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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, during this season when we celebrate peace on Earth and good will, we pause to thank You for the gifts of Your blessings. Thank You for the blessing of Your presence that brightens this day, restores our faith, and fills us with peace. Thank You for the blessing of friends who support, encourage, and sustain us. Lord, thank You for the blessing of families who nurture and forgive and undergird us with love.

Thank You for the Members of this body for their love of liberty, for their desire to make a positive impact on our world, and for their commitment to You. Lord, guide them today so that Your will may be done on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REMOVING EXTRANEEOUS LOOP-HOLES INSURING EVERY VETERAN EMERGENCY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, later this morning, I will join my Democratic colleagues on the floor to ask

unanimous consent to pass the assault weapons ban, among other gun safety legislation. I will have more to say before the unanimous consent request, but right now the scourge of gun violence in America is a national crisis.

I hope my Republican colleagues stand with us to take action that Americans demand.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. President, now, on Senator TUBERVILLE, yesterday, 10 months of pain and uncertainty finally came to an end for hundreds—hundreds—of military nominees and their families. Senator TUBERVILLE, after months of obstruction, stubbornness, and reckless disregard for military readiness, withdrew his blanket holds on over 400 generals and flag officers, and, in the span of just a few minutes of floor time, the Senate unanimously confirmed nearly every single one of them to their posts. Thank God, these military officers finally got the promotions they so rightfully earned, but it should not have taken so long.

If there is one word that underscores why we prevailed on Senator TUBERVILLE, it is persistence. For months, I said it would be up to our Republican colleagues to talk some sense into Senator TUBERVILLE and get him to relent in his holds. Senators ERNST and SULLIVAN stepped up to the plate and deserve a lot of commendation for their courage, for their strength.

And, as I predicted, the frustration and pressure on the senior Senator from Alabama eventually won out. We were persistent and persistent and persistent and held the line that military nominees should never, never become pawns to push a partisan agenda.

So let this be a warning. No one—no one—should attempt blanket holds on our military ever again.

After all the damage he caused, Senator TUBERVILLE has nothing—absolutely nothing—to show for his obstruction, except for the harm done to our military and the pain caused to

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



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military families. His reckless strategy did not succeed, and if, in the future, others try to hold up military appointments to get their way, they, too, will fail. Again, let this be a warning that no one should ever hold up military appointments again.

We cannot cave to any single Member's views, no matter how strongly felt. I don't doubt that Senator TUBERVILLE feels the issue very strongly opposite of what I feel, but when our military families are at stake, we should not use these strong feelings to hold them hostage. What the senior Senator from Alabama did through his holds was bring the Senate to a new low, and, in the end, it was all for nothing.

I want to thank my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, who spoke in defense of our military families. I want to thank particularly Senator REED, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Senator KLOBUCHAR, the chair of the Rules Committee. I also want to thank Senator SINEMA, who was instrumental in creating bipartisan support for our resolution. On the Republican side, I want to, once again, thank Senators ERNST and SULLIVAN for their courage in helping to break the logjam after so, so many months. Because Senators on both sides persisted and held the line, this sad chapter in the Senate is finally over.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, now, on the supplemental, the question before the Senate today is simple yet momentous: Will Senators agree to begin debate—just a debate—on legislation to defend America's national security on an issue so important it goes to the actual preservation of Western and democratic values in the world. Are we willing to hold a discussion, here on the floor, about steps necessary to safeguard democracy, stand up to autocratic brutes, and respond to our adversaries with strength, or will Senators prevent us from moving forward over extremist border policies? Because, this afternoon, the Senate will hold a vote on whether or not to move forward on a national security supplemental.

At stake is America's safety, the safety of democracy, and the future of the war in Ukraine. As we have done throughout our history, the Senate should rush to the defense of democracy and stand up to autocratic brutes.

And I have promised my Republican colleagues that if they agree to move forward, I will give them a vote for a border package entirely of their choosing—no conditions. This is a golden opportunity for Republicans to present whatever border policy they want, and our side will not interfere with the construction of that amendment in any way.

It has been reported that Senate Republicans will make another attempt to craft a border proposal and share it with Democrats, because the last proposal was so far away from what any-

one could accept on our side. Well, I have a suggestion for my Republican colleagues: Vote with us to begin debate, and then bring that proposal to the floor as an amendment. We can debate it right here, right here on the Senate floor.

If Republicans vote no today and reject the opportunity to offer a border amendment, then what the heck is going on? Republicans said they want border. It is they who have injected border into the Ukraine issue, even though the two are unrelated. And now they are getting a golden opportunity to offer border at 60 votes. If that is not good enough for them, then what are they doing?

Let's not forget, Mr. President, that it was the Republican leader and others on the Republican side in the House and Senate, mainly from the hard right, who demanded that border and Ukraine be tied together. Well, we are willing to give them an amendment—that is what they have asked for—and now they are spurning that offer. Why hold up Ukraine aid if they can't even present a border package that can pass the Senate?

We are asking ourselves this question: Has border been nothing more than an excuse for the hard right to kill funding for Ukraine and too many other Republican Senators, who are not part of the hard right, are going along? I hope that is not true.

I hope Republicans vote yes and take up our offer on a border amendment at 60 votes because we don't have much time to keep negotiating off the floor if all we will do is go around in circles, which is what has happened over the last 3 weeks, despite the good will of negotiators. Democrats have spent 3 weeks in negotiation in good faith, trying to get somewhere on the border, to no avail.

We believe we should do something on border. In fact, the President's proposal, which is the base bill—which I am making the base bill—has very significant border provisions in it, particularly those talking about stopping the flow of fentanyl into this country by providing much more help at the ports of entry. We want to reach a middle ground with Republicans on border. It is important. But we cannot waste time on something like H.R. 2, which every single Democrat voted against, which could never pass the House, while the clock is ticking to get Ukraine the help it so desperately needs.

Now, I understand that this is frustrating for some of our Republican colleagues. I appreciate that the hard right may feel boxed in and be feeling the pressure that they can't come up with a package that can get only 11 Democrats if all of them vote for it. But the only way anything on border gets done is with votes from both sides of the aisle. That is how the Senate works.

So, again, I hope our Republican colleagues do the right thing for our coun-

try and vote in favor of debating the supplemental. I hope they take this free opportunity, this golden opportunity, to make a real, serious proposal on the border—though, in reality, they can propose whatever they want—and see if it can get the 60 votes that is always required in this type of legislation in the Senate.

If they make a serious offer on the border and it gets 60 votes, then the Senate will have spoken. If they cannot get 60 votes on a border proposal, then that should not prevent us from giving Ukraine the aid they so desperately need.

Let me repeat that again. If Republicans, who injected border into this whole debate, now can't come up with an amendment that can pass the Senate, they should not prevent us from giving Ukraine the aid it so desperately needs.

The world is watching. The world is watching what the Senate does today. You can bet, my colleagues, Vladimir Putin is watching. Hamas is certainly watching. Iran, President Xi, North Korea—all of our adversaries are closely watching. Let us do the right thing and move forward today.

AI INSIGHT FORUMS

Mr. President, now, today, on our AI Insight Forums, we will continue our work with our eighth and ninth bipartisan AI forums. The morning's Insight Forum will begin at 10:30 a.m. and focus on long-term risks associated with AI and how we can guard against AI doomsday scenarios.

This afternoon's Insight Forum will begin at 3 p.m. and focus on one of the most critical and urgent areas of AI national security. We will discuss the opportunities AI presents to bolster our national security and the risks if we fall behind the Chinese Government. It is in the Kennedy Caucus Room.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Mr. President, finally, on the FTC investigation of Exxon, last month, I wrote a letter, along with 20 other of my colleagues, urging the FTC to investigate Exxon's \$60 billion blockbuster merger with Pioneer, one of the largest mergers in the energy industry in two decades. Having the largest oil company merge with the largest oil producer in the Permian Basin is only going to do one thing: raise prices for the average consumer.

Well, I have good news. The FTC heeded our warning and announced yesterday that the FTC will closely review Exxon's proposed acquisition of Pioneer. It is welcome news for the American people because if the merger were to proceed, it would result in higher gas prices for families across the country. Profits for these big oil companies would soar, fueling stock buybacks, while everyday Americans struggle to fill up their tanks.

So this merger between Exxon and Pioneer has all the hallmarks of harmful anti-competitive effects, and I am glad the FTC is moving forward.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, later today, Senate Republicans are going to deny cloture on a bill that fails to address America's top national security priorities in a serious way. As we have said for weeks, legislation that doesn't include policy changes to secure our borders will not pass the Senate.

The situation unfolding at our southern border on President Biden's watch is a crisis of historic proportions. It is glaring, it is acute, and it is undermining America's national security.

President Obama's DHS Secretary used to say that 1,000 border crossings a day "overwhelms the system." Today, they are reporting encountering over—listen to this—10,000 people a day down at the border—a large town's worth of illegal aliens each day. Thanks to a broken asylum and parole system, the vast majority of them are admitted into the country before their legal status is even determined.

Mr. President, 10,000 arrivals a day would mean a population the size of a middle-sized town in Kentucky every month—every month. The sheer volume has forced officials in the Tucson, AZ, sector, which has recently accounted for nearly 3,000 of those daily arrivals by itself, to shut down one port of entry altogether.

This is the crisis undermining America's national security right here at home, and today, some of our Democratic colleagues are showing just how little they want to do anything about it.

Senate Republicans know this isn't an either-or proposition. We know that national security begins with border security.

I have spent months highlighting the undeniable links between the threats we face in Europe, in the Middle East, and in the Indo-Pacific, but Democratic leadership appears to be telling us today that they are willing to risk each of these urgent priorities to avoid—avoid—fixing our own borders right here at home. Apparently, some of our colleagues would rather let Russia trample a sovereign nation in Europe than do what it takes to enforce America's own sovereign borders.

Now, it wasn't always like this. Democrats didn't always have such a hard time following the logic that national security begins right here at home.

I am reminded of the commission President Reagan set up in the mid-1980s to assess the importance of peace and security in the Western Hemisphere. It was a bipartisan exercise that included everyone from Henry Kissinger to the former chair of the DNC and the president of the AFL-CIO. The commission concluded that America's security in the world "depends on

the inherent security of its land borders" and that our adversaries would reap "a major strategic coup to impose on the United States the burden of defending our southern approaches."

"[A] major strategic coup" for our adversaries. A past generation of Democrats understood the logic implicitly when it pertained to the threat of Soviet influence. Well, that logic applies even more today to the instability, cartel violence, terror, and drugs pouring over our southern border.

But in today's Democratic Party, some of our colleagues appear to be so terrified of their radical base that they are convinced open borders are worth jeopardizing U.S. security around the world, that securing America's borders is less urgent than helping our partners defend theirs.

The Democratic leader has insisted repeatedly that border security is an important issue, but whatever our colleagues want to call the issue, their actions suggest they are not at all interested in actually solving it.

Demanding serious border policy changes isn't injecting an unrelated issue into the conversation. President Biden's own request wanted us to throw billions of dollars at this exact problem. Fixing a badly broken asylum and parole system isn't hijacking the supplemental; it is strengthening it. Securing our southern border isn't extraneous to our national security; it is essential.

I know some of our Democratic colleagues understand this. I know not all of them are beholden to the same radical base that demands open borders at home and supports an intifada abroad. I invite them to work with Republicans on meaningful, lasting border security.

But if today's vote is what it takes for the Democratic leader to recognize that Senate Republicans mean what we say, then let's vote, and then let's finally start meeting America's national security priorities, including right here at home.

COAL

Mr. President, now on another matter, for millions of Americans, expensive heating bills and rolling blackouts are becoming the hallmark of the holiday season under President Biden. So it came as no small surprise when the Biden administration's climate czar, John Kerry, proclaimed this week that no coal plants should be "permitted anywhere in the world"—"anywhere in the world." Goodness. Our former colleague may have bought himself applause from the jet-set crowd assembled at the conference, but his ban on coal would make energy even less reliable and affordable here at home.

As my colleague from West Virginia, Senator CAPITO, pointed out yesterday, many States in Middle America still rely on coal to keep their lights on. Kentucky, West Virginia, Wyoming, Missouri, Utah, North Dakota, Indiana, and Nebraska all use coal to generate over 50 percent of their electricity.

President Biden's handling of the economy is turning in dismal marks from working Americans. But the climate activists in his administration continue to wage war on the most affordable forms of American energy they rely on.

