, the Rules Committee passed a resolution that would enable the Senate to quickly confirm all the nominees currently on hold. The resolution is carefully tailored to solve the current impasse.

Now it sounds like Senator TUBERVILLE has told Republicans he is trying to find a way out of the mess he has created, although he has not yet provided many details. We are willing to give our Republican colleagues a chance to solve this problem on their own. But let me be clear: If Republicans are not able to get Senator TUBERVILLE to stand down quickly, we are going to hold a vote on our resolution to confirm these nominees before we leave this year. These reckless military holds must come to an end.

MAGA extremists. And then these same Justices turn around and gut affirmative action, block student debt relief for millions of Americans, greenlight discrimination against the LGBTQ community, and so much else. The hypocrisy is undeniable, and the American people see right through it. These very same billionaires who are pushing cases through the Court having the ability to travel on jets and go to resorts and buy them gifts is just outrageous.

So, today, Senate Democrats are taking action to look under the hood and make sure we increase transparency, which these subpoenas would do.

Once again, I support the Senate Judiciary's vote to authorize these subpoenas. I thank Chairman DURBIN and my colleagues on the committee for their work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING HENRY A. KISSINGER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the past hundred years have seen few, if any, strategic thinkers shape world events as profoundly as Henry Kissinger. Few academics have had such deep experience in the practice of foreign policy. Few political appointees have had such bureaucratic savvy. Few senior government officials have carried such intellectual heft.

Who else could claim to have advised more than one-fourth of all U.S. Presidents, to have taken a seat across from every Chinese head of state since Chairman Mao?

Yesterday marked the end of the extraordinary Kissinger century.

If you consider just the early chapters of this remarkable life, you might expect Henry Kissinger to be the quintessential idealist. But by the age of 30, he had escaped Nazi brutality for America, returned home a decorated veteran of the campaign to defeat Hitler, and launched a successful career as an Ivy League academic.

Of course, instead of an idealist, this made-for-Hollywood origin story produced one of the world's staunchest realists. The Kissinger calculus was grounded in pragmatic assessments of national interest, the use of military force, and diplomatic compromise; and, by extension, so were decades of American foreign policy.

Several years ago, one particularly apt assessment of Henry Kissinger's legacy pointed out that he didn't believe "the arc of history makes house calls." In other words, if the free world waits passively for its noble convic-

tions to be vindicated, we will be waiting quite a while.

Instead, Henry Kissinger knew that the organizing principle for American strategy must be American interests, and he left no room for wondering what this approach looked like in practice. His careful negotiations ushered in a period of detente with America's greatest 20th century rival, and his bold diplomacy opened the door to a relationship with China that rebalanced Cold War dynamics in America's favor.

Of course, the enduring relevance of Dr. Kissinger's work is due in no small part to his prolific participation in public discourse on foreign policy and grand strategy, up until the very end. The author of 21 books confounded scholars half his age with the pace and the volume of his brilliant scholarship on topics ranging from the history of diplomacy to artificial intelligence.

In perhaps the truest expression of both his intellectual horsepower and understanding of power, he remains the only American statesman to have served as Secretary of State and National Security Advisor at the very same time.

Today, the world Henry Kissinger leaves behind bears his indelible mark. The Nation he served—the global superpower he helped create—owes him our gratitude.

Elaine and I, along with so many of Dr. Kissinger's friends in the Senate, send our condolences to his wife Nancy, his children David and Elizabeth, and to the entire Kissinger family as they mourn a great American.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, now, on another matter, a good way to size up leaders at home and abroad is to look at how they treat borders.

Good leaders recognize sovereignty as the bedrock of national security. As a result, peaceful nations both respect the inviolability of other nations' borders as well as vigorously defend their own.

The world is awash in examples of this fundamental reality. Putin has spent years trampling the sovereignty of his European neighbors. But the people of Ukraine are enduring occupation and torture and giving their lives to restore their homeland's lawful borders.

Iran's network of proxies violates the sovereignty of Israel and its Arab neighbors with horrific terrorist bloodlust. But the people of Israel respond with unwavering resolve to restore security.

President Xi is pouring unprecedented investments into Chinese military power with the express purpose of shattering a sovereign democracy and undermining regional order, but Taiwan and America's other Asian partners are steeling themselves to deter aggression.

The United States has a direct interest in helping our friends maintain their sovereignty—from Europe to the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific. According to a survey published just

today by the Reagan Institute, that is exactly how overwhelming majorities in this country see it.

By this latest account, 65 percent of Americans support U.S. assistance to Taiwan, 67 percent support assistance to Ukraine, and 71 percent support assistance to Israel. In other words, a full two-thirds of the country recognizes the scope of America's interests and responsibilities as a global superpower.

At the same time, vast majorities continue to affirm that national security begins at home. Recent polling shows that even a majority of Democrats say that they are at least very concerned about the state of American border security on President Biden's watch.

Over 9,000 illegal aliens arrive at our Nation's southern border every day. And thanks to a profoundly broken system of asylum and parole, they know that the vast majority will be waved on through to settle in the interior. The consequences of this crisis touch every corner of our country. The overwhelming task facing Border Patrol personnel is drawing Federal law enforcement personnel off of other important missions to help contend with the surging arrivals at ports of entry.

As the senior Senator from Missouri revealed yesterday, some officers charged with protecting Federal buildings are being sent instead to ferry illegal aliens to and from the hospital. The vast stretches of border in between are seeing massive flows of lethal drugs like fentanyl on their way to poisoning Americans in States across the interior.

Across the country, even progressive mayors of self-described "sanctuary cities" are at wit's end contending with the human wave heading north.

The Biden administration's failure to secure our southern border is an embarrassing and dangerous policy failure. Here in the Senate, Democrats are making an embarrassing misjudgment of their own. The Democratic leader would like us to believe that the defense of sovereign borders is an urgent and noble cause when it takes place overseas but an "extraneous" distraction here at home. Some of our colleagues apparently think America can profess to stand for the rule of law without enforcing it on our own soil.

The Senate has 2 weeks—2 weeks—to pass supplemental legislation to meet urgent national security priorities. That means time is running out for our Democratic colleagues to recognize that national security begins here at home.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, there is something I want to address today. I just want to make an observation about this discussion we are having on our southern border. I would reiterate what I have been saying now for some time, and that is that it is no longer just a humanitarian crisis. It is every bit of that, but it is a national security crisis.

We see the numbers on a daily basis, the number of people who are apprehended at the southern border trying to come into the country illegally. In the last 3 days—the last 3 days—that is over 9,000 per day—over 9,000 per day, and that doesn't include the “got-aways” or the unknowns. That is the people who are apprehended coming across the border illegally. And we now know that, in the month of September, for example, there were a significant number of people—18, actually—apprehended coming across the southern border, who are on the Terrorist Watchlist.

People coming from all over the world have figured out that, if you want a portal, if you want to get into the United States, just come to the southern border, and we will wave you in, which is essentially what is happening today.

And the question I would ask is, In what universe does that make any sense?

I said this yesterday: We are a nation of immigrants. We have been a very welcoming country. We have ways of bringing people into this country legally, and we do that on an annual basis.

But we are a nation of laws, first and foremost. The rule of law is what distinguishes our country from many other countries around the world, and yet, at our southern border, that doesn't mean a thing.

Over 9,000 a day—annualize that. Think about what that means. That is 3 million people a year. And we have people who want to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to it.

We have an opportunity in this national security supplemental bill that will be on the floor perhaps as early as next week. It will deal with issues like Ukraine, issues like Israel—what is happening there—and the Indo-Pacific, where we have national security interests at stake. We have to deal with the national security crisis at our southern border.

This is insanity. I don't understand it. I don't understand the administration. I don't understand some of my colleagues here in the Senate who feel like this isn't something that we need to be dealing with or addressing. This is a national security crisis on a daily basis—over 9,000 the last 3 days in a row—and, again, some of which we know, because they are catching them, are people on the Terrorist Watchlist.