Unfortunately, Middle America is used to footing the bill for Washington's radical climate agenda. For 8 years under President Obama, Kentuckians watched the War on Coal kill jobs and cripple communities across Appalachia. These same communities continue to pay dearly under President Biden. Kentucky coal miner employment has never—never—recovered from the Obama-era coal purge. Hasty plans to phase out fossil fuels only force more miners into early retirement in Kentucky and threaten the livelihood of Middle America.

The sort of power grid failures we have seen in California, Texas, and Kentucky will become even more common if Democrats' full-speed-ahead climate strategy continues. Meanwhile, our top strategic adversary is scaling up coal production. Despite the Biden administration's pleading, China continues to forge ahead with new coal projects and resurrect retired plants. Time and again, the President's climate czar has happily accepted empty climate pledges from our adversaries at the expense of American jobs and job creators.

So Democrats can repeat their tired green energy talking points until the cows come home, but the reality for Americans is all the same: less reliable and more expensive energy this winter.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 36 years ago, President Ronald Reagan stood at the Brandenburg Gate that separated East from West Berlin. He said to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union:

Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.

Only a few years after his historic speech, the Soviet Union collapsed,

bringing in decades—decades—of freedom and prosperity in Eastern Europe and a welcome end to the Cold War.

Now there comes a man named “Vladimir Putin” who is clumsily and dangerously trying to regain that dystopian Soviet glory with a bloody war in Ukraine.

So I can only wonder what President Reagan would be thinking now, with so many of his Republican Party Members refusing to support critical military assistance to keep Ukraine from falling to Russian tyranny.

Yes, we have other legislative needs in Congress, but refusing to support the forces of freedom in Ukraine in a war against a resurgent evil empire in the name of partisanship is nothing short of reckless.

It is not hard to understand how we got here. Putin gambled and lost a botched attempt to quickly overthrow Ukraine. Now he has to juggle a formidable Ukrainian resistance, huge losses of Russian conscript, isolation on the global stage, a struggling economy, domestic opposition, and an upcoming election in Russia that he needs to rig again to stay in power. Meanwhile, he has been branded a war criminal and has to carefully choose the nations that he visits so he isn't arrested on the spot.

So, given his tenuous position, what is one of his greatest opportunities for clinging to power? It is hope that the partisan chaos in the U.S. Congress will stall or end support for Ukraine. And make no mistake—the President of Ukraine told us point-blank when he visited here several months ago, in a private meeting in the Old Senate Chamber, that if the United States cuts off military assistance to Ukraine, his country will lose the war with Vladimir Putin.

That is what is at stake. The White House was clear. We know that Putin is watching this activity by Congress; so is China and so is Iran.

The White House was clear in warning that the United States is “out of money to support Ukraine in this fight.”

And President Zelenskyy told us the obvious: Ukraine will lose without American support.

So this is not an abstract political theater; what we do has consequences—global and historic consequences. As such, I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, think long and hard about what President Reagan would say today about showing weakness to Vladimir Putin. Let's not flinch when it comes to standing up to such obvious threats to freedom.

It is time to pass President Biden's national security supplemental request. It is hard to imagine that we would actually let history record that we walked away from Ukraine at this moment. And it isn't over a debate of the merits of his defense of his country; it is over an unrelated issue: our border security.

It is obvious that we need to do something on our border. The number

of people presenting themselves for refugee status is at a record high. The system that was designed 60 years ago to deal with refugees never envisioned the volume of demands that we are facing on the border every single day, week, and month.

This is not unique to the United States. Refugees all around the world are mushrooming in size for a variety of reasons: conflicts, the war in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, environmental changes. All of these have the world in flux. And many people are looking for safety, safety in countries like the United States.

I support the refugee system. I think it was designed at a time when we realized that turning away Jewish people in World War II was a stain on our reputation. We decided after World War II to enter into a pact with other countries around the world to accept refugees under certain circumstances, and we have lived by that ever since through Presidents—Republican and Democratic.

Now, we are being tested. We can meet that test. We can adjust our refugee system to the reality of today, and we can stop the abuse of the system that is taking place on the border. But we don't want to walk away from the very fundamental values of our country. It is trying to find that delicate balance between those values and the disorder that we face on the border that leads us to the point we are today.

I have been involved in immigration issues for as long as I have served in this Chamber, and I know how hard they are to negotiate. And to put this stark choice before the Senate of either finding a solution to a decades-old problem in a matter of days and hours or cutting off aid to Ukraine is a terrible choice.

It is a deadly choice for the people of Ukraine, and, sadly, it is a deadly choice for the dominance of the United States and shaping world opinion. I hope we find our senses and do it soon.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor many times to voice my frustration with the timid, ineffective job by the Food and Drug Administration in protecting American children and consumers from Big Tobacco. With new threats like vaping, the FDA has failed—utterly failed—to use its authority under the law to clear the market in the United States of unauthorized e-cigarettes. These addictive products are targeting children with sweet and fruity flavors. Yet the Food and Drug Administration has largely neglected its public health responsibility to regulate these products.

But, today, I want to discuss an area where the FDA can make progress that has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives. Last month, the FDA submitted a regulation to the White House for final review. This proposed regulation would ban the sale of menthol cigarettes and prohibit the use of flavorings in cigars.

Scientists have known for years that flavors play a powerful role in addicting people to tobacco by masking the harsh taste of their product, but when Congress banned the use of most flavors of tobacco in 2009, Big Tobacco secured a loophole for menthol. Why? Addiction is profitable.

For decades, menthol cigarettes, in particular, have been marketed aggressively to the African-American community in the United States, through free samples, sponsorship of cultural events, and heavy advertising. As a result, today—today—85 percent of Black smokers use menthol cigarettes, compared to 30 percent of White smokers.

It is part of the reason why Black adults are 30 percent more likely to die from heart disease and 50 percent more likely to die from stroke, compared to White Americans.

Right before Thanksgiving, I met in my office with Marsha Hike, who lives in Chicago. She was in Washington because November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. She shared the fact that lung cancer is the No. 1 cause of cancer death in America. The No. 1 cause of cancer death in America: lung cancer, killing more Americans than breast cancer, prostate cancer, and colorectal cancer combined.

She met with me because six of her dearest family members have died from lung cancer due to smoking. I am glad there is greater attention today on topics like health disparities, equity, and the underlying factors for why Black people live sicker and die younger in America.

FDA's proposal would eliminate the racial disparity among cancer deaths between Black and White Americans, saving 650,000 lives.

I take this issue very personally. When I was a sophomore in high school, my father died of lung cancer. He was 53 years old. He spent 90 days—almost 100 days—in the hospital before he died, and I was by his bedside regularly. It made a profound impact on me as a high school kid, and little did I know that I would be able to follow up on this issue when I came to the House of Representatives by passing legislation to ban smoking on airplanes and taking Big Tobacco on ever since. The battle continues.

I know what the reaction is that the decision to ban menthol in cigarettes would be unpopular among the African-American population and may be reflected in the next vote. I think that is greatly exaggerated.

The majority of the Members of the Black caucus in Congress support this ban on menthol. And I want to make it clear, they are peddling stories—Big Tobacco is—that we are going to go out and arrest African Americans if they use menthol cigarettes, but that is not the case at all. The FDA proposal would take all of the action against the producers of the cigarettes, not the consumers. The consumers are not drawn into this in terms of any legal liability nor should they be.

The question is, do we care enough about these African Americans, their families, and their future to make an unpopular—to some—decision to move forward to make America a healthier, safer place to live? I hope we do.

I don't want any more families to experience the suffering that I went through and families do every day.

The Biden administration has an incredible track record of taking on big challenges and delivering. It has launched the Cancer Moonshot, created a new Federal research Agency, ARPA-H, to accelerate cures for patients. President Biden has taken on the gun lobby and Big Pharma and secured important victories with the passage last year of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Now is the time to do the same against Big Tobacco, which is responsible for nearly half a million deaths per year. I urge the Biden administration to look carefully at the proposal from the FDA and swiftly finalize its rules on menthol and flavored cigars, which will save lives and reduce suffering, especially for communities of color.

This is an issue that is personal to many Americans. We didn't choose it. Addiction led our family members to face illness and sometimes death. Are we going to do something for the next generation of African Americans who are being harassed in the advertising and marketing of this product to the detriment of their future?

I hope that President Biden will do that.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will take a vote on whether or not to move to consideration of the national security supplemental bill. And make no mistake, this vote will fail. Not because Republicans oppose supporting our national security interests overseas but because Democrats are refusing to take seriously the national security crisis here at home.

From the beginning, Republicans have made it clear that any national security supplemental would have to address one of the biggest threats to our national security, the out-of-control illegal immigration at our southern border.

And when I say "out of control," just look at the numbers. Yesterday, 12,000 people were apprehended at our southern border trying to come into our country illegally—not including the "got-aways," not including the unknowns—over 12,000 people, which, I think, is an alltime, one-day high. Most ever. In history.

And think about that annualized. We are now talking about on the order of 4 million people annually coming across our southern border, being released into the country, coming across illegally.

When is this a crisis? This is a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis. It has been that for a long time. But now—now it is a national security crisis because among those 12,000 people are some pretty unsavory characters.

There are people who are coming here for a better life, but there are a lot of people who are being apprehended now at our southern border. Some of whom are on the Terrorist Watchlist.

This is a crisis that needs to be dealt with, and it seems to be falling on deaf ears at the White House and among my colleagues here, Democratic colleagues in the U.S. Senate.

We have put forward meaningful ideas and solutions about how to deal with this, and yet crickets. Nobody seems to want to confront what is a major, major debacle at our southern border.

That is 12,000, one day—a new American record of people trying to come into this country illegally. Why? Because this administration doesn't seem to care or want to do anything about stopping or reducing that flow across our southern border.

It is a staggering number. And just to put it in perspective, Jeh Johnson, who was the Department of Homeland Security Secretary to President Obama, once said that a thousand a day would overwhelm the system—a thousand a day. He went on to say: I can't even comprehend what 4,000 a day would look like.

Yesterday was 12,000. Now, if you sustain that rate, annualize that rate, as I said, you are talking about 4 million people annually being released into this country.

And you have heard from countless now, not just Members on my side of the aisle or overcrowded communities on the southern border or members of the Customs and Border Patrol who are underwhelmed and underresourced and undermanned down there to deal with this crisis.

But you are hearing from cities in the interior of this country—large cities—who are complaining about not being able to deliver basic services to their constituents now because they are having to deal with a migrant inflow into their communities—New York City being one notable example. The mayor of New York City says he would have to freeze hiring police officers, he would have to close libraries, and cut education funding to keep up with this massive, massive inflow of people who are coming into this country who need to be cared for.

So let me just say, this is not an extraneous issue, which is what the Democrat leader suggested last week. Border security is a national security issue, and anyone who thinks that our Nation can be secure while we have hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants pouring over our southern border each month needs to think again.

The month of October, 240,988 individuals were encountered at our south-

ern border. That was the highest October number ever recorded. But on top of that, the month of October saw an average of 1,000 "got-aways" per day, individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. That is 30,000 unidentified individuals entering our country in just 1 month—30,000.

And there is no telling how many unknown "got-aways"—these are known "got-aways"—how many unknown "got-aways" there were during that same period. And there is no question that some of those "got-aways" were dangerous individuals who should not be entering the country.

During fiscal year 2023, there were 169 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist who were apprehended attempting to illegally cross our southern border. That was fiscal year 2023, which ended September 30, 169 in 1 year.

Well, if the numbers continue to ramp up—and you look at the daily numbers we are encountering now, you know that number is going to go up significantly as well. Because why? People have figured out, you want to get into the United States, come across our southern border.

And thousands of what are known as—what we call special interest aliens, those individuals who may pose a threat to the United States, have been apprehended trying to illegally cross our southern border over the past 2 years.

Then there have been the criminals who are trying to make their way into the United States, and those range from drug traffickers to child predators. One border reporter noted last month:

Border Patrol's Del Rio Sector has arrested at least 21 child sex predators crossing illegally since the new fiscal year began on October 1.

Twenty-one child sex predators in a single sector of our southern border.

And, again, all of these numbers I am mentioning only refer to individuals who have actually been apprehended. With 30,000 unknown individuals entering the United States in October alone, there is no telling how many terrorists, how many criminals, how many other dangerous individuals have made their way into our country without our knowledge.

So I think it is fair to say that the issue of border security is not "extraneous" but is, in fact, fundamental to our national security and something that the Democrat leader ought to realize.

Indeed the fact that New York City, as I mentioned, is currently facing across-the-board cuts to its city services, including a staggering 13.5-percent cut to its police force—to its police force—as a result of the migrant crisis should be all the information the majority leader needs to realize that our current situation is not sustainable, even without the national security risk imposed by unchecked illegal immigration.

Now, I support aid to Israel, Taiwan, and Ukraine, and I believe it is in our

national security interest to support these allies. So I want to see us take up this national security supplemental, but national security begins at home. And we can't pass a bill to advance American interests abroad while ignoring the national security crisis at our own border. We owe the American people better than that.

And the Democrat leader needs to understand the Republicans are serious. We have said all along that this national security supplemental must address the national security crisis at our border, and we will continue to hold that principle.

And while we recognize that in a negotiation, neither side will get everything it wants, the final border security component in this supplemental must have real teeth. Cosmetic measures are not acceptable. We can't afford anything less than real solutions to our Nation's border crisis.

Ten thousand-plus individuals were encountered at our southern border on Sunday, another 10,000 on Monday. It went up to 11,000. And as I said yesterday, now 12,000 in a single day. Things are getting worse, not better. We have an obligation to do everything we can to get this crisis under control—this administration, as I said, something they have had no interest in doing.

So I will vote against moving the supplemental while it lacks serious border security policy changes, and I hope that today's failed vote will clearly demonstrate to our Democratic colleagues that there will be no national security supplemental without the kind of border security measures that we need to keep our Nation secure.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 25

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 25 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Americans have a constitutional right to own a firearm. Every day people across Wyoming responsibly use their Second Amendment rights to keep and to bear arms. Today is about defending those rights against those on the other side of the aisle who wish to take them away from us.

Democrats are demanding that the American people give up their liberty. The Democrat legislation takes away a right, and it does not provide Americans security. Democrats want Washington to ban rifles and pistols because of the way they look. To do this, they describe semiautomatic rifles as assault rifles. They aren't. Any farmer, rancher, or outdoorsman in Wyoming can tell you. These rifles work the same way as popular shotguns and other rifles used for hunting and for personal protection. Instead of facing these facts, Democrats stick to demonizing rifles and disrespecting gun owners.

Democrat's ban on assault weapons is an assault on lawful gun owners. There is a contradiction at the center of the gun control debate. Democrats want to enact new laws on law-abiding citizens. At the same time, they ignore the lawbreakers. Almost every single page of the bill that is in front of us today adds new restrictions and new burdens on people who follow the law. It tells what you can buy, what you can't buy. It bans more than 205 rifles, shotguns, and pistols by name.

Republicans reject these unjustified and unconstitutional restrictions. Democrat's bumper-sticker solution to ban guns is not about safety; it is about restricting lawful gun ownership. It is about trying to label responsible gun owners as criminals. Democrats are the party of defunding the police and disarming the American people.

None of this makes our streets safer. None of this slows the crimewave in America. None of this solves the mental health crisis in our country. The focus should be on mental health, on school safety, and stricter enforcement of current laws. We want Americans to be safe in their communities, their homes, and their schools.

The legislation that the majority leader is proposing that is before us today goes way beyond that. I oppose any policies that jeopardize the Second Amendment rights of the people of Wyoming and people across this country. The Second Amendment is freedom's essential safeguard. Without it, there can be no liberty, and there can be no security.

So, Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know that the Senator from Alabama wants to speak. Could I ask the Senator from Alabama how long he wants to speak for?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Ten minutes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, we want to all speak seriatim, and I thought I was going to speak before this.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the Senator yield also to Senator DURBIN after me; is that all right?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

Mr. President, I just heard, unfortunately, our Senator from Wyoming object. Here are the facts: The scourge of

gun violence in America is a national crisis. The American people are sick and tired of enduring one mass shooting after another. They are sick and tired of vigils and moments of silence for family, friends, classmates, coworkers.

Today, Democrats move to pass the assault weapons ban to help rid our streets of these deadly weapons. I want to thank my colleagues who support this measure, particularly Senator DURBIN, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, as well as Senators MURPHY and BLUMENTHAL and WARNOCK, who organized today's efforts with me.

We already have a decade's worth of proof that a ban on military-style assault works and saves lives, plain and simple. After I led the passage of the assault weapons ban—I carried the bill in the House as a Congressman, alongside our late colleague Senator Feinstein, who carried it in the Senate. What happened? America saw a significant decrease in mass shootings and in gun deaths—a decrease.

Unsurprisingly, when that ban lapsed, there was a sudden and dramatic spike in mass shootings and deaths from those shootings. We must change that. We still feel the unquenchable suffering of the families of Sandy Hook, where 11 years ago next week 26 innocent lives were cut short by an automatic weapon. I still see the pictures of those little children, and I still remember—because I speak to them fairly recently—the parents who have a hole in their hearts forever because some madman with an assault weapon was able to kill 26 of them, one after the other.

We still feel the agony of places like Buffalo, where a year-and-a-half ago a gunman murdered 10 people in cold blood at a Tops grocery store. I was at that grocery store a few days later. I still feel their pain. We feel the pain of Uvalde, Las Vegas, El Paso. The list sadly goes on and on and on.

And we also take action today because of tragedies like the Long Island Rail Road massacre that happened 30 years ago tomorrow in my own backyard, the innocent people who lost their lives at the Maryland train station. It was the 533 train filled with commuters heading home from work—so many injured, six killed. My heart still sinks. And I will never forget hearing that news, the river of blood in the aisles of the commuter railroad train, just horrible.

By passing the assault weapons ban today, we can help save lives, get these weapons off our streets, and prevent future tragedies. So today Republicans face a choice, as they do every day. We want to say to our Republican friends: Stand with families fearing for their lives or stand with the gun lobby and block this assault weapons ban.

Just look at what happened the last time both sides worked together on commonsense gun safety measures. We did something many believed to be impossible. Under the leadership of Senator MURPHY, Senator DURBIN, Senator

BLUMENTHAL, and so many others, we passed the first major gun safety bill in three decades. While this bill was a long-overdue step in the right direction, we have to do a lot more.

Today, we have an opportunity to come together and pass another life-saving measure.

I yield to the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, the chair of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator SCHUMER for his remarks.

Imagine, if you will a family event that you look forward to each year. That was the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, IL.

Highland Park, a leafy suburb of Chicago, is a wonderful community, truly a community. And every year on the Fourth of July, families ask their sons and daughters to put on that patriotic T-shirt, carry the little flag, stand out and enjoy this commemoration of the birth of the United States of America.

Well, a little over a year ago, that Fourth of July parade became a terrible day for so many families.

Last year, in Highland Park, IL, a shooter on a rooftop, with an assault rifle, was able to fire 83 rounds in 60 seconds—83 rounds in 60 seconds—killing 7 and wounding dozens before law enforcement could even identify where he was. One of those was a little 8-year-old boy, a twin, who will be unfortunately disabled for the rest of his life because of the injuries that he sustained.

This mass shooting in my home State of Illinois was one of hundreds across America last year. Since 2020, the United States has suffered from over 600 mass shootings every year, almost 2 a day.

I ask those who are listening to my remarks to reflect on one fact: There is no other country on Earth not engaged in active war where this type of killing occurs on a daily basis.

In Highland Park and in communities across America, shooters have used military-style assault weapons to cause irreversible harm in just a matter of minutes.

I listened to my friend from Wyoming object to the effort to bring this legislation to the floor and cite the fact that we were being disrespectful to gun owners. He made reference to ranchers and farmers in his State and how it is important for them to have firearms. I don't quarrel with that, but I do have to ask, in all seriousness: 83 rounds in 60 seconds? That is what a farmer needs? That is what a rancher needs? I think not. This is a military weapon designed to kill people. That is it. It is designed to kill massive numbers of people. I don't think that is part of farming or ranching in modern America.

Already this year, there have been 627 mass shootings, including the October 25 attack in Lewiston, ME, where a gunman opened fire and killed 18 people. Literally, the entire State of Maine was on alert, wondering if this shooter would have another victim.

Americans are rightfully afraid when they see their friends and neighbors killed in schools, in places of worship, in bowling alleys, at work, at the mall, at grocery stores. People are asking: What is safe? Mothers and fathers are asking: Is it safe to send our children to school?

Is it safe to send their children to school?

What can we do to stop this madness? It is madness. Firearms are now the leading cause of death of children in the United States. Firearms—the leading cause of death of children in the United States of America.

Mass shootings with assault weapons are a uniquely American phenomenon. Continuing to allow firearms meant for war to be used on the streets is disgraceful.

Last year, Congress took critical steps on gun safety reform with the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, but we must do more. When a shooter is armed with an assault weapon, the number of deaths in a mass shooting is, on average, twice as high. If we can prevent that many deaths when these tragedies strike by passing an assault weapons ban, what are we waiting for?

Finally, I would like to take a moment to talk about my former colleague and true trailblazer, the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, whose voice and leadership in this fight is an inspiration to us all.

Senator Feinstein experienced the devastation of gun violence firsthand the day that George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were gunned down in the San Francisco City Hall. That was carved into her memory and inspired her response.

In 1994, an assault weapons ban was passed and considered a major step forward. Senator Feinstein's work in the Senate and then Congressman CHUCK SCHUMER's work in the House made it a reality. Congress failed to reauthorize this critical legislation—a big mistake.

Today, we can honor Senator Feinstein's legacy with the lives we will save by bringing forward this bill. After Highland Park, I said that I hope, for our children's sake, we don't run away from the problem. That community and so many others are counting on us to stand up and face this issue head on. I urge my colleagues to unite and do what is right for the safety of the American people. Let's pass the assault weapons ban.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Alabama.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the military's new illegal abortion policy.

Last November, I got word from the Pentagon that it was planning on replacing a 40-year law that was passed in this building, about abortion in our military, that has worked perfectly for 40 years—no complaints. But our Presi-

dent, in his wisdom, decided to change that abortion policy with a memo.

So, because of that, I warned the Pentagon: Don't do this. Send this new policy through the Senate, and let's vote on it. Let's represent our colleagues. Let's represent the people back home who sent us up here. They elect us to do that, to make decisions for them, to represent them.

I said in writing that, if they imposed this new policy, I would put a hold on senior nominations in the military. That is the only power that we have in the minority to get the attention of the majority here in the Senate.

I hated to do it. These people needed promotions, but somebody needs to wake up in the White House and the Pentagon that they cannot dictate policy here in the U.S. Senate.

Send it over. Let's vote on it.

So I put a hold, 11 months ago, on admirals and generals and civil nominees. A few months went by—a few months being 11—and we have had that hold ever since they put this policy in place.

But somebody had to stand up to what was going on. So I did it. I stood up, knowing that I am 100 percent military. My dad was in the military. I was a military brat. I believe in our military. It is the No. 1 institution in this country because, if we don't have peace and security for the American citizens, we are in trouble.

Secretary Austin knew that I would hold these nominations. He knew it, but he decided to go ahead and do it anyway. It was his choice. The current leadership in the Pentagon seems to think that taxpayer-funded abortion is more important than military nominations.

Now, let's get this straight. This was in a policy that we had for 40 years that was about rape, incest, and harm to the mom. It had worked for 40 years, but they decided to change that because they thought they could without the consent of the Senate.

Since then, there has been absolutely no negotiation from my Democratic colleagues or the Biden administration. I have had a brief phone call a couple of times with the Secretary of Defense, but no negotiations at all. You would think, if they were really concerned about our military in a trying time in which we have all of the world which they have created, that they would have called me: Let's talk about this. Let's work it out. We need promotions.

Zero. Zero communications. I have been willing to negotiate the entire time.

So, instead, the Democrats have spent 11 months attacking me for trying to get them to do the right thing and to stand up for our military. No, they didn't want any of that. They wanted it their way or the highway.

Unfortunately, last month, even some of my Republican colleagues attacked me—and attacked me personally—here on this floor. I could see how this thing was going. They call themselves, you know, military—people

that support the military. There is nobody, again, who supports the military any more than me. But they are currently in the military, and they were standing up for their colleagues, which is fine. But I can stand and we all can stand for the life of the unborn and for our military. You can do both.

Unfortunately, the Democrats don't want to do that. They do not like the unborn, and they don't care anything about the military, or they would have done something about this. They were saying these guys and women need promotions. Well, these young unborn will never have a chance for a promotion because they want to kill them before they are born, which is absolutely amazing to me.