In what universe does what is being done at our southern border make sense to anybody, to any rational person?

It doesn't make sense to the mayor of New York City or the mayor of Chicago, where, as migrants arrive there, they are having to divert resources to address that. The mayor of New York City said he was going to freeze hiring police officers in New York City. That seems like that would be a problem, if I were a New York City resident. He said he was going to have to close libraries and cut funding for education.

That is what we are talking about. This is not just an issue that affects communities on the southern border, although I have been down there a number of times, and, believe me, they are profoundly affected. This is an issue where every State becomes a border State, as literally thousands of people on a daily basis are released into the interior of the United States—waved by, with no regard or respect for our heritage as a nation of laws in a country that is built upon a foundation of the rule of law.

It has to be fixed. It has to be done, and it needs to be done now, and I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and our folks at the White House understand that. We can't wait any longer. This is out of control.

PHEASANT SEASON

Mr. President, on another subject, there are some things that are timeless, that are cherished by every generation, things that never get old, no matter how long they have been going on. In South Dakota, one of those things is our pheasant hunting tradition. It has been a part of South Dakota's way of life for over a century.

Over the years, as the pheasant population grew, so did the State's reputation as the “Pheasant Capital of the World.” Today, hunters come from all over to participate in the annual hunting season, and the season opener, which falls on the third Saturday in October, is all but an official State holiday.

Pheasant hunting is a tradition in a lot of South Dakota families, including my own. I can't remember a time when I didn't look forward to the start of the pheasant season. We call it pheasant opener.

My dad would take my siblings and me out hunting. He taught us how to bag a rooster and work together as a team in the field. He wasn't one to miss a pheasant season, even into his late nineties.

Over the years, I have enjoyed sharing this tradition with my daughters and, later, with their husbands, and I am looking forward to passing it on to the next generation, when my grandchildren are old enough.

I was able to get out pheasant hunting over the Thanksgiving holiday, and I can say that there is nothing like a crisp fall day in South Dakota spent in our great outdoors with friends and family. I think that is what keeps so many hunters coming back every year. Of course, they also come for the challenge of the hunt and, hopefully, to limit out—in other words, to get a limit—on pheasants, roosters.

Like I said, folks come from all over for South Dakota's ringnecks. Last year, if you look at the actual number of people who came into South Dakota who hunt pheasants, there were 127,000 hunters who got licenses, came through our State, and bagged over a million roosters, and this year looks like it is going to be another great hunting season.

There is no shortage of satisfied hunters in South Dakota this time of year, but pheasant season's benefits go far beyond the hunters. For communities in the heart of pheasant country, the hunting season has a significant economic impact. In just over 100 days of hunting, pheasant season contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to our State's economy, and folks in a lot of these small towns, these small communities—places like the one I am from—always make sure that out-of-State hunters feel welcome. It is just part of who we are in South Dakota.

There could hardly be so many satisfied hunters each fall without the conservation efforts of so many landowners and agricultural producers in South Dakota. The size of our famed pheasant population is thanks, in no small part, to land conservation efforts that provide quality habitat for birds to roost.

A good hunting season in the fall depends on the spring nesting season and the ability of pheasants to hide their nests to protect their brood. And South Dakota's farmers and ranchers make sure there is habitat for that nesting.

A lot of the conservation efforts in our State are supported by the Conservation Reserve Program, which is the cornerstone of Federal conservation programs. It plays a critical role in South Dakota by supporting farmers who take environmentally sensitive land out of production.

Taking this land out of production protects against soil erosion, improves water quality, and provides habitat—including for pheasants—and it includes an economical alternative for farmers, who would otherwise have to invest in expensive fertilizers and other inputs to keep this land in production.

I have been a longtime supporter of the CRP, and I am working to make sure this program is strengthened and supported in the next farm bill so that more farmers and ranchers can access its benefits and, of course, so that future pheasant seasons are as good as seasons past.

It might seem that pheasant season is the pride of South Dakota, and we are certainly proud of that. But the pride of our State is really our way of life. It is our values, and it is our work ethic.

From the plains to the ponderosa pines and the Black Hills, there is so much to appreciate about our State and its people. South Dakotans cherish our freedoms, and we love our country, and we recognize that with freedom comes responsibility. We recognize that sometimes you have got to step up

and do the work and that you need to help your neighbors when they are in need.

These values have been forged in our small towns, the kind of places where everyone knows each other and everyone does their part. These are the timeless treasures that make life in South Dakota so good. They are a big part of what makes me proud to serve our State here in the U.S. Senate, and they are the values that my wife Kimberley and I have tried to instill in our daughters and that I am confident the next generation of South Dakotans will continue to uphold.

Whether gathered around a meal of fresh pheasant in our great outdoors or gathered around the Thanksgiving turkey, there is a lot to be thankful for as a South Dakotan, and I am grateful—very grateful—to be a son of our great State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Oregon.

(The remarks of Mr. WYDEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3367 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WYDEN. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF SHANLYN A.S. PARK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Shanlyn A.S. Park to the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i.

Born in Honolulu, HI, Judge Park received her B.A., cum laude, from Chaminade University in 1991 and her J.D. from the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law in 1995. After graduating from law school, Judge Park served as a law clerk to the Honorable Francis I. Yamashita, magistrate judge for the District of Hawai'i. From 1996 to 1997, Judge Park worked on civil matters as an associate attorney at Hisaka Stone & Goto.

For the next two decades, Judge Park served as an assistant federal public defender and later as senior litigator in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Hawai'i. In these roles, Judge Park tried 10 felony jury trials and 10 misdemeanor bench trials to verdict. She also represented defendants through appeals

and argued several cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Park worked in private practice as of counsel at Gallagher Kane Amai & Reyes and as partner and of counsel at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. At both firms, her practice centered on a variety of civil matters including commercial disputes, contested probate matters, real property disputes, and third-party insurance defense.

Since joining the State of Hawai'i's First Circuit Court in 2021, Judge Park has issued more than 100 written opinions and presided over 21 jury trials—17 in the family court criminal division and four in the circuit court criminal division.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Park as "qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. SCHATZ and Ms. HIRONO.

Once confirmed, Judge Park will become the first Native Hawaiian woman to serve on the Federal bench. I am proud to support this historic nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE ON PARK NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 324 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Capito	Daines
Blackburn	Cassidy	Ernst
Boozman	Cornyn	Fischer
Braun	Cotton	Grassley
Britt	Crapo	Hagerty
Budd	Cruz	Hawley

Hoeven	Moran	Scott (FL)
Hyde-Smith	Mullin	Scott (SC)
Johnson	Paul	Sullivan
Kennedy	Ricketts	Thune
Lankford	Risch	Tillis
Lee	Romney	Tuberville
Lummis	Rounds	Vance
Marshall	Rubio	Wicker
McConnell	Schmitt	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Cramer	Fetterman
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we are nearly halfway through the 118th Congress—you know, it is hard to believe. And despite the challenges that confront this Chamber, working with the House and the President to get legislation passed, the Senate has managed to advance some great bipartisan bills this year.

All of this attention the media gives tends to focus on where we disagree. And there is no question there are a lot of disagreements. But there are areas where we have found the chance to work together to do important things.

While some of the bills I have talked about actually passed this Chamber unanimously and will have a positive impact on our constituents in communities from Maine to Texas to Nebraska and while a number of these bills have been signed into law, many are still awaiting action in the House. And I would like to provide a few examples.

Project Safe Childhood is a bill that I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, the Senator from Minnesota, to provide greater protection for our children online. The anonymity and accessibility afforded in the digital realm have allowed predators to infiltrate our homes and target our children. This, of course, is the dark side of the internet, and it has been a problem since the advent of the digital age.

But it gets worse. Last year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received 32 million reports—32 million reports—of suspected child sexual exploitation, an alltime record.

One of our most valuable tools for combating these crimes is the Project Safe Childhood Program at the Department of Justice.

This program was created in 2006 to bolster law enforcement efforts and to

invest in education and prevention strategies. Since its inception, the number of cases and defendants prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Offices has increased by 40 percent.

This is a positive sign we are moving in the right direction despite the dismal facts that I have recounted here, but it is clear more needs to be done.

This bill reauthorizes and strengthens this program by modernizing the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. It will provide law enforcement with additional tools they need to bring more predators to justice.

This bill passed the Senate unanimously last month, but it is currently awaiting action in the House. I have been proud to work with Representatives WESLEY HUNT and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ—Republican and Democrat alike—on this legislation. Again, this is bipartisan consensus legislation that just needs a vote in the House.

Another example is Project Safe Neighborhoods. This bill reauthorizes this program at the Department of Justice. Now, at a time when we are all concerned about violent crime in our neighborhoods, this is one of the most efficient, one of the most effective ways of combating violent crime in our neighborhoods that we have devised.

It is inspired by a successful program that I appropriated when I was attorney general of Texas that started in Richmond, VA, called Project Exile. What they realized is that if they targeted the most violent criminals, the ones who, in violation of the law, possessed and used firearms in the commission of a crime—that if they were prosecuted under mandatory minimums, that this would prove as a big deterrent for people using firearms to commit crimes or carrying firearms when they are prohibited by law.

Since this nationwide program was launched in 2013, we have seen more than a 13-percent decrease in violent crime in cities with a high rate of program participation. This is a partnership between State, local, and Federal. Today, the American people are increasingly concerned about crime, more concerned here in the Nation's Capital where the number of carjackings have gone through the roof, including some of our colleagues in the House of Representatives who have been a victim of carjacking.

A Gallup poll earlier this month found that 63 percent of Americans view crime as either an “extremely” or “very” serious problem, marking a new record for the poll. So it is clear we need to focus on crime and violence reduction strategies like Project Safe Neighborhood, but, again, this legislation passed the Senate unanimously after being voted out of the Judiciary Committee and is awaiting action in the House.

Finally, I want to mention another critical piece of legislation that is stuck in purgatory—at least, hopefully, temporarily—and that is the Debbie

Smith Act. Years ago, we learned that 400,000 rape kits were sitting in evidence lockers or at forensic labs and had gone untested.

This, unfortunately, is the evidence that has to be collected from the victim of a sexual assault, and using DNA technology we are able to figure out, with basically certitude, who the perpetrator was. But 400,000 of them were sitting in lockers and untested.

Now, Debbie Smith is a heroic figure. She has made it her life's work to eliminate this rape kit backlog, and her work is directly responsible for the testing of hundreds of thousands of rape kits and locking up countless violent criminals.

Her advocacy was born of a personal tragedy. She was raped at home in 1989 and immediately reported the crime to police and went to the emergency room for a sexual assault forensic exam. That is the rape kit. But she said while waiting for answers, she was overcome by fear. She was terrified for herself and her family and even became suicidal. It wasn't until 6½ years later that Debbie finally received the answer she desperately wanted from this rape kit test. And it happened when a DNA hit revealed the identity of her rapist because what they can do is take that information, match it against CODIS, which is an FBI-maintained database, to identify the perpetrator.

She later said in an interview that DNA gave her her life back, and she chose to harness her pain and use it to prevent others from facing years of fear and uncertainty like that that controlled her. So she is the namesake of the Debbie Smith Act originally signed into law in 2004.

As a result, more than 860,000 DNA cases have been prosecuted—860,000. It is hard to imagine how one person can make more of a difference than Debbie Smith has, in terms of bringing closure and making sure that the guilty are investigated and prosecuted. But 860,000 cases have been processed. Sadly, we are still facing a 90,000-case backlog. Each of those hold the key and an answer to bringing a violent criminal to justice.

The Senate, again, unanimously has passed the Debbie Smith Act reauthorization, and, unfortunately, the House recently took it up and passed a version of the bill that inadvertently deauthorized existing funds for the Debbie Smith Act. I encourage the House to take whatever action they need to swiftly take up and pass the Senate version to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Program for a full 5 years without jeopardizing any existing funds that are being used by law enforcement to take violent criminals off the street.

So these are just a few examples of bipartisan legislation that has enjoyed nearly unanimous support here in the Senate that is simply waiting for the House to act.

I know we are coming up on the end of the year, and there is not a lot of

time, but my suspicion is, if the Speaker would put these bills on the floor of the House, that they would pass overwhelmingly, but we can't get these bills to the President to actually sign into law until the House acts.

So my wish, my request, my prayer is that the House simply take up these bipartisan bills and act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

LONG-TERM CARE

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, across the country, over 1.2 million Americans live in nursing homes. Many of our own parents, grandparents, and other loved ones are among them. Nursing facilities provide specialized attentive care to seniors in critical need of their services.

Long-term care facilities are especially indispensable in small towns and rural areas like much of my home State of Nebraska. In those areas, a larger percentage of the population is over 65.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration has released a rule this fall that could force many nursing facilities around the country to close their doors. The new rule, introduced in September by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, mandates new minimum staffing standards for long-term care facilities. It requires each facility to staff a registered nurse on site 24/7 and would require staff to provide each resident with at least 3 hours of direct care per day. The administration believes this rule would improve the quality of care in our nursing homes.

Unfortunately, the rule, as written, would simply force many facilities to shut down, denying care to seniors entirely.

According to CMS, 75 percent of nursing homes would have to increase staffing to comply with these proposed standards, but across our country, these homes already face historic staffing shortages. According to Federal labor statistics, nursing homes lost more than 200,000 workers from February of 2020 to December of 2022. The industry is still rebuilding its workforce after a devastating pandemic.

Under this rule, nursing homes would be forced to go to great lengths to find staff in the midst of these overwhelming shortages. If they failed, they would likely need to shut their doors and deprive seniors of care.

Even one nursing home closure could be detrimental to seniors in certain rural communities. Highly populated urban areas may host several long-term care facilities, a lot of different options are available, but for these facilities in rural areas, they are few and far between. If one facility closes, the next closest one could be many miles or even hours away. It might not be feasible for every senior to move so far from their home.

So this mandate from CMS, it would devastate facilities across Nebraska, across rural America, and across this

country. It would devastate families who are relying on these facilities to serve their loved ones, and it would devastate the seniors who urgently need care.

After the release of this proposed rule in September, I joined the rest of the Nebraska Federal delegation in sending a letter to CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure opposing these new standards. We have never received a response.

So I plan to introduce legislation that would prevent these misguided standards from going into effect. My bill would also establish an advisory panel on the nursing home workforce. The panel would host members representing various stakeholders, including members from rural areas and underserved areas.

The Biden administration must hear from voices outside the big cities on the coasts. This proposed rule is a one-size-fits-all attempt at a solution, but the so-called solution simply doesn't fit. It is a misguided mandate that will prove destructive for communities that most need the care.

I am going to keep fighting for our rural communities and for the seniors who rely on long-term care facilities, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same by joining me in support of this legislation to protect nursing homes and to protect the Americans they serve.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 263.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 263, Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 144.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 144, Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Debbie Stabenow, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 30, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, the United States has a long history of standing for freedom and self-determination.

From the 1940s through the 2010s, under President Trump, our Nation has stood with Israel, in defense of Israel. We were there in 1948 when Israel became a country. We stood with them through the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War, the Camp David peace talks, negotiations with the PLO, two intifadas, and multiple attempts to implement a two-state solution.

Under President Reagan, we fought the spread of communism across multiple continents because we understand that the unchecked spread of Marxist influence will threaten our very survival. This wasn't just ideological saber rattling. The Soviets had a staggering number of nuclear warheads at their disposal. It was important to eliminate as many of those as we could. Reagan was remarkably clear-eyed about this.