I have been asking the Pentagon to support evidence of changing this policy, again, for almost a year. They said it is because of recruiting: We need to be able to recruit more people, more women, because we need a better abortion policy.

Again, there was zero evidence that this was going to help in recruiting. And, folks, recruiting in the military has been an absolute, total disaster—the worst in the history of this country. We don't have anybody—hardly anybody—who wants to join a volunteer military. It has only gotten worse since this policy went into effect, which they started in February.

I have asked the Pentagon how many people have used this policy since it has gone into place. They refused to answer. They have given me no information at all.

I have also explained on this floor many times that this policy is illegal. Now, if it was sent over here and we voted on it and it passed, it is what it is. But that didn't happen. It wasn't going to happen because they didn't have the votes. They didn't have the votes to pass it. So we have an immoral, illegal policy that has no basis in facts.

The world is a much more dangerous place today because of some of the things that have happened, such as this abortion policy being put in by Joe Biden and CHUCK SCHUMER himself. It has become much more dangerous, even since we put this policy in place last year.

Over the last 3 years, we have seen some of the worst humiliations in the history of our military. President Biden waved the white flag of surrender in Afghanistan: We are leaving; we want out. That is without even helping people who are Americans and who have helped Americans for 20 years. We abandoned them.

Just 2 months later, Vladimir Putin began massing forces on his border with Ukraine. I went to Ukraine right before the war started in Ukraine and talked to President Zelenskyy himself, who said: We need help. We need people at the border. If you will send materials, they won't come in.

This administration wouldn't listen. We got out of the way and let them

come in. Since then, by the way, we spent 100 billion of the taxpayer dollars. Now we want to spend \$100 billion more. Joe Biden failed to deter President Putin.

Joe Biden failed to deter Hamas because of his support of Iran—his appeasement of Iran for the last 3 years, giving them money. Iran is flush with cash now. Hamas is one of their proxies. Joe Biden has been softer on Iran than any President in American history. There is no question that America is less safe today than it was before Joe Biden and CHUCK SCHUMER took control of Washington, DC. There is no question. The facts speak for themselves.

We have weakened our military, and Democrats in Congress have been more than happy to go along with all of these policies. There are no complaints from my Democratic colleagues.

I will just mention a few examples.

Joe Biden drove out 8,000—just think about this. We drove out 8,000 people in the military because they would not take a vaccine—8,000 people who love this country. Democrats in the Senate refused to reinstate them and give them backpay when we voted on it about a year ago. Now the Pentagon and my colleagues are begging them to please come back. We can't get anybody to take a job in the military. Please come back. It is no surprise that most of these heroes whom we ran out because of the vaccine will not come back.

Now, I heard that Senator DURBIN now wants illegal immigrants to serve in the military because we can't find enough Americans.

Did I just not hear on the floor that Senator DURBIN and Senator SCHUMER are against assault weapons?

I heard that. Everybody has got their opinion. But they want to turn around and give an assault weapon to a Chinese or a Russian or Iranian who is coming into this country illegally to protect the American citizens in the United States of America. Have we lost our minds? We have absolutely lost it when it comes to protecting the citizens of this country.

Is anybody in the White House asking why we can't recruit anymore? It is absolutely amazing to me.

Here is another example. Our Navy is not building enough ships that are required by law—that we passed. We are not building them. We are worried more about climate change and EV cars.

Folks, we had better start protecting our borders and our country or we are not going to have a country. I have never seen anything like it. The Pentagon has become more distracted from its core mission by things like diversity, equity, and inclusion. Hmm. The Pentagon just asked for \$114 million.

Now, I have been told during these last 11 months when I have been attacked by the Democrats—and I have been attacked every day by the Democrats: Oh, this is not a “woke” mili-

tary. Wait a minute. We are not teaching social justice programs in the military, but we want \$114 million more to give for diversity, equity, and inclusion. We don't even know how much the abortion travel memo has cost.

More and more veterans are telling their kids: Don't join this woke military. I hear it every time I go out on the road and talk to groups of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. I mean, it is not about party. It is about an institution that has been sacred to all of us in this country for 247 years, but now it is under attack. It is under attack by the politicians. This list goes on and on about the problems in the military. It is an absolute disaster.

Then, last week, Senator SCHUMER stooped to a new low. The House and the Senate, every year, pass a budget independently. Then we bring it together, and we vote on the discrepancies to build one bill together with the House—voted on by people on each side. I was involved in that, but it was a sham. The conference is supposed to report it out as a single bill after we put it together, but we had no vote. We had no vote. The conference committee was just brought in for pictures. All of the confirmations were done by the leadership, and Senator SCHUMER got the No. 1 vote. The abortion policy was on the House side. It got kicked out. We were supposed to vote on it. I had the votes to get it done, but he knew that; so now we have an illegal abortion policy. This bill was written in the back rooms, which is like a lot of things that are done here, not by many but by a few.

I came here to represent the people of Alabama. If you are not given a vote, why even send people up here? I didn't come here to outsource my job to the Pentagon or the White House or, frankly, to the leadership of either side—it doesn't make any difference—Democrat or Republican.

This issue of taxpayer-funded abortion could have been resolved through the NDAA, and whatever the outcome, I am fine; but bring it to the floor, and let's vote on it. That is our job. But that doesn't happen. It is not happening because Senator SCHUMER knew that he couldn't get it passed. That is how DC works. Abortion is so important to Senator SCHUMER that he is not letting us vote on this. Therefore, there no longer appears to be any short-term path to ending the Pentagon's illegal abortion policy. Some other policy will take time for me to work through the process, but that doesn't happen overnight.

So, yesterday, I announced that I would change my tactics and let the promotions go through—promotions that they needed, that our military needed. But, again, Senator SCHUMER and his colleagues could care less. They held their feet to the fire—no negotiation. But I am going to continue to hold the four-star generals.

People say: Why would you insist on holding the four stars? We have got 11 of them.

Today, we have 44 four-stars in the military. In World War II, we had 7—44 to 7. We had 12 million with 7 four-stars. Today, we have 44 four-stars with 2 million. It doesn't make sense—too many chiefs. So we are going to hold those four stars. We can bring them up one at a time, but they need to be vetted. We need to know who is running our military. These jobs are too important to rubberstamp.

We need to keep fighting to make our military stronger and stronger. The fight for the integrity of our military leadership will continue as long as I am here. The fight to keep politics out of the most sacred institution will continue. The fight to protect Senate and executive branch overreach will continue. Senator SCHUMER can rig it all he wants, but this fight is not over. We will continue to take it to the American people because elections have consequences; and don't think next year's is not very, very important.

I am not going to stop fighting for these things, and I am not going to stop fighting for the American people. That is the reason we are here. A lot of people forget that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I sit here as I have listened to Senator TUBERVILLE say that the world is a more dangerous place. He has spoken about how we have weakened our military. Senator TUBERVILLE is right on that, and one of the principal reasons is because of Senator TUBERVILLE's own actions. He has held up hundreds of military nominations, hundreds of our military leaders, who have not made it to the posts they were assigned to.

It is clear that it was a grave mistake for one Senator to hold our military promotion system hostage over his personal disagreement with a Department of Defense policy. We need our commanders in the Pacific to deter China and our service vice chiefs to lead the military. I am relieved that he has released most of his holds, but he continues to weaken our military readiness and to undermine both recruiting and retention.

The Senate should not go home for the holidays until we confirm the remaining nominees. This Senator has held up nominations for nearly a year. It undermines our national defense, and it is unfair to our military and to our military families. He insults our military, and then he turns around and tries to blame President Biden for his own actions. The hypocrisy of this Senator is truly breathtaking. We have got to stay, and we have got to get these military leaders confirmed.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Right now, Mr. President, we are seeing one of the deadliest years of gun violence in recent history. There have been more than 600 mass shootings since the beginning of this year alone. That is nearly two mass shootings a

day. And assault weapons have become the firearm of choice in more and more mass shootings over the decades. Assault weapons kill with deadly efficiency. When an assault weapon is used in a shooting, more than double the number of people on average are shot and more than 50 percent are killed.

Let me be clear: These military-style assault weapons are weapons of war, and they have no place in our communities. Our kids are growing up seeing military rifles in civilian hands on the streets and in their classrooms. Since 2011, the rate of children dying from firearms has skyrocketed by nearly 90 percent.

Enough is enough. It has never been more obvious that Congress needs to ban assault weapons. This isn't some farfetched idea. We have tried it. Senator Dianne Feinstein championed an assault weapons ban, and she got it passed into law. It was in place for a full decade—from 1994 to 2004—and it worked. Researchers from Quinnipiac University, from the NYU School of Medicine, and more have found that, while the ban was in place, there was a meaningful reduction in the number of mass shootings. But the law sunsetted in 2004; and in the following two decades, there have been more and more and more mass shootings.

Today, we must act to reinstate a national ban on assault weapons. It is hard to overstate the urgency of this issue. From Sandy Hook to Parkland and from Orlando to Uvalde, these horrific mass shootings all involved an assault weapon. This fall shooting in Lewiston, ME, also involved a powerful assault rifle and was the deadliest shooting of this year.

After each of these tragedies, Americans ask: What will it take for Congress to act? How many more communities and how many more families will lose loved ones before the laws are changed?

We mourn the individuals lost to gun violence. We mourn the families left behind when a beloved son or daughter or mom or dad is cut down by gun violence, and we mourn the communities torn apart by gun violence. But they don't need our thoughts and prayers nearly as much as they need Congress to do its job and take action.

We have shown we can act in moments of crisis. Last year, after 21 children and teachers were killed in Uvalde, we passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. That was the most sweeping gun violence prevention legislation in nearly 30 years, but it didn't go far enough. This is another moment of crisis. Today, we have another chance, with this vote, to make it easier for Americans to move through their daily lives without fear of being gunned down by weapons of war.

I urge Congress to reinstate the assault weapons ban that Senator Feinstein secured 30 years ago and that would help save lives today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I also am here to talk about gun violence, but before I get to that, I want to address some of the comments we heard from Senator TUBERVILLE.

I think the people of this country and the people who are visiting our Chamber today need to understand that, for 10 months, Senator TUBERVILLE has been playing politics. He has literally held the entire—entire—military chain of command hostage. He was offered a vote on his policy; he turned it down. He was the subject of a rules exception passed through my committee on a 9–7 vote that would have put all of the nominations together. Even then, he kept standing his ground.

Finally, when he realized that a number of his Republican colleagues who came to the floor repeatedly were going to vote for that change, he finally relented. But it was the words of the military families and the veterans' families that made the biggest difference—the spouses who had put their own jobs on hold, who had left their jobs teaching school because they thought they were going to move, and the people who didn't even know where to put their parents in assisted living because they didn't know. These are military families who are serving our country.

And national security? He held up numerous key personnel at a time when there are conflicts all over the world.

Still, it is important to note, which he admitted on the floor today, he is holding up 11 four-star officers, including the head of CYBERCOM, at a time when Vladimir Putin and other tyrants see that cyber as a weapon of war. He is holding up the commander—the commander—of the Pacific Air command. So he continues his hold.

And, yes, we will not go home for Christmas until we finish our work and get through these 11 additional officers being held.

Let me just end this moment by quoting him from the hallways yesterday from a reporter. He was asked about this.

He said:

I have loved to have five downs in football instead of four, but you can't do it. It's got to be fair for everybody.

He was asked if he had regrets.

It was pretty much a draw. I mean, they didn't get what they wanted.

Really? Who is "they"? I guess the "they" are the military members, the servicemembers, who serve our country.

And my last message on this front is that this is not a game, Senator TUBERVILLE. This is not a game. This is not a football game. These are real people's lives and the security of our country, and I am pleased that we have gotten through these 425 nominees, but there are clearly more to go.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 494

Mr. President, on the subject of gun violence, it seems we know as Americans that, every week, there is another

tragedy, whether it is in Maine, whether it is a bowling alley, whether it is a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park or at a school in Nashville.

Earlier this year, by chance, I was in Nashville in a bookstore only a week after that school shooting. A mother came up to me in the middle of the aisle, and she was sobbing. She explained that her daughter was the best friend of one of the kids who was killed. She took her phone out and showed me, in real time, that morning, the text chains of the moms who were planning a jazz fundraiser at the school and for the school when the news came out.

You could see the texts of these 20 or so moms, saying: Well, that must not be true. It is just something on social media.