Again, it wasn't a question of politics. It was a matter of recognizing the danger and then finding a way to neutralize that danger. We accepted that it was our duty to protect global security because no one else had the power or the resolve to do that.

And since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014, the United States has been a leading provider of aid to the Ukrainians because Vladimir Putin has the same propensity toward violence and conquest that motivated his predecessors.

This is also why we have fought so hard to provide our partners in Taiwan with the weapons and funding they need to defend themselves against communist Chinese aggression.

Over the past 3 years, our reputation—our Nation's reputation—as a champion of freedom has become tarnished by Joe Biden's foreign policy and his policy of appeasement. Nothing has been more damaging than his refusal to protect our sovereignty here at home. A strong border is the most basic element of our national defense. It is what guarantees our right to exist as a country, and Joe Biden has abandoned it entirely.

When he took office and declared law and order obsolete, he didn't just invite millions of migrants across our border; he invited the new axis of evil—Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—to declare open season on their neighbors. China became more aggressive toward Taiwan. Putin invaded Ukraine. And Hamas violated a ceasefire and slaughtered Israelis in their beds.

The Biden administration's response has only made things worse. They exploited the plight of the Ukrainians as

a distraction from their own terrible policies. They have all but ignored China's human rights violations. And, to date, they put more pressure on Israel than on Hamas to lay down arms.

Joe Biden's attempts to curry favor with the new axis of evil won't keep us safe because these nations aren't here to make friends. Their goal—the goal of that axis of evil—is to exploit our weaknesses until it becomes impossible for us to fight back.

This is a battle over borders, and, if we want to win, we need to lead by example and reassert our right to exist as a sovereign nation. We should start by securing our very own border.

In fiscal year 2023, the Border Patrol recorded more than 3.2 million enforcement actions along our southern border. In addition, we caught 151 known and suspected terrorists trying to illegally enter our country.

The Senate will have an opportunity to address this before the year ends, but I fear my Democratic colleagues will block those efforts or, worse, offer a half-baked solution and call it a job well done.

The majority leader insists that the issue of border security is just too partisan, and the majority whip insists that since we let the issue of border security go unattended for 30-plus years, we can afford to let it go just a little bit longer.

This is absolutely nonsense. I think it is also dangerous. If Joe Biden refuses to defend the sovereignty of his own country, our adversaries will assume they can act as aggressively as they want without any meaningful resistance from the United States.

If we refuse to defend ourselves, how can we be effective in defending Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East?

Israel's sovereignty has been established across thousands of years of history, and still Hamas denies Israel's right to exist. That is how they justified violating the ceasefire and declaring war on the world's Jewish community, and it is frightening to see so many people in this country defending that decision. Every one of those individuals should watch the videos that we have watched from the GoPro cameras of those Hamas terrorists. It is revolting.

No peace plan is possible until Hamas is eliminated and the Palestinians recognize Israel's right to exist. To make this happen, we need to set an example by securing our own borders and then passing a stand-alone and straightforward aid package to help Israel do the same.

We all know that giving humanitarian aid to Gaza at this point means letting it go to terrorists. I would ask the majority leader and my Democratic colleagues to give Israel this funding without attaching dangerous conditions that will force them to undermine their own security.

Ensuring a free and sovereign Ukraine is also an important element of our foreign policy, but how can we

speak with any real authority about Ukrainian self-determination while holding ourselves to a lower standard?

When Putin attacked, the United States backed Ukraine with our words and our actions because we knew that if we didn't, millions of people would pay the price for our appeasement. We have a historic obligation to Ukraine, and continuing to send aid will serve as a powerful deterrent.

The American people understand how important it is to maintain that pressure on Russia and Vladimir Putin, but they don't think they should have to sacrifice their own security to do it. They also are very concerned about the total lack of transparency surrounding these aid packages.

Here is a stat. Since February of 2022, the United States has approved \$113 billion in total aid responding to Putin's war. This includes defense items sent via the Presidential drawdown authority, with no oversight. It is imperative that we have oversight and transparency around every single dollar that is going into Ukraine.

The reason? Right now Americans can't afford to spend even one more cent on gas or groceries, thanks to Joe Biden's Bidenomics. So they need to see that their money is actually going to be accounted for and that it is actually going to make a difference. We owe them a full accounting of how their money is being spent in Ukraine, how long we will maintain the flow of aid, and when they can expect to see us match those efforts here at home with our own border security plan. They also want to know: What is the strategy, and how are we going to make certain that Vladimir Putin does not win?

Joe Biden's actions speak much louder than his words. For 3 years now, he has projected nothing but weakness. He has sent a parade of diplomats to legitimize relations with the Chinese Communist Party. He has enabled Iran and its terrorist proxies—Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, ISIS Iraq, ISIS in Syria—and he has sent billions upon billions of dollars in security aid overseas without giving a second thought to securing our own border.

At the height of the Cold War, Reagan said:

If history teaches anything, it teaches that simpleminded appeasement or wishful thinking about our adversaries is folly. It means the betrayal of our past [and] the squandering of our freedom.

There is a lot of wisdom in that. We need to think about that history. Thousands of innocent people have already paid the ultimate price because Joe Biden has refused to heed that warning.

It is time to abandon this failed strategy of appeasement. It is time to project strength and resolve. It is time for our allies to know that they are our allies, that they can count on us. It is time for our enemies to fear us. It is time for us to make certain that we get an aid package—an aid package—to Israel. It is time for us to secure our

southern border. It is time for us to know who is coming into this country and why they are coming into this country.

If Joe Biden doesn't act to secure our border and defend our right to exist as a free and independent country, we are going to see the violence that threatens the sovereignty of Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan bleed onto American soil, and no level of negotiation or appeasement will be able to stop it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the recorded vote begin immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 223, Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Mazie K. Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Michael F. Bennet, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Ben Ray Luján, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 325 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Baldwin	Capito	Cruz
Barrasso	Cardin	Duckworth
Bennet	Carper	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Ernst
Booker	Cassidy	Fischer
Boozman	Collins	Gillibrand
Brown	Coons	Graham
Budd	Cornyn	Grassley
Butler	Cortez Masto	Hagerty
Cantwell	Cotton	Hassan

Heinrich	Moran	Shaheen
Hickenlooper	Murkowski	Sinema
Hirono	Murphy	Smith
Hyde-Smith	Murray	Stabenow
Johnson	Ossoff	Tester
Kaine	Padilla	Tillis
Kelly	Peters	Van Hollen
Kennedy	Reed	Vance
King	Romney	Warner
Klobuchar	Rosen	Warnock
Lankford	Rounds	Warren
Luján	Rubio	Welch
Manchin	Sanders	Whitehouse
Markey	Schatz	Wicker
McConnell	Schumer	Wyden
Menendez	Scott (FL)	Young
Merkley	Scott (SC)	

NAYS—17

Blackburn	Hoeven	Ricketts
Braun	Lee	Risch
Britt	Lummis	Schmitt
Crapo	Marshall	Sullivan
Daines	Mullin	Thune
Hawley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Fetterman	Tuberville
(Ms. KLOBUCHAR assumed the Chair.)		

(Mr. PETERS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 80, the nays are 17.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

CHINA AND RUSSIA

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, this is a difficult topic for me to discuss because it is so serious and because the United States has so much catching up to do. Two years ago, Congress created the bipartisan Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States. We gave it the job of examining the strengths and weaknesses of our national security position.

The Commission report was released just last month. The report comments on an array of military issues, but its findings can be distilled to a single alarming fact: China and Russia are increasingly able to match our military might. And if we do not act now, the consequences will be seismic. Not only could we fail to deter a war, we might actually lose the next war.

The report finds that we are not prepared for what is coming. And here is what is coming: For the first time, we must stand up to the ambitions of two nuclear-armed peer adversaries in multiple regions of the world at the same time. That stunning conclusion means this report should be required reading for each of my colleagues.

And so I directed my staff to deliver a copy of this bipartisan report personally to every Senator, and I hope we take its message to heart.

The American military, in particular, our nuclear deterrent, has been one of the principal guarantors of global security—not just American security but global security—since the late 1940s. Our power crested at the end of the 20th century when the Berlin Wall crumbled, and we emerged as the world's sole superpower. But regrettably, instead of maintaining that competitive edge, we have allowed it to slip away in both conventional and strategic deterrents.

China and Russia watched as we shuttered our shipyards and ammunition plants, as we let our ships rust, and as we neglected to replace our aging Cold War nuclear arsenal. Then, as successive Presidential administrations let defense assets deteriorate, China and Russia poured more funds into their weapons stores. They built the kind of weapons needed to take us on in a conventional fight and keep us at bay in a strategic one.

This is not one Senator saying this; this is the bipartisan Commission that we tasked with investigating this thoroughly. The autocrats who ruled China and Russia began paying attention to more than our guns and ships. When our satellites and next-generation communications capabilities gave us an unbeatable edge in the Gulf war, these enemies, adversaries of ours, took notice.

We could see, communicate, and shoot from farther away than anyone else. When we deployed these tools, we inaugurated new ways to protect ourselves, cutting-edge technology, not mere masses of metal, would win the final argument of nations. But the leaders of Russia and China soon came to recognize this also. They began to meet our advances and ensure we could never do to them what we had done to Saddam Hussein's military in 1991.

Among the bipartisan Commission's direst findings is the fact that China and Russia have largely succeeded. China has built strike complexes of their own that make the prospect of war increasingly perilous. Their fleet of anti-satellite weapons and cyber warfare capabilities could render our military blind, deaf, and mute in a potential conflict over Taiwan.

U.S. victory, and, therefore, deterrence, was once a fait accompli, but today we risk war that would shake the foundations of everyday American life and the foundations of global peace.

The consequences of our negligence, together with the Chinese and Russian investment, are most acute when it comes to our nuclear position, which has been the foundation of our deterrence capability. Russian submarines are becoming much more advanced, and China is rapidly bringing missile silos online. Meanwhile, our Air Force personnel are still using floppy disks to operate missiles that are older than their parents, and they are flying bombers that are older than their grandparents.

Our nuclear submarines—the crown jewels of U.S. military power—are having to remain at sea longer as our fleet shrinks. Workforce problems and maintenance delays hold the fleet back from its potential. The AUKUS agreement is a tremendous diplomatic achievement that can be a game changer, but it must be implemented correctly. And right now, we are short of the attack submarines needed.

China and Russia now clearly realize that, by joining forces, they can help each other reach their goals. China wants to occupy Taiwan, and their

leader has said they need to be ready to do that as soon as 2027. Russia wants to puncture NATO's iron wall, and they want to help each other to do both. Their sinister intent and increasing capabilities make this the most dangerous national security moment we have faced in 75 years.

Paul Nitze, the Pentagon official whose strategic wisdom helped us win the Cold War, once said:

Our fundamental purpose is more likely to be defeated from lack of the will to maintain it, than from any mistakes we may make.

In other words, the future is ours to lose, but the future is still ours. This report recommends several policies that can help us end the damaging defense cuts of the past three decades and begin making investments we need.

The Commission's first recommendation is that we rebuild and expand the defense industrial base, including the National Nuclear Security Administration's nuclear weapons production infrastructure. In particular, Congress should partner with the administration and the Navy to establish a third public shipyard to conduct submarine maintenance. Again, this is the recommendation of a completely bipartisan Commission of experts.

The second proposal builds on the first. We need educational institutions and a talent pipeline to bring skilled tradesmen to this industrial base. These high-paying, stable, and long-term jobs do not require master's or bachelor's degrees. They can advance both national security and expand economic opportunity.

Finally, the report recommends a series of products we should prioritize. We need more conventional forces, and we should increase procurement of strategic nuclear capabilities like the B-21 and the *Columbia*-class submarine. We need improved missile defenses and rapidly deployable theater nuclear forces like the sea-launched cruise missile. Delivering these products would put our adversaries on notice and reassure our allies at the same time.

Of course, these actions come with a pricetag, but we have always found our defense investments to be both expensive and priceless. It will cost money to deter China and Russia and Iran from threatening us, but it will cost much, much more—in money and in lives—if we do not. In the words of former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, “America can afford survival.”

The good news is that we have done this before. In the late 1970s, the Pentagon sowed the seeds of our defense technological revival, even as the Carter administration shrank from the world stage. But then in 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. That attack was a wake-up call. It taught Washington there is no substitute for superior military might.

Again, Paul Nitze helped form an organization that educated Congress, the Carter administration, and the American people about the Soviet Union's threat. The result was the Reagan defense buildup that won the Cold War.

We can do that again, but we must abandon the status quo and start thinking big again. The shocking warnings in this report should spur us to abandon our inertia and take bold actions that will lead us into the next American century.

I thank the members of this Commission for their years of hard work, and I urge my colleagues in both the House and Senate to take note.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAYNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: All nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN907 AIR FORCE nomination of Cole-Christians L. Holinaty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 27, 2023.

PN908 AIR FORCE nomination of Vincent W. Flory, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 27, 2023.

PN1119 AIR FORCE nomination of Kirsten H. Thompson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1138 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael D. McCarthy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1140 AIR FORCE nomination of Benjamin T. Fedeles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1141 AIR FORCE nomination of Ashly C. Ruf, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1142 AIR FORCE nomination of Brandon L. Sanders, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1143 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning Li ZHAO MUECKAY, and ending ALEXANDER T. PARMATER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1144 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning ZARI N. COFIELD, and ending JOSHUA

D. FORSYTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN1107 ARMY nomination of Samuel J. Nirenberg, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 24, 2023.

PN1120 ARMY nominations (12) beginning THOMAS T. BOOTH, JR., and ending EAN P. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1121 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MOISES A. CASTILLO, and ending TRUMAN L. TINSLEY, IV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1145 MARINE CORPS nominations (14) beginning AGUR S. ADAMS and ending CHRISTINA F. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN1146 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JOHN R. BARACHIE, and ending SARA A. ZANITSCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1147 NAVY nominations (27) beginning MICHAEL W. BARBER, JR., and ending ERIC J. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1122 SPACE FORCE nominations (74) beginning KELLY N. ALEXANDER, and ending NICHOLAS Y. YEUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1123 SPACE FORCE nominations (48) beginning BRANDON P. ALFORD, and ending MATTHEW C. WROTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1124 SPACE FORCE nominations (80) beginning MATTHEW GUY ADAMS, and ending SHAWN WOODALL, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1125 SPACE FORCE nominations (113) beginning ELIZABETH A. AGNEW, and ending LUKE G. WUNDERLICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1126 SPACE FORCE nominations (82) beginning ALEXANDER R. ALLARD, and ending TYLER T. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KAYNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session to 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.

NOMINATION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TIMOTHY HAUGH

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I must regretfully object to the promotion of Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh to the grade of general and, consequently, to be the Director of the National Security Agency—NSA—and Commander of U.S. Cyber Command.

In January of 2021, I made public an unclassified memo I received from the Defense Intelligence Agency revealing that it was purchasing, retaining, and using location data revealing the movements of Americans. After receiving that information, I pressed the Department of Defense to identify which other Agencies within the Department are buying Americans' personal data, including location data and web browsing records.

The Department provided me with that information in March of 2021, but marked the information "Controlled Unclassified Information"—CUI—a made-up designation with no basis in law. The administration is abusing the C-U-I designation to keep this unclassified information from the American public. In May of 2021, I wrote to Secretary of Defense Austin to urge him to remove the restrictions on that information, so that the American people can be told which Agencies are buying their information without court oversight and so that Congress can conduct appropriate oversight. In August of 2021, I received a response letter from the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, declining to clear the information for public release.