Well, no. I hear the sirens right now.

Well, no. I hear it is true. I see the police cars going by.

One of the moms: I am going over there right now. The text chain goes on and on and on, and then you start seeing the text “Haley is OK. Hallelujah, she’s fine”; the names of the kids, as they found out hours later if they were OK. The last text is “We lost Evie.”

That, for me, was the real moment that so many parents across this country experience when their kids are just going to school.

This week, we passed a grim milestone. We have now had more gun-related mass killings this year than any year since 2006. Nearly 40,000 Americans have lost their lives to gun violence this year alone.

So we call on our colleagues today to say enough is enough. We know what the solutions are. We know there is not just one solution for each kind of gun violence incident.

I come from a State with a time-honored tradition of hunting and fishing, so when I look at these gun proposals, I always ask myself, would this proposal hurt my Uncle Dick and his deer stand? No. He doesn’t need an AK-47 to go deer hunting.

That is why nearly two-thirds of Americans, including many Republicans, support reinstating an assault weapons ban. That is why over 80 percent of Americans support expanding background checks and closing dangerous loopholes, as we did with Senator MURPHY and many other Senators, leadership—my provision to keep guns away from domestic abusers. We must pass the Background Check Expansion Act, led by Senator MURPHY, which would close the dangerous gun show loophole, which allows unlicensed gun dealers, such as those at gun shows, to sell a firearm without conducting a background check. These are commonsense bills.

Americans are with us, and we simply cannot sit back and do nothing while gun violence shatters families and neighborhoods across the country.

We had a moment last year, and we passed a bipartisan bill. We thank our Republican colleagues who joined us on

this bill. But now we know there is more to do—just ask that mom in Nashville.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I rise today because we are living in a nation besieged by gun violence.

So far this year, our Nation has experienced 630 mass shootings. This is day No. 340 in the year 2023, so 340 days, 630 mass shootings. That is nearly twice as many mass shootings as we have seen days. Our precious children are afraid to go to school. They are worried that their classroom may be the next Robb Elementary, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, or Sandy Hook, as we remember that somber anniversary.

I heard one of my colleagues, the Senator from Wyoming, earlier today say: They are trying to take our freedoms away. We have heard that a lot from folks on the other side: They are trying to take our freedoms away. It is a strange freedom that regularly sends our children into lockdown. What kind of freedom is that?

According to the Gun Violence Archive, we have lost over 1,500 children to gun violence this year. I think that there is a kind of unspoken assumption, as we have been pushing for commonsense gun safety and have gotten very little movement in Congress—I think the unspoken assumption is that this will not visit me; it will not happen to my family. But when you consider that there have been 630 mass shootings already this year, sadly, the chances are quite good that this could visit any one of us.

We ought to do our work here in the Congress as if we are protecting our own families because when we look out for other people’s families, when we look out for other people’s children, we look out for our own, and it could visit any one of us.

We act as if this is normal, business as usual. What legislative action has the Senate passed to address this epidemic of gun violence? The Senate actually voted to give less information—less information—to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Keep in mind that according to a 2023 FOX News poll, 87 percent of Americans believe that we ought to have universal background checks. Listen. Let me say that again. According to a FOX News poll, 87 percent of Americans believe that we ought to have universal background checks. So they present this as if it is an argument between Democrats and Republicans. Really, it is an argument between Washington and craven politicians and ordinary people every day who are just trying to live their lives in safety.

There is a broadening gap between what Americans want and what they can get from their government. So, at root, this is a democracy problem. The question is, Who owns our democracy and at what cost to our children and to

our families? So we have a moral obligation not to turn away.

Across the country, outside of Washington, there is widespread agreement that Congress needs to enact commonsense—commonsense—gun safety solutions. Eighty-seven percent of Americans believe that we ought to have universal background checks.

Every day, I hear from Georgians who are sick and tired of losing people they love to gun violence. As a pastor, I presided over the funerals. And it begs me to ask, how is it that we can’t keep our own people alive? What kind of Nation tells its children that the only thing we can do in the wake of this crisis is to teach you how to hide?

Last year, for the first time in 30 years, we were able to pass modest but meaningful gun safety legislation, but it is not nearly enough, and it took 30 years just to do that.

We are all set to go home later this month to spend a few weeks—safely, I hope—with our loved ones. I encourage all of my colleagues to reflect on this question: Are we going to let other people’s loved ones continue to die by the tens of thousands and let our babies get killed in their classrooms for another 30 years before we choose to act?

The time is always right to do what is right, Dr. King taught us, and that time is now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator WARNOCK and others for coming to the floor today to raise this truly existential crisis, put it in front of our colleagues.

I have lost count of the number of times I have come down to the floor of the Senate to talk about this immoral anomaly in which you are subject to the risk of death by gunshot wound in the United States at a rate 10 times higher than any other high-income nation.

I wish there were a truly complicated set of factors that play into the reason why we have so much more gun violence here than in other nations, but it probably isn’t that complicated. We don’t have more mental illness in this country. We don’t spend less money on law enforcement. We don’t have angrier people. We just have a lot more guns, and we are much more permissive in this country about allowing felons, dangerous people, and the mentally ill to get their hands on guns, and we are much more permissive around the question of which kinds of guns get in the hands of private citizens, especially guns that are designed to kill as many human beings as quickly as possible.

As you can imagine, because I have a pretty high profile on this issue, when I am back in my State, I get confronted a lot by supporters of the Second Amendment, NRA members, who want to have a conversation with me about why I believe what I believe. That conversation normally starts with the assumption that I want to

take guns away or ammunition away from law-abiding gun owners.

Almost without exception, when I get confronted by somebody who wants to talk about guns with me, who comes from that gun-rights side of the debate, as quickly as I can get the debate to background checks is when we start agreeing. I have found very few of those conversations in Connecticut where, even in the most heated of arguments, we don't find quick agreement on the simple idea that before you buy a gun, you should have to prove that you are not a criminal or you are not seriously mentally ill. Why? Because law-abiding gun owners have gone through background checks. They know that in 90 percent of the cases, those background checks are processed instantaneously, while you are in the store. For most of the people who are talking to me who aren't mentally ill and who don't have criminal histories, that is their only experience, is that a background check is not a barrier to purchasing a gun.

So it is just not surprising to me to hear the data that Senator WARNOCK is talking about—90 percent of Americans supporting universal background checks, checks on every gun sale; 89 percent of Republicans, 89 percent of gun owners, 70 percent of NRA members—because even the gun owners, even the people who feel so fired up about this issue that they want to come talk to me in the middle of a county fair, were not disagreeing about that simple policy—just make sure that people who shouldn't have guns don't get their hands on them.

Some people will say: Well, it is a hassle. It is an unreasonable barrier.

Well, I just told you that in 90 percent of the cases, they are resolved instantaneously. In the 10 percent of cases where it takes more than 5 minutes, that is normally because there is something on that person's record that we need to find out. What we know is that there have been millions of gun purchases that have been denied because felons or seriously mentally ill individuals did try to buy those guns.

But we also know that 99 percent of Americans live within 10 miles of a gun store. There are 60,000 licensed gun dealers across this country who can perform background checks. That is four times the number of McDonald's restaurants in America. It is just not true that it is an unreasonable restriction of your liberty to just make sure you get a background check before you buy a gun.

Now, what are we talking about? We are talking about guns that are largely sold online and through gun shows, because the law today, the Federal law that I think we still all agree on—I mean, I don't hear a lot of my Republican colleagues proposing legislation to repeal the requirement that you should get a background check if you go into a gun store. All we are talking about is extending that requirement to the place where a lot of guns are now

sold in a way they weren't when we passed the national instant criminal background check law in the early 1990s. Today, a lot more guns are sold in gun stores, and a lot more guns are sold online.

The studies that have been done about gun sales online are really troubling. One study showed that there were 1.2 million online ads offering firearms for sale that would not require a background check to be done. That same study showed that one in nine prospective buyers of guns online would not pass a background check. That is a rate seven times higher than the denial rate at gun stores. And the reason is the criminals are going online and going to the gun shows because they know they will fail the background check if they go to a brick-and-mortar store.

That is what Seth Ator did. He failed the background check when he tried to purchase a gun in 2014. But he went to a private seller online, he bought a gun, and then he used it to kill 7 people and wound 25 others in a mass shooting in Odessa.

This is not theoretical. This happens. How do you think all these guns get into our cities? It is because the criminal traffickers who have serious criminal records, who can't buy guns at a brick-and-mortar store, go to a State that doesn't have universal checks. The criminals, the traffickers, buy the guns online or at a gun show, and then they drive them up to Hartford, CT, and they sell them on the black market.

The data just tells us that people believe in background checks; they want us to pass universal background checks. And the data also tells us that it works. The numbers vary, but even the least generous studies tell us that in States that have universal background checks, like Connecticut, 10 percent fewer people are dying from gun homicides.

And, of course, my law can't fully protect the people in my State because those guns get trafficked into Connecticut from States that don't have universal background checks. And so the numbers would be even bigger if we didn't have all these loopholes.

So I agree with Senator WARNOCK. This just feels like a test of democracy. It really does. How does democracy survive if 90 percent of Americans—90 percent of Republicans, 90 percent of Democrats—want something and we can't deliver?

Do you want to know why people are flirting with autocracy and dictatorship? It is because, even when they agree at a 90-percent rate, they can't get what they want from their government.

I have got to tell you, something does seem pretty wrong if democracy can't deliver on a 90-percent consensus, and not a 90-percent consensus about whether your road gets paved—a 90-percent consensus on whether kids live or die, a 90-percent consensus on an existential question of survival.

So, Mr. President, as in legislative session, I am going to ask that we pass a bill that will require universal background checks in this country. I am going to ask my colleagues to respect the wishes of 90 percent of Americans and do something that we know works.

So I am going to ask, as in legislative session, for unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 494 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Is there objection? The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to note, at the outset, that we are not asked to vote in this Chamber on polling questions. We vote on legislation. While people, when responding to a poll, may respond overwhelmingly in response to certain questions, it doesn't mean that, when they come to understand fully what the law at issue would actually do, they wouldn't feel differently.

The truth is that the legislation that we are being asked to pass by unanimous consent today, without additional debate, discussion, opportunity for amendment, opportunity for input by the public—that is the bill S. 494, the Background Check Expansion Act—has some real problems with it, problems that I think make it a bill that stands to transform, in some circumstances, ordinary law-abiding citizens into criminals.

We always have to consider this when evaluating any law, particularly any law with criminal implications, particularly any law with criminal implications that touches on a constitutionally protected right enumerated in a constitutional amendment.

This is not solely about transactions involving guns at gun stores. This is about the father who wishes to pass down a hunting rifle to his son or the friend who wants to lend a shotgun to his neighbor who is in need of protection at the time.

Universal background checks, as this bill conceives them, don't just regulate; they criminalize these quintessential moments of American life and, under this legislation, would render unlawful what in countless circumstances would be lawful and even constitutionally protected behavior.

Now, most would not think twice about lending a firearm to a family member for sporting or personal protection purposes, and yet this bill threatens to do that by narrowing the definition of family to such an extent that passing a gun to a daughter-in-law or to a great-grandson could lead to criminal charges. This bill fails to distinguish between a criminal act and a gesture of trust and safety.

Participating in a hunting trip often involves using firearms. Of course, it is

important to be aware that under this proposal, under this bill, if you hand over your firearm to a partner during such a trip, even for a short period of time, you could potentially be held criminally liable if that individual doesn't hold the proper hunting license. It is an absurd overreach that would penalize the innocent traditions that bind our communities together.

The only conceivable way to enforce such a law is through the creation of an expansive, Orwellian national gun registry—yes, a national gun registry. Now, it is here that we arrive at the true purpose or, at least, the true inevitable outcome of this legislation were it to become law.

Universal background checks only work when you have a national gun registry. This bill would require a registry, even though and notwithstanding the legitimate policy concerns embraced by Congress when Congress prohibited the creation of such a registry in the Firearm Owners' Protection Act.

However, the ATF has already compiled a database with over 920 million records, a direct challenge to both the letter and the spirit of the Firearm Owners' Protection Act and Public Law 112-55. Let's not compound the problem created by the ATF's illegal and constitutionally problematic registry by enacting a law that cannot be enforced without the creation of a national gun registry.