In connection with Lieutenant General Haugh's pending promotion to lead the NSA, I narrowed my request. I asked that the American people simply be provided yes or no answers as to whether the NSA is buying their location data and web browsing records. Unfortunately, intelligence officials have been unwilling to release even that basic information.

The American people have a right to know whether the NSA is conducting warrantless domestic surveillance of Americans in a manner that circumvents the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. Particularly as Congress is currently debating extending section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Congress must be able to have an informed public debate about the scope of the NSA's warrantless surveillance of Americans.

Until the NSA publicly releases the information described above, I must object to the Senate proceeding with the Haugh nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

• Mr. WICKER. Madam President, today I congratulate the leadership, faculty, staff, and students of my alma

mater, the University of Mississippi Military Times, a publication that provides news and resources related to our military services, recently highlighted the ways Ole Miss honors our Nation's veterans. It placed Ole Miss in prominent positions on its "Best for Vets" lists, ranking it as the top South-eastern Conference—SEC—school and fifth-best university in the Nation. The Best for Vets list is the largest and most comprehensive ranking of schools for military servicemembers and veterans. It is compiled from a survey of 325 higher education institutions around the Nation, gathering information on their resources, opportunities, and success rates for veteran students.

The University of Mississippi is committed to student veterans and our Nation's military. The university established its first student veteran organization in 1920, following World War I. Over 1,900 Ole Miss students—more than 10 percent of the student body—have military service connections or are veterans. Ole Miss provides focused and dedicated support resources for veterans on campus, including the Office of Veteran and Military Services, which sits in the George Street House at the heart of campus. This office was opened in 2013 to support Global War on Terror veterans, and it has become a critical stop for student veterans. It helps them access G.I. Bill and Veterans Affairs benefits, study resources, and scholarship applications.

Ole Miss has set the standard for veteran healthcare support. It created the Veteran Treatment Team to allow student veterans to access healthcare directly on campus. Now, these students do not have to commute to full-scale Veterans Affairs clinics and medical centers for routine treatments. Professionals at the university's mental health clinics are trained in specific military-related mental health issues and lead peer support group meetings and workshops for veterans. This reduces the load on the Veterans Affairs system and supports deeper veteran integration into the student body. The university even added a staff counselor focused on veterans and active military issues, bringing mental health resources directly to student veterans.

I commend the Military Times for recognizing and honoring Ole Miss' good work. I am certain that the university will continue these efforts in the years to come, seeing and supporting the needs of student veterans from this new generation of military servicemembers.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 32

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

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of an Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement").

I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. In accordance with section 123 of the Act, a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of the Republic of the Philippines with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States of America.

The Agreement contains all of the provisions required by subsection 123 a. of the Act. It provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear co-operation with the Republic of the Philippines based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, and information for peaceful nuclear purposes. It would not permit the transfer of Restricted Data or sensitive nuclear technology. Any special fissionable material transferred could only be in the form of low enriched uranium, with the exception of small quantities of material for use as samples, standards, detectors, or targets, or for such other purposes as the parties may agree.

Through the Agreement, the Republic of the Philippines would affirm its intent to rely on existing international markets for nuclear fuel services rather than acquiring sensitive nuclear technology (i.e., for enrichment and reprocessing), and the United States would affirm its intent to support the supply of reactors, material, and equipment in order to ensure a reliable supply of low enriched uranium fuel to the Republic of the Philippines.

The Agreement has a term of 30 years, although it can be terminated by either party upon providing 1 year's advance written notice. In the event of termination or expiration of the Agreement, key nonproliferation conditions and controls will continue in effect as long as any material, equipment, or components subject to the Agreement remain in the territory of the party concerned or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, or until such time as the parties agree that such material, equipment, or components are no longer usable for any nuclear activity relevant from the point of view of safeguards.

The Republic of the Philippines has an excellent track record on nonproliferation and has consistently reiterated its commitment to nonproliferation. Through its constitution, the Republic of the Philippines has adopted and pursued a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory. It is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Republic of the Philippines was also among the early sponsors of and is a State Party to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. A more detailed discussion of the Republic of the Philippines' domestic civil nuclear activities and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices is provided in the NPAS and its classified annex.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to,

the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as provided in subsection 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 d. shall commence.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 30, 2023.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2219. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace (Rept. No. 118-115).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1332. A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-116).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2256. A bill to authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-117).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2283. A bill to prohibit the procurement of certain items containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and prioritize the procurement of products not containing PFAS (Rept. No. 118-118).

S. 2291. A bill to establish the Northern Border Coordination Center, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-119).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

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

S. 3364. A bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to authorize the use of certain grants to prevent suicide or overdose by children, adolescents, and young adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3365. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that low alcohol by volume kombucha is exempt from any excise taxes and any regulations under chapter 53 of such Code which are imposed on alcoholic beverages; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 3366. A bill to require the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers to use a certain definition for the term "prior converted cropland", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as "buy, borrow, die", to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3368. A bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3369. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLENS, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3370. A bill to reauthorize the program on prenatal and postnatal health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3371. A bill to combat illegal deforestation by prohibiting the importation of prod-

ucts made wholly or in part of certain commodities produced on land undergoing illegal deforestation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3372. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the use of authorities under such Act to surveil United States persons and to prohibit the use of information acquired under such Act in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding or as part of any criminal, civil, or administrative investigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 3373. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 3374. A bill to waive General Schedule qualification standards related to work experience for nurses at military medical treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3375. A bill to establish a program so that business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 3376. A bill to provide for the liquidation or reliquidation of certain entries of steel and aluminum products retroactively approved for exclusion from certain duties during the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3377. A bill to provide for disadvantaged business enterprise supportive services programs at modal administrations of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 3378. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3379. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to issue guidance and recommendations for institutions of higher education on removing criminal and juvenile justice questions from their application for admissions process; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3380. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish an Office of Prison Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 3381. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3382. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to protect ranchers from out-of-state regulation that interferes with interstate livestock production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3383. A bill to reform the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, limit the scope of public health authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KING):

S. 3384. A bill to combat illicit cross-border financial activity and to improve the Trade Transparency Unit program of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CASEY:

S. Res. 480. A resolution recognizing November 2023 as “National Family Caregivers Month”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 481. A resolution expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 482. A resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the “Hello Girls”.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 2016

At the request of Mr. SCHMITZ, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2016, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 2026

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to provide support for programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to the coordination of maternity health care, and for other purposes.

S. 2195

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2195, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program.

S. 2258

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2258, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2598

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2598, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to modify whole farm revenue protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) 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. 2839

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

S. 2879

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSBOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2879, a bill to provide targeted funding for States and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant program to address the increased burden that maintaining the health and hygiene of infants and toddlers, medically complex children, and low-income adults or adults with disabilities who rely on adult incontinence materials and supplies place on families in need, the resultant adverse health effects on children and families, and the limited child care options available for infants and toddlers who lack sufficient diapers and diapering supplies, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) 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. 2984

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2984, a bill to establish uniform accessibility standards for websites and applications of employers, employment agencies, labor organizations, joint labor-management committees, public entities, public accommodations, testing entities, and commercial providers, and for other purposes.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3235, a bill to require a strategy to counter the role of the People’s Republic of China in evasion of sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 3340

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3340, a bill to establish the Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy, to authorize the admission of climate-displaced persons into the United States, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as “buy, borrow, die”, to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I am going to spend a few minutes discussing the three words on this chart next to me: buy, borrow, and die. These three little words are allowing billionaires across America to legally get away with paying little or nothing in taxes for years and years on end.

Here is how it works: A billionaire buys and holds assets, like works of art, more houses than they can possibly live in, stocks and bonds, you name it. They increase in value untaxed.

The billionaire then borrows against these assets to support a lavish lifestyle, and they can borrow at a fraction of the consumer rate due to the enormous holdings of these valuable assets. That loan is untaxed. The billionaire's assets appreciate at a higher rate than the interest on the loan—that is not hard to do. So the billionaire can, essentially, do all of this until they die, and then their kids can start all over again.

So let's now contrast buy, borrow, and die with the tax system in America for firefighters and nurses. Nurses and firefighters, for example, living in Philomath, OR, are required to pay taxes out of every paycheck. Working people don't get to play by these billionaire rules. They don't get to call up an army of high-priced lawyers and accountants every time they don't feel like paying their taxes.

Right now, the average billionaire can wriggle their way into a low 8 percent tax rate while a nurse or a firefighter making \$45,000 is paying a 22 percent tax on their wages. Now, here is the gut punch for everybody who is following this and works for a wage: Current buy, borrow, and die practices under our tax law are perfectly legal. That is a pretty sickening reality. Tax laws simply don't apply to billionaires in the same way they do to firefighters and nurses.

Nurses, firefighters have mandatory tax rules. The billionaires can pretty much pay what they want, when they want to. How is that fair? Americans overwhelmingly believe it is not. So it is time to look to solutions that restore fairness to the Tax Code while still rewarding success. After all, that

is what our country was founded on. We believe deeply in success and the ethic of giving everybody a chance to get ahead.

Luckily, there is a solution that achieves both fairness and economic growth. Today, I, along with 15 other Members of the Senate, am introducing the first comprehensive Billionaires' Income Tax that would finally end buy, borrow, and die. This is going to put a stop to one of the most common schemes billionaires can use to pay little or no taxes for years and years on end.

Now, as to implementation of our bill, there is a way already on the tax books that allows you to do it. In the Tax Code there are mark-to-market rules and policies.

Now, for the tax works out there, people who think tax policy and its root-canal-like pain are enjoyable, here are the sections: Mark to market is in section 475, it is in section 877A, it is in section 1256, and it is in section 1296. So there is your model. That is how you do it. You use rules and policies that are on the books today, a blueprint right in front of us to use as a model for taxing billionaires fairly.

Mark to market under the Billionaires' Income Tax would require billionaires to pay taxes every year, just like those firefighters and nurses. It is time to close the loopholes and make sure that everybody at the very top is paying taxes on their income as it is earned, and our Billionaires' Income Tax is the way to do it.

This Congress, our staff on the Finance Committee and I have investigated a number of tax schemes that the very wealthy, with the help of armies of tax lawyers and accountants, use to pay virtually no Federal tax. The Finance Committee has investigated crooked Swiss bankers hiding wealthy Americans' income; \$34 billion in unpaid taxes from the very wealthy, who won't even file a tax return—we are not even talking about schemes, they won't even file a return; unpaid taxes for millionaires; tax-dodging schemes between Leon Black and the notorious Jeffrey Epstein; and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's wealthy buddy secretly forgiving a massive private loan. Billionaires looking to dodge their taxes are thriving today under the current tax laws.

So I want a tax policy, as chairman of the Finance Committee, that gives everybody in America the chance to get ahead. Our friend, our former colleague, Senator Bradley from New Jersey—has a better jump shot than I do—that is what he talked about, is opportunity, giving everybody a chance to get ahead. Unfortunately, the flawed tax policies that billionaires take advantage of promote wealth building in the hands of a fortunate few.

This is leaving a lot of people behind. Over one-third of families in America don't have the cash on hand to pay for a \$400 emergency if they had to. Meanwhile, during the pandemic, when fami-

lies were forced to make tough choices between paying rent and buying groceries, billionaires increased their wealth by over \$1 trillion.

We have big needs in this country—obviously, the Medicare solvency crisis. We have seniors at the risk of losing the Medicare guarantee unless there is a way forward for paying for it. If Medicare becomes financially insolvent, seniors and Americans who counted on those guaranteed health benefits need look no further than billionaires, tax cheats, and their Republican allies who refuse to say that the billionaires could pay their fair share.

The Billionaires' Income Tax raises an estimated \$557 billion over 10 years. If the ultra-wealthy started paying their fair share under my Billionaires' Income Tax proposal, we could be on our way to making Medicare financially sound, protecting the Medicare guarantee for millions of Americans.

I am going to close with this: The Billionaires' Income Tax is not an attack on success; it is a fundamental strike for fairness. We want a successful economy, and to have a successful economy, you have to have a Tax Code that ensures that everybody in America gets a fair shake, and treats everybody fairly.

It is time, in my view, to close the gap between the billionaires at the top and everybody else, and our Billionaires' Income Tax is a way to make that happen.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3375. A bill to establish a program so that business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and sub-contracts in Department of Transportation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 3377. A bill to provide for disadvantaged business enterprise supportive services programs at modal administrations of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supportive Services Expansion Act and the Accelerating Small Business Growth Act, which I reintroduced today.

The unprecedented investments provided by the bipartisan infrastructure law offers a major opportunity to leverage Federal resources to help develop women-owned, minority-owned, and disadvantaged businesses.

President Biden set an ambitious goal of increasing the share of Federal contracts going to small, disadvantaged businesses by 50 percent by 2025, which would translate to an additional \$100 billion for these businesses.

Established in 1970, the Federal Highway Administration's Disadvantaged

Business Enterprise Supportive Services Program already provides training, assistance, and services to minority- and women-owned businesses to help them develop into self-sufficient organizations that viably compete for federally assisted highway project contracts. Unfortunately, Congress has not allowed this program to keep up with the needs of our underserved businesses.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supportive Services Expansion Act would increase this program's annual funding cap for the first time in 50 years from \$10 million to \$25 million. Additionally, the bill would create similar programs at the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Local, regional, and State agencies have also been leaders in developing innovative programs to prioritize disadvantaged businesses, invest in efforts to create equitable competition, and promote diverse economic development initiatives.

The Accelerating Small Business Growth Act would create a new grant program to help transportation agencies across our Nation carry out these innovative programs to help underserved businesses grow and achieve proficiency to compete on an equal basis for contracts and subcontracts in federally funded transportation projects. Agencies that receive funding through this grant program would be required to submit reports to the Department of Transportation evaluating the effectiveness of their activities, which would help inform future Federal procurement policymaking.

I want to thank Representatives PETE AGUILAR and JIMMY GOMEZ for co-leading these bills with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this legislation to help minority-owned, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses compete for contracts to develop and build Federal infrastructure projects funded by the bipartisan infrastructure law.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 480—RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH”

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

S. RES. 480

Whereas, in 2020, 53,000,000 family caregivers in the United States provide essential care to millions of people each year, providing unpaid care worth an estimated \$600,000,000 annually;

Whereas family caregivers play a vital role in the healthcare system of the United States, supporting loved ones who have chronic illnesses, disabilities, and are aging;

Whereas family caregivers, who are disproportionately women of color, often face significant challenges including financial

strain, physical and emotional exhaustion, and social isolation; and

Whereas “National Family Caregivers Month” is an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions of family caregivers and to advocate for policies that support family caregivers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes November 2023 as “National Family Caregivers Month”;

(2) commends the 53,000,000 family caregivers in the United States who provide essential care to their loved ones and chosen family each day;

(3) encourages Federal agencies, States, and the private sector to swiftly implement the steps described in the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers;

(4) urges investment in policies that support family caregivers, including—

(A) economic tax credits;

(B) paid family and medical leave;

(C) respite care;

(D) home and community-based services; and

(E) access to quality healthcare; and

(5) encourages all people of the United States to learn more about family caregiving and to support their loved ones and neighbors who are providing care.