Registries lead, inevitably, to gun confiscation. If you don't believe me, if you don't want to take my word for it on that, just look to the public statements made by some of my colleagues in the Senate and our counterparts in the House. They told us confiscation is the goal.

As our friends at Gun Owners of America have reminded us, without this invasive registry, enforcement of S. 494 is unfeasible. We are staring down the barrel of a system that would monitor the most personal and responsible uses of firearms among citizens.

Now, the Senator asked us to pass this major legislation without any debate, without any meaningful opportunity for amendment or further discussion. This isn't how Congress works. This certainly isn't how the U.S. Senate should work, certainly not on a matter so significant and so directly tied to an enumerated constitutional right as this one.

This bill should, of course, go through the Senate Judiciary Committee, a body on which I serve and a body where Members routinely can and do debate, offer amendments, and raise these and other policy and constitutional concerns.

I also want to speak for a moment to what was referenced as the gun show loophole. It is not, in fact, a loophole. There is no such loophole. The effect of the law is that, if you are a federally licensed firearms dealer, you have to perform these functions before you sell it, with or without you being in the presence of a gun show. If an FFL

shows up at a gun show and sells guns, the FFL has to conduct the background check. It isn't a loophole.

Moreover, we are talking about a tiny, minuscule percentage of people who even do these things. We are looking at the overwhelming percentage. According to the Department of Justice bureau that collects crime statistics, a tiny percentage of people who even buy them at gun shows go on to commit crimes with them—like less than 1 percent. Very few of them even buy them in any retail establishment, opting instead to buy them on a clandestine market in an illegal way.

So, at the end of the day, we have to evaluate this law just like we would any law—but this law in particular, given that it touches on a constitutionally protected, enumerated right. We have to look at both the law's impact on criminal behavior, which is negligible, and on the law's tendency to punish the law-abiding.

It is not the law-abiding who typically will go to illegal sources to buy a gun. It is not the law-abiding who refuse to dot the i's and cross the t's. It is typically the law-abiding who are willing to go through that process. We shouldn't be adding more redtape that is going to affect mostly the law-abiding, touching on very few of those actually bent on violent criminal activity.

This bill would do precisely that. It would punish the law-abiding citizens for the actions of criminals. It is time to accept this fact, and it is time for us, really, to choose between the various tensions that we feel pulling on us. I am confident that, at the end of the day, we should choose common sense over fear. We should choose liberty over control. We should choose the rights of the law-abiding many over the criminally minded few.

On this basis, Mr. President, and for these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 173

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as I listen to the objection of my colleague from Utah, I am really struck by the absurdity and exaggeration involved in opposition to these common-sense measures that would simply save lives. The idea that we haven't debated background checks—what could be more untethered to reality? We have debated background checks for as long as I have been in the U.S. Senate and before then, when I was attorney general seeking to champion universal background checks. We have debated them in the Judiciary Committee ad nauseam. And we have shown, through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, that we can break the hold of the gun lobby that is the source of those absurd and ridiculous arguments.

Background checks take no guns away from any law-abiding citizen. They simply assure that people who are dangerous to themselves or others

don't have them. That is the purpose of red flag laws, which I have also championed, and many of the other measures that we seek to pass—the repeal of PLCAA, which guarantees unbridled immunity to gun manufacturers; ghost guns, which we seek to ban because law enforcement finds them so dangerous; and numerous other commonsense measures.

I am here on behalf of a bill, Ethan's Law, S. 173, which ought to be common ground for everyone. It simply requires safe storage. And we know that 500 Americans every year, including more than 100 children, die from unintentional firearm injuries, many of them involving weapons that are unsafely stored.

There are loaded and unlocked guns in the homes of 4.6 million American children, and many of them perish because their parents or their neighbors' parents fail to safely store those weapons.

Nobody knows it better than Kristin Song. Her son died as a result of an unsafely stored weapon just after his 15th birthday. He was with a friend, and a firearm stored in a Tupperware box was used in play by these two young boys. Ethan Song died, and Ethan's Law, which I am seeking to pass by unanimous consent today, is in his memory. It was passed by the State house of representatives in Connecticut and our State senate. And 26 States—red, blue, purple—already have some form of safe storage and child access prevention laws on the books.

We know from the record of these laws in Connecticut that they work; they save lives. And we know also that gun owners believe that safe storage ought to be the law, ought to be required, ought to be mandated so that lives are saved.

In fact, even the firearms industry—including the National Rifle Association and the National Shooting Sports Foundation—agree that safe storage is a critical part of responsible gun ownership.

The NRA tells gun owners that “[s]trong boxes and security cases . . . are inexpensive and give . . . quick access to . . . firearms in a defensive situation.”

The NSSF tells gun owners to “[a]lways make absolutely sure that firearms in your home are securely stored out of the reach of children and . . . unauthorized persons.”

Ninety percent of the guns used in unintentional shooting deaths by children were left unlocked and loaded. The numbers are outrageous and depressing, but we can do something, and we should do something. And that is why I am here today to urge that we pass a bill that ought to be common ground—bipartisan common ground—and show that, in fact, democracy can work. We can pass measures that save lives that should be bipartisan. There ought to be no Republican versus Democratic debate on this floor or anywhere else. It ought to be a matter of

common sense and common agreement across the aisle.

Mr. President, so as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 173 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask that this bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

No single gun owner will lose a gun—none—as a result of this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I oppose S. 173 for a simple reason. It is unconstitutional in a number of ways.

First, the bill infringes on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens by placing burdens on a citizens' right to keep and bear arms within a home.

Second, this bill thrusts the Federal Government into an area that is reserved to the States, thus violating the principle of federalism.

The laws in Connecticut and the laws in North Carolina should reflect the values and behaviors of those respective States. Simply put, a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't fit the needs of our constituents.

Thirdly, Congress does not have the power under the commerce clause of the Constitution to pass the bill.

A law-abiding gun owner with a firearm in their home doesn't qualify as interstate commerce, and the Federal Government has no right to infringe upon it.

Fourth, this bill duplicates existing laws and practices that are in place at the State level.

My colleague mentioned some of those. He mentioned State laws. For example, in North Carolina, we have criminal penalties for adults who improperly store a firearm in a way that allows a minor to obtain it and commit a crime.

Finally, this bill would make it harder for law-abiding gun owners to defend themselves and their loved ones.

At a time when our cities and our towns are plagued by waves of crime—often made worse by the soft-on-crime policies of Democrat politicians—it makes no sense for the Federal Government to make it illegal for homeowners to quickly defend themselves inside their own home.

Just this year in North Carolina, in my own State alone, there have been at least 13 documented instances of defensive gun use in the home—defensive gun use. In these instances, North Carolina residents have used guns to defend themselves against home invasion, assaults, domestic violence, and residential burglars.

No matter what somebody believes about the Second Amendment, we share the desire to protect our kids and to keep them safe. We all want our kids

to be safe. That is why gun rights groups across the country have safety courses, online materials, and in-person training to teach citizens—both young and old—how to safely own, operate, and enjoy firearms.

Now is not the time for more unconstitutional proposals that will not ultimately keep people safe. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, 10 years I have been in this incredible institution, the U.S. Senate, and I am stunned that we are still having this debate.

We know, if you read our Constitution, that we formed our form of government with lots of high callings, but the first is to provide for the national defense.

It is astonishing to me that the No. 1 killer—the No. 1 threat—the No. 1 issue facing our children in America is death by gun violence. This is a purview of the Federal Government as is written by our Constitution.

And the Second Amendment, like the First Amendment, is not absolute. You can't yell "fire" in a crowded movie theater. There are limitations on our fundamental rights.

Don't take my word for it; take the Supreme Court of the United States. A conservative Court in the Heller decision made it very clear that government can take steps—reasonable steps—to protect our Nation.

So what does it mean in a country when the top killer of our children is gun violence, and we cannot take commonsense steps like the ones spelled out in the law that was just objected to? Safe storage of weapons, this is not an infringement of someone's right to own a gun. Safe storage of weapons, this is not taking away someone's gun. Safe storage of weapons, this is not a violation of someone's fundamental rights.

What it is, is a reasonable step to protect children because 90 percent of the kids in our country who are dying by suicide or unintentional shootings are in homes where a loaded gun is easily accessible to children—children as young as 3 years old getting their hands on these weapons.

Over 40,000 Americans die in a year to gun violence, and the response of this body is to do nothing. Forty-thousand Americans, the No. 1 killer of our children, and instead of seeing this as a crisis, as far as having special hearings and gatherings to put our minds together in a bipartisan way, how do we stop our children from dying, how do we stop our children from being slaughtered—instead of this being something that is concerning us to do something, we do nothing.

And I am sorry, inaction is complicity in this violence. If you object to this, what is your idea to protect our children? If you object to this, what is your idea to stop so many kids, so many Americans from dying? Tell me

what it is because Martin Luther King said it plain, in another point in American history, in another crisis. He said: What we will have to repent for as a nation is not just the vitriolic words and violent actions of the bad people but the appalling silence and inaction of the good people.

And so I know this body. I know the good, hard-working, dedicated Americans who serve here. But the inaction is appalling. The inaction is complicity. The strongest Nation on the planet Earth gives the implicit messages to our children and their parents: We can't protect you. So you know what we are going to do? We are going to teach you how to hide because we are now in a nation where there are more active shooter drills than there are fire drills.

What message is this to our children and our families that we are saying we are going to do nothing? Another year will pass, another 40,000 Americans are going to die, and we do nothing to protect you.

That is unacceptable to me. We are better than this. We are stronger than this. The very ideal of liberty should be that our people should not live in fear. But by our inaction, we have a nation where people all over our country are now chained to fear, shackled by grief, communities ripped apart, families in mourning. And a simple step in America, a simple Federal law like seatbelt laws, a simple Federal law like the safety of our airplanes, a simple Federal law to address the No. 1 cause of killing of our children, that if you have a loaded firearm at home, you should lock it up and keep it away from a child, we can't do that.

Well, Merry Christmas, America. The most urgent and basic thing this body should do is to protect children. And the No. 1 cause of child death in America, what have we done this year? Nothing—nothing.

This is a time we should act. This is a time we should join together. I call on my Republican colleagues to put forth one idea that will save a child from gun violence, to show that your allegiance is to safety and security.

No other country deals with this. We are an aberration when it comes to deaths by gun violence. No other nation allows their children to be slaughtered—Canada, New Zealand. I can tell you the nations that have taken action and, as a result, have seen a dramatic drop in the numbers of deaths.

We are an exceptional country, but in this case, being the exception is horrific to too many. And so I am disappointed to sit here and witness an objection, but I am relentless. We must be undeterred because change is not always easy. But in this case, we, as a country, with thousands of our children dying every year, must stay determined to make the change necessary for us to protect the people of this great Republic.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

ISRAEL

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on October 7, Hamas launched the deadliest terror attack in Israel's history. Hamas's vicious and unprovoked slaughter targeted innocent Israeli civilians and killed 1,200 men, women, children—from babies to Holocaust survivors.

Not since the Holocaust has there been a deadlier day for the Jewish people. Yet some extreme individuals and organizations are trying to minimize, distort, and outright deny what happened that day.

We cannot let that happen. That is why Senator RUBIO and I hosted a screening last week for our colleagues to show them exactly what Hamas did on October 7.

The videos, many taken by the terrorists themselves, are disturbing. They are graphic. The images and sounds in those videos, I will never forget. I encourage all Members to see for themselves what Israel is fighting against—pure terror; pure, pure evil.

On October 7, Hamas violated a long-standing cease-fire when they chose—they chose—to start this war. Hamas took deliberate and preemptive actions against innocent civilians, including dismemberment, torture, and mass rape, in what only can be described as barbaric terrorism. As any other nation would, Israel has responded to this unprovoked attack by acting to defend its own population, as they have the absolute right to do.

At the same time, Hamas has stated over and over and over again that they will not stop until there are a thousand more October 7s, until they destroy Israel and all of the people living there, and it is time that the world listens. This is why it is not surprising that at the end of last week, Hamas broke the agreement that was put in place to temporarily pause the fighting, to bring more humanitarian aid into Gaza, and to rescue the hostages brutally taken by Hamas.

Let me be clear. There is no equivalency, no equivalency—zero, none—between the terrorist actions of Hamas and the efforts of Israel to stop them from doing this again or, God forbid, committing a worse attack, as they have repeatedly promised to do. We must all remember this, especially now, as we work to deliver aid to Israel.

It has been nearly 2 months since October 7, and rockets continue to rain down on Israeli cities. More than 130 hostages remain in Gaza. We continue to learn more and more about the violent acts of rape, of torture, of murder committed by Hamas. It is all ongoing. Yet Congress hasn't passed the supplemental security assistance that Israel desperately needs to defend itself.

The security assistance includes support for Israel's lifesaving Iron Dome missile defense system—it protects them from Hamas and Hezbollah, from the rockets that rain down on them night after night after night—as well as other key defense resources and tools. It also replenishes our own defense stocks that have been drawn down to support Israel in this time of need.

To my knowledge, Congress has never used conditions on security assistance in order to strong-arm Israel, and now is not the time to start. Conditions would undermine Israel's ability to defend itself and would send a signal to the world that America's support for our ally is weakening, which is exactly what Iran and its terrorist proxies—it is what they all want. Our aid could make the difference between whether or not there is another October 7.

Now I turn to Members of my own party. Here we are. We all want the same thing. We all want peace in the region for both Palestinians and Israelis, a two-state solution with a secure State of Israel living side by side with a peaceful Palestinian state.

But let me be clear. Hamas—Hamas—is the one currently preventing this goal. Hamas launched the attack on Israel. Hamas targeted, Hamas murdered, Hamas raped and kidnapped innocent people. Hamas is threatening to do this over and over and over again. Hamas is a terrorist organization. They are terrorists. They must be stopped permanently. It is the only way we will get closer to peace and stability in the region.

I also understand and I share your concerns about the need to minimize civilian casualties and the suffering in Gaza. Every innocent civilian death is a tragedy. To truly end the suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians, Hamas must no longer control Gaza.

For nearly two decades, Hamas has stolen resources from the Palestinian people. They have used these resources for terrorist purposes. Instead of building infrastructure to improve Gaza's economy, Hamas built terrorist tunnels. Instead of launching programs to combat poverty, Hamas launches rockets to combat Israel. Instead of shielding their own people and lifting them up, Hamas uses their own people as human shields.

Israel must dismantle Hamas for both Israelis and innocent Palestinians. And while we help Israel, we can and we must continue to work with the Israeli Government to make sure that they are doing everything—everything—in their power to prevent the loss of innocent life.

As we partner with Israel and other nations in the region to deliver humanitarian aid in Gaza—food, water, medicine, emergency shelter, sanitation—we must make sure that this aid actually reaches civilians in Gaza. This aid and these resources will save Palestinian lives if they are allowed to reach them.

So, my colleagues, to all of my colleagues, we all agree on these goals. They are reasonable, and we are utilizing existing channels with Israel to make sure they are taking these steps—all without conditioning aid to Israel.

Let's be clear. Providing Israel with aid is not a blank check. As all of my colleagues in this Chamber know—every one of them knows this—all foreign aid is bound by a set of rules. This has been consistent for decades and has not changed. These are different from conditions specifically targeting Israel.

Now is the time to stand with Israel as they work to dismantle Hamas, stop its ability to cause more harm to Israelis and Palestinians, and free all the remaining hostages—all of them.

Conditioning aid to Israel after the worst terrorist attack in history would only embolden Israel's enemies, signal to them the limits of America's support, and open the door to more violence.

This is why I am calling on my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to pass this aid without conditions. If we are serious about preventing another October 7; if we are serious, really serious, about preventing more gruesome images like the ones my colleagues saw last week—torture, kidnapping, rape, murder, beheading; if we are serious about preventing all of this and serious about a future where the people of Gaza are not ruled by a brutal and barbaric terrorist organization, then we should not delay.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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. 317, Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Peter Welch, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Jeanne Shaheen, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Margaret Wood Hassan.

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 Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 330 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
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—47

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

(Mr. LUJÁN assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from West Virginia.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, as this body continues to discuss the need for a national security supplemental, I rise today to discuss the important elements that need to be included in this supplemental and to, once again, emphasize the growing demands for increased border security in our country.

For a nation as powerful and as impactful as ours, there are obligations that we inherently have to meet, both to ourselves and our allies. At the center of these obligations rests defending our homeland. This security is imperative to the sovereignty of our Nation, with our other obligation being to support our allies abroad as they face hostilities. We must realize that these two priorities are deeply woven together. We cannot achieve national security as a whole without securing our own borders. In fact, President Biden's own national defense strategy reflects this very sentiment, citing protection of the homeland as the No. 1 defense priority.

It is essential that border security remains one of our four pillars that need to be included in any national security supplemental that is approved by this Congress. In order to properly secure and defend our allies, we must

properly secure and defend our own Nation at the same time.

As I have said on the floor many times, Madam President, with you presiding—I have said many times that there is no doubt that we currently live in a time of heightened national security concern. Not only is this concern felt around the globe but in almost every State and community in our own country because of this crisis at the border.

Because of this crisis at the border, we see chaos. We see it on our news channels every evening. We see the monthly records of illegal crossings—as a matter of fact, I think several days ago, the highest daily number. We see how those who are truly seeking asylum are being disadvantaged by the cartels and smugglers who are playing the system.

It is obvious that the policies which have led to this crisis need to be addressed, and they need to be changed and reformed.

I often talk about American leadership and our historic ability to respond with strength in times of crisis. Well, this is a time of crisis, and our porous southern border is something we desperately need to act upon.

It is not lost on me or on my Republican colleagues, the urgency to address the four central national security emergencies of our time. Ukraine is facing an unjust and unprovoked ground war perpetrated by Russia. Our ally and friend Israel is under attack by terrorists who are holding women and children hostage. The recounting that we have heard of the sexual violence against the women in Israel on October 7 is appalling. Our allies in the Indo-Pacific face heightened concern as rival nations increase their aggression. Right here in the United States, we are facing the worst border crisis in our Nation's history.

These four areas are directly tied together. Ukraine's ability to defend itself and stave off Russian aggression relates directly to the security of Taiwan and the increased posture of China. The terrorist attacks perpetrated on Israel have led to attacks on our own U.S. military bases and ships, as well as the alarming rise—alarming rise—of anti-Semitism that we are seeing in our own country.

Nations directly opposed to the United States—they are opposed to our values, our way of life—are building an uneasy level of camaraderie between one another. You can guarantee that these nations are watching our self-created security crisis at our border and waiting to see when we will finally wake up and react. Our country must take notice of this.

The supplemental text before us does not make any policy changes but instead just throws more money—more money—at a broken system. That is not a solution. It doesn't address the actual policies that are fueling this situation.

The changes in border policy that my party seeks are not “partisan and ex-

treme measures,” as the Democrat leader would lead you to assume, but, rather, they are substantive solutions that address the national security threats that we are now facing.

We encountered a sixfold increase of individuals on our Terror Watchlist just in the past year coming to the southern border. Half of the illegal encounters now on our border are not from Mexico or the Northern Triangle of Central America. Drugs that are made on the other side of the world are smuggled into our country daily, with the goal of sowing destruction and sorrow. Unfortunately, that is having success. We do not know who or what is entering our borders, and that cannot be a risk we are willing to take.

The truth of the matter is, this doesn't need to be a partisan issue, and I know we have colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are trying to work through this. We are not just talking about funding but, rather, changes that ensure that those who enter our country are coming through legal channels and that they are properly vetted. It sounds pretty simple to me—both things that we should all agree are necessary aspects of a working immigration system. But, instead, this administration, the Biden administration, has incentivized abuses of our asylum laws that have led to the greatest border crisis in our Nation's history. It is an open border. It is catch-and-release. This, in turn, has put our national security at risk.

This is not an issue that the Republicans have brought up in the eleventh hour of a negotiation but, rather, something that we have continued to highlight the entire time President Biden has been in the White House.

Members of Congress cannot continue to ignore the deep ties between the sovereignty of the United States and the sovereignty of our allies abroad. The supplemental we have been discussing for weeks is about helping our allies, but also, why is that important? Because we have to advance our own interests at the same time, and the border is a big part of our own interests. This is not a time to play games; instead, it is time to meet the challenges of the moment. While others refuse to accept the reality of the landscape we face, Republicans remain at the table.

For too long—for too long—we have been on the floor voting on radical nominations to advance the Biden administration's agenda instead of on legislation needed to help solve many of the problems I have described, including border security and our weakened defense industrial base and, I would add as a member of the Appropriations Committee, our appropriations bills, which have been teed up since July, and the leader has refused to put them on the floor. All that serves to do is waste time we simply do not have.

We must seek agreements that address our concerns, that provide necessary relief, that strengthen our security, and that will move the interests of the United States forward. I ask my colleagues in this Chamber to recognize that.

The time to invest in the national security of the United States and our allies abroad is now.

With that, I yield the floor.

I see my fellow Senator from Nebraska here to talk about similar subjects.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, earlier this year, I visited our Nation's southern border. My colleagues and I joined several patrols to see the problems firsthand, and at each of our stops, what we saw was very, very alarming. Dozens of people sat on the ground at midnight at the border, waiting to go to a crowded processing center for illegal immigrants. As we patrolled the Rio Grande Valley, we passed trail after trail used by illegal migrants to traffic drugs and people into our country. Meanwhile, we walked past an open, unfinished border wall. We toured a raided stash house, where a weapon was found, an illegal immigrant was detained, and a human smuggler was arrested.

These experiences—they just scratch the surface of the chaos overwhelming our southern border. Our border is a frenzy—a frenzy—of illegal activity, and because of neglect and inaction from this administration, this disaster is out of control.

There is a humanitarian crisis at our southern border. There is a deadly drug crisis at our southern border. Perhaps most critically, there is a national security crisis at our southern border.

Since President Biden took office, over 8 million migrants have illegally crossed our southern border. Border Patrol agents have seized over 51,000 pounds of fentanyl. We have seen an uptick in encounters with illegal migrants from adversaries like China. That is not even to mention the 295—294; I don't want to exaggerate because we don't need to exaggerate on numbers like this—the 294 known terrorists who have been identified at our border. Hundreds of people on the Terror Watchlist are flooding our border. To put those numbers in perspective, Border Patrol agents encountered a grand total of 11 people—11 people—on that list during the 4 years of the last administration.

My Democratic colleagues support security for Taiwan, they support security for Ukraine, and they support security for Israel, but what they won't support is basic border security for the United States of America. Yesterday's classified briefing on the supplemental underscored how ridiculous this is. The United States is the leader of the free world. We are supporting the security of our partners and allies around the globe. Yet we are told by the Biden ad-

ministration and my Democratic colleagues that we can't support the security at our own border? We are told that our own border security is not related to this national security supplemental? That is absurd, and the American people know that it is absurd.

Many of my Republican colleagues and I have been willing to compromise, but we have had it. We have had it with the evasive answers and the total neglect of our own border.

Border security is not a fringe issue. According to an NBC poll, 53 percent of voters support more military funding for Taiwan, 55 percent support more funding for Ukraine, and 55 percent support more funding for Israel, but 74 percent of voters support more funding for our border security. That is 20 percent more than anything else that voters support in this supplemental.

My Republican colleagues and I are siding with the American people on this funding request. Yes, we should address the conflicts raging around our world. We must stand by our allies and our partners. But we cannot forget the catastrophic issues that we are seeing on our own doorstep. We must secure our own Nation before anything else. If this supplemental funding bill truly aims to protect our national security, it must address our security from all sides, and the side that is in the most dire need of support is our battered and chaotic border.

But money alone is not going to repair the border. We must make commonsense policy changes to address this crisis. Let's tighten our asylum standards. Let's limit the use of parole to the required, case-by-case basis. Let's close the catch-and-release loophole.

I urge the rest of my colleagues and our President to look at this border crisis seriously and to respond with urgency—the urgency that this requires. The security supplemental is the right opportunity to do so.

Side with the American voters. Side with common sense, and let us protect our border.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, the forces of evil and instability are on the march around the globe. In the Middle East, Hamas massacred more than 1,200 Israelis and 33 Americans. Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, continues to finance, provide training for, and authorize attacks against U.S. forces in the region. In Europe, Russia continues its brutality against Ukraine and is fomenting conflict in the Balkans, further threatening peace and stability in Europe. Meanwhile, China is rapidly expanding its military, threatening our allies and partners, and stealing billions in Americans' intellectual property.

All this chaos is the result of weakness from the Biden administration. Starting in Afghanistan, continuing to this day, this administration has put

American weakness on full display. As we confront a dangerous global situation, we cannot ignore the fact that for America to be a strong nation, we must first be strong at home. Before we can help countries protect their borders thousands of miles away, we must first protect our own borders.

The biggest threat to our national security right now is the wide-open southern border. For 3 years, the border has been in a state of crisis. We have grown familiar with these numbers, sadly, but they remain historic and staggering. Under President Biden, over 8 million illegal immigrants have crossed the border. Under President Biden, 279—I just heard my colleague speak, and she gave an even higher number, an accurate number perhaps, an even higher number than 279—folks on the Terrorist Watchlist have illegally entered our Nation.

Under President Biden, nearly 50,000 pounds of fentanyl have been seized at the southern border. That is nearly enough to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States. Given the fact that we are only able to interdict 5 to 10 percent of the illegal drugs that cross, our country is being overwhelmed with drugs that can kill with just a 2-milligram dose.

Under President Biden, there have been 1.8 million known—known—“got-aways,” and that is not counting all of the unknown “got-aways,” including terrorists, human traffickers, and other bad actors.

This crisis has got to be dealt with, and we have got to deal with it now. That is why Senate Republicans have offered the Biden White House a deal. Here it is: Include proven border policies in the House-passed H.R. 2 in the national security spending package, and you will have our support.

It is a clear pathway, but, so far, this White House is more interested in playing politics and continuing to ignore the border crisis altogether.

But you know who can't ignore it? The Border Patrol agents, who are under siege right now.

In the times that I have been down there—multiple times—they have told me that, yes, we need a wall. We need border enforcement. We need funding. But what we really need—in their own words—is policy, policy changes that would empower them to stop the illegal flow of people, crime, drugs.

You know who can't ignore this crisis? The sheriffs from all 100 North Carolina counties. Many of them have come up to me saying the same thing: Every single county in North Carolina is now a border county because of Joe Biden's policies.

The bottom line here is that, in order to be a strong nation, we have to have strong borders, and, right now, we don't have that. So I am going to call on President Biden to change course, to work with us so that we can solve this crisis together. We know what to do. All we need is a President who takes this seriously and fulfills his

oath to protect and defend this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I am of the view that one of the most consequential votes that any Senator will make in their time in the U.S. Senate is one that we are facing now: the national security supplemental. I am here to encourage its passage—a national security supplemental to address the crisis at our southern border, to support Israel's right to exist, and to counter Russian, Chinese, and Iranian aggression.

Addressing these issues serves our national interests, and it is within the capacity of the Senate to mitigate these crises, to reduce the consequences of these crises with strong legislation, and to do it before the end of the year.

National security starts with border security, and I applaud my Republican colleagues for working to find a consensus on an emergency supplemental for addressing the President's failed policies at our southern border.

It is time for Senate Democrats and the White House and Republicans to continue their work, to get back to work, and to negotiate a bill that can pass the U.S. Senate. We must and we should show the American people that the Senate can be an institution that can come together in a responsible way to meet the most pressing challenges our Nation faces.

I saw a headline in the Wall Street Journal here recently: Does Congress even work these days? It is a call, a responsibility, that reminds us that we have serious and significant work to do together. Those pressing needs, those challenges we face, are support for Israel to defend itself against terrorism, resources for Ukraine, and policy changes to secure our southern border.

First, it is in our Nation's best interest to stand with our oldest ally in the Middle East, Israel. Hamas has stated its intent to wipe Israel off the map, even saying the terrorist attacks of October 7 were just the beginning. Now is not the time to waver in our support for Israel. We must provide Israel with the means to defend itself and destroy the terrorists.

The United States must also work to prevent escalation from Iran and other adversaries who may use this opportunity to escalate the war against Israel. Hezbollah, entrenched in Lebanon, to the north of Israel's border, will find no safe harbor if it attempts to intervene. Iran's leaders must know that the fury of the United States awaits if they become directly involved. We will stand against terrorism and its enablers and supporters.

Second, the success of Ukraine's defense against ongoing Russian invasion is vital to the national interests of the United States. The success of Ukraine is vital to the interests of our own

country. Should Russia fully conquer Ukraine, which remains Putin's goal, more Russian forces would be spread across NATO's border, requiring more resources from the West—America and our allies in Europe—to be committed to defending those allies against further Russian aggression. I don't think we can make the mistake. Russia's failure in Ukraine will make America safer and will make our allies safer.

Congress has a critical role in providing the resources necessary not just to end the war but ending the war on terms favorable to Ukraine and our European allies. To date, a majority of the funding provided to Ukraine has been directly injected back into the U.S. economy through the development, production, and purchase of U.S.-made weapons to replenish U.S. stockpiles.

Following the leadership of the United States, European nations are helping shoulder the burden to support Ukraine's military and have made serious commitments to match those of the United States.

Supporting our partners and allies abroad cannot come at the price of ignoring the security interests faced here at home. The administration's failure to control the border has created not just a humanitarian crisis but a national security crisis. The crushing influx of illegal border crossings has included an increase in the number of encounters between U.S. Border Patrol agents and individuals the FBI has on its Terrorist Watchlist.

Our border is a humanitarian problem, but it is a problem for the well-being of the United States and its national security interests as well. As of September 15, border agents have encountered more than 150 individuals on the Terrorist Screening Database at the southern border. These levels of encounters are astonishing, considering there were only 11 such encounters with these dangerous individuals from 2017 to 2020.

I have been on the border, I think, at least three times in the last year or so, and from conversations with, certainly, our Border Patrol agents but also our law enforcement agents as well, the number of illegal and foreigners coming into the United States who have the potential of providing terrorist threats and acting on terrorist behavior in the United States is only growing.

Our lack of operational control over the border has exacerbated the drug crisis, as we know, in our communities as well. The border is the single most important line of defense in disrupting these drug trafficking and distribution networks, and it is no overstatement to say American lives depend on a regulated border.

Madam President, I stand ready with my Republican colleagues, as they do, to find substantive proposals to mitigate this crisis. During an Appropriations hearing last month, I was dismayed that Secretary Mayorkas chose

not to engage on the issues and, instead, fell back on the argument for comprehensive immigration reform.

I agree that major changes to our immigration code are in order and have agreed to that belief since my earliest days in Congress. However, since I have been in Congress, we keep waiting for comprehensive reform, and, as a result, we do nothing—nothing to make our country safer, nothing to mitigate the humanitarian crisis unfolding on our soil, nothing to increase our national security.

Support for Ukraine and defending our southern border are not mutually exclusive. We can and must do both. It is time to come together and resolve our differences on these urgent national security issues. The most sustainable and responsible route to a safer and more secure United States requires the Senate to take seriously our borders and ensure that our partners and allies are prepared and equipped to defend themselves against our enemies.

To my constituents in Kansas and across the country, this is a dangerous world we live in, and the decisions that we make in the next few days and few weeks—certainly, in the next month—have a consequence on the safety and security of Americans today and Americans in the future.

This ought not be a U.S. Senate that doesn't do its work. We ought to continue the efforts until we get a result, and I hope that occurs quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to talk about America's wide-open southern border. I want to add my voice to that of the senior Senator from Kansas who just made eloquent remarks right here on the floor of the Senate about the disaster—the Democratic disaster—at the southern border.

As he pointed out—and as I will add my voice to his—it is a clear and present danger to our national security what is happening at the southern border. And national security starts with border security.

The senior Senator from Kansas and I were just meeting with other Republican Members of the Senate to review yesterday's numbers at the southern border—the number of illegal immigrants coming into this country—an all-time record high of over 12,000 illegal immigrants coming into this country from all over the world.

That is the crisis that people all across the country who tune in to their TV see is happening in our Nation and to our Nation.

So here we are on the floor of the Senate, and Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, wants to vote on \$100 billion in national security assistance—and he wants to do it today, and we are going to do it today.

That request lacks serious and significant changes that are needed to secure the southern border. Without serious and significant changes, this bill

will not pass. Mark my words, Republicans will vote against it.

Republicans and Democrats have very opposing views of what is needed at the border. Republicans want to stop the flow—and it is actually a flood—of illegal immigrants coming across the border. Democrats want to just wave them on through.

Republicans want border enforcement, border security, real policy changes to keep people out and to keep communities safe. We don't have that today in Democratic and Joe Biden's-run America from the standpoint of the White House and the Democrats in this body.

What do Democrats want to do? Oh, they want lots of money for sanctuary cities, big slush funds. Give it to the mayor of Chicago. Give to it the mayor of New York. And, of course, they want guaranteed benefits for illegal immigrants. That is what they are asking for. They are not going to get a Republican vote for that at all, not a single one.

Republicans know that border security must be a key element of any bill that we talk about on this floor that deals with national security.

For my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who may ask why, let me clarify.

Our southern border is now the most dangerous border crossing in the world—in the world. Under President Biden, our border has become a magnet for criminals, for drug dealers, for terror suspects.

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI are warning all of us. Democrats may want to cover their ears and not want to hear any of these warnings, but we are being warned by the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI. And the FBI Director said it yesterday in the Senate: Cartels are smuggling fentanyl in from Mexico. It is killing hundreds of Americans every day.

The number coming on the Terrorist Watchlist continues to increase. I think it was the head of the FBI yesterday who said: Since October 7, all lights are flashing red for a terrorist attack in America.

Joe Biden's border policies are the deadliest, the most destructive, and the most disastrous in American history. The cost of this crisis is too large to bear for families, for communities, and even for law enforcement.

That is why Republicans are so focused when there was a bill on the floor—and we had a secure briefing yesterday on national security. That is why Republicans are so focused on border security.

Democrats have not put a single bill on the floor of the U.S. Senate this year that would stop the flood of illegal immigrants. Democrats seem to welcome this national security crisis at the southern border. It is wrong. It must change.

The Biden administration hides behind terms, terms such as "asylum"

and "parole." And they use those to release millions and millions of people onto our streets, into our communities, into our neighborhoods. And they are bringing with them drugs and crime. And they are killing Americans. The Biden administration wants to turn the other way.

Every single American feels the harmful impacts of these policies. Here is what is happening thousands of times each and every day on our southern border—and yesterday it was 12,000, the highest in the history of the country, coming in across the southern border. And they are coming from all over the world.

The night I was there on border patrol about 3 or 4 weeks ago, who did we see? People from all around the world, including a group from Moldova. Do you know how many countries they had to go through before they could get to Mexico to come to the United States and pay the cartels to bring them in? That is what we are seeing every day at the southern border.

Democrats don't go down there. Oh, no, they are not interested in actually seeing firsthand what is happening on the Rio Grande River at night and during the day. Not interested.

Border Patrol agents say, Democrats never show up. Not one time.

So individuals enter the U.S. illegally. And they immediately turn themselves into Border Patrol. These are the ones who aren't trying to get away. There is over a million of those too. And what they do when they give themselves up, they claim they are in danger at home.

And then what happens? Well, they are released into the streets of the United States. OK. Oh, you may be in danger. Oh, you got the magic words. OK. Here you go. Come right on in. Ten thousand times a day. Twelve thousand times yesterday. And Joe Biden allows it to happen. And the Democrats encourage him.

Some Democrats have finally started to admit Biden's policies are actually harming our country. So President Obama's Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told fellow Democrats that the manipulation of our asylum laws—because that is what Biden is doing, it is a manipulation of our asylum laws—is one of the root causes of illegal immigration.

At one time, Jeh Johnson said a thousand a day would be overwhelming. Well, it was 12,000 yesterday. Why aren't the Democrats waking up?

Senator SCHUMER, who sits at that desk right there, stands at that podium, and will later today—his hometown mayor—hometown mayor—New York City, Eric Adams said: The flood of illegal immigrants is destroying New York City. Destruction of New York City, and Democrats stand by.

Now, they do want to give a lot of money there, but they sure don't want to enforce the law at the border.

Chicago is another one of these cities that—Democrats are fearful of having

next summer's Democratic National Convention in Chicago. I wonder how many Members of this body are actually going to go, because Democrats across the country are afraid of doing it because Chicago is being overrun right now with illegal immigrants—overrun and overwhelmed.

We want to make our country safer, and Republicans do. I am not so sure about Democrats at this point from the way they are behaving with regard to the border. We want to make our country safer. We need to pass serious border security policy changes. Republicans know that we must end the incentives that are fueling the Biden border crisis.

And more money to these sanctuary cities and more government benefits to illegal immigrants is not solving the problem. It is inviting more illegal immigrants to come.

This is a deadly serious situation. I am not so sure the Democrats who were at the secure briefing yesterday all understood that. I am not sure the Senate majority