SENATE RESOLUTION 481—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 481

Whereas stomach cancer, also known as gastric cancer, is 1 of the most difficult cancers to detect in the early stages of the disease, which contributes to high mortality rates;

Whereas stomach cancer occurs when cancer cells develop in the lining of the stomach;

Whereas stomach cancer is the fifth most commonly diagnosed type of cancer worldwide;

Whereas, in 2023, an estimated—

(1) 26,500 cases of stomach cancer will be diagnosed in the United States; and

(2) 11,130 individuals in the United States will die from stomach cancer;

Whereas the estimated 5-year survival rate for stomach cancer is only 35.7 percent, and the 5-year survival rate is just 6.6 percent when diagnosed at a late, or distant, stage;

Whereas, in the United States, stomach cancer is more prevalent among racial and ethnic minorities;

Whereas the initial diagnosis of stomach cancer is often delayed because up to 80 percent of patients are asymptomatic during early stages;

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among patients and health care providers could improve timely recognition of stomach cancer symptoms;

Whereas more research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer is needed; and

Whereas November 2023 is an appropriate month to observe Stomach Cancer Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month;

(2) supports efforts to increase awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among the general public of the United States;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer; and

(4) encourages States, territories, and localities of the United States to support the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 482—COMMEMORATING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 482

Whereas, as of the end of 2022, an estimated 39,000,000 people were living with human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this preamble as “HIV”) or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this preamble as “AIDS”), including 1,700,000 children;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 770,000 people with AIDS have died since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, including over 19,000 deaths among people with diagnosed HIV in 2021, with the disease disproportionately affecting communities of color;

Whereas, in 2021, over 35,000 people became newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas communities of color are disproportionately affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas, in order to address the HIV epidemic in the United States, on August 18, 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (Public Law 101-381; commonly referred to as the “Ryan White CARE Act”) to provide primary medical care and essential support services for people living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured;

Whereas the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides services and support for over half of all people diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas, to further focus attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic among minority communities in the United States, in 1998 the Minority AIDS Initiative was established to provide funds to State and local institutions and organizations to best serve the health care costs and support the needs of racial and ethnic minorities living with HIV;

Whereas the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals established a global target to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030;

Whereas, in order to further address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2003, Congress and the White House created the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (referred to in this preamble as “PEPFAR”);

Whereas the United States PEPFAR program remains the largest commitment in history by any country to combat a single disease;

Whereas 25,000,000 lives have been saved through PEPFAR;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2022, PEPFAR has supported treatment for more than 20,000,000 people, and has enabled 5,500,000 infants of mothers living with HIV to be born HIV-free;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2021, PEPFAR directly supported HIV testing and counseling for 64,700,000 people;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was launched in 2002, and, as of 2022, has helped provide antiretroviral therapy to approximately 24,500,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and to

710,000 pregnant women to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS to their children, saving an estimated 59,000,000 lives;

Whereas the United States is the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and every \$1 contributed by the United States leverages an additional \$2 from other donors, as required by law;

Whereas, with United States leadership, global partners pledged record amounts to combat infectious diseases at the seventh replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS in September 2022;

Whereas considerable progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including a nearly 40-percent reduction in new HIV infections, a nearly 60-percent reduction in new HIV infections among children, and a 50-percent reduction in the number of AIDS-related deaths between 2010 and 2022;

Whereas approximately 29,800,000 people had access to antiretroviral therapy in 2022, compared to only 7,800,000 people who had access to such therapy in 2010;

Whereas research funded by the National Institutes of Health found that HIV treatment not only saves the lives of people living with HIV, but people living with HIV on effective antiretroviral therapy and who are durably virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit HIV, proving that HIV treatment is prevention;

Whereas it is estimated that, without treatment, half of all infants living with HIV will die before their second birthday;

Whereas, despite the remarkable progress in combating HIV, significant challenges remain;

Whereas there were approximately 1,300,000 new HIV infections in 2022 globally, structural barriers continue to make testing and treatment programs inaccessible to highly vulnerable populations, and an estimated 5,400,000 people living with HIV globally still do not know their HIV status;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over 35,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in the United States in 2021 and 13 percent of the 1,200,000 people in the United States living with HIV are not aware of their HIV status;

Whereas men who have sex with men (referred to in this preamble as “MSM”), particularly young MSM of color, are the population most affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas southern States bear the greatest burden of HIV in the United States, accounting for 52 percent of new infections in 2021;

Whereas people living with HIV are frequently susceptible to other infections, such as hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis;

Whereas the opioid and heroin epidemics have led to increased numbers of new HIV infections among people who inject drugs, and the crisis has disproportionately affected nonurban areas, where HIV prevalence rates have been low historically and have limited services for HIV prevention and treatment and substance use disorder treatment;

Whereas 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of the PEPFAR program, an initiative launched by President George W. Bush with bi-partisan support that has become the primary policy instrument of the United States to address HIV/AIDS in the developing world;

Whereas December 1 of each year is internationally recognized as “World AIDS Day”; and

Whereas, in 2023, commemorations for World AIDS Day recognize the essential role of communities in the global HIV/AIDS response; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day, including the goal to achieve zero new human immunodeficiency virus (re-

ferred to in this resolution as “HIV”) infections, zero discrimination, and zero acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this resolution as “AIDS”)-related deaths;

(2) commends achievements in combating HIV/AIDS through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of Minority Health, and the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(3) commends achievements in combating HIV/AIDS made by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

(4) supports efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States and around the world by 2030;

(5) supports continued funding for prevention, care, and treatment services, and research programs for communities impacted by HIV and people living with HIV in the United States and globally;

(6) urges, in order to ensure that an AIDS-free generation is achievable, rapid action by all countries toward further expansion and scale-up of antiretroviral treatment programs, including efforts to reduce disparities and improve access for children to life saving medications;

(7) encourages the scaling up of comprehensive prevention services, including biomedical and structural interventions, to ensure inclusive access to programs and appropriate protections for all people at risk of contracting HIV, especially in communities disproportionately impacted;

(8) calls for greater focus on the HIV-related vulnerabilities of women and girls, including women and girls at risk for or who have survived violence or faced discrimination as a result of the disease;

(9) supports continued leadership by the United States in domestic, bilateral, multi-lateral, and private sector efforts to fight HIV;

(10) encourages input from civil society in the development and implementation of domestic and global HIV policies and programs that guide the response;

(11) encourages and supports greater degrees of ownership and shared responsibility by developing countries in order to ensure the sustainability of the domestic responses to HIV/AIDS by those countries; and

(12) urges other members of the international community to sustain and scale up their support for and financial contributions to efforts around the world to combat HIV.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade of general, dated November 30, 2023.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINES. Madam President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are au-

thorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. KAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 481, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 481) expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 481) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

Mr. KAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 4; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the

time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Ramirez nomination postcloture and that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:08 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 4, 2023, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUAN CARLOS ITURREGUI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

DEVEN J. PAREKH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 30, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

SHANLYN A.S. PARK, OF HAWAII, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COLE-CHRISTIAN L. HOLINATY, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF VINCENT W. FLORY, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF KIRSTEN H. THOMPSON, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. MCCARTHY, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN T. FEDELES, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ASHLY C. RUF, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRANDON L. SANDERS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LI ZHAO MUECKAY AND ENDING WITH ALEXANDER T. PARMATER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ZARI N. COFIELD AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA D. FORSYTH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF SAMUEL J. NIRENBERG, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS T. BOOTH, JR. AND ENDING WITH EAN P. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MOISES A. CASTILLO AND ENDING WITH TRUMAN L. TINSLEY IV, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AGUR S. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH CHRISTINA F. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN R. BARACHIE AND ENDING WITH SARA A. ZANITSCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL W. BARBER, JR. AND ENDING WITH ERIC J. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLY N. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS Y. YEUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDON P. ALFORD AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW C. WROTEK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW GUY ADAMS AND ENDING WITH SHAWN WOODALL, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ELIZABETH A. AGNEW AND ENDING WITH LUKE G. WUNDERLICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER R. ALLARD AND ENDING WITH TYLER T. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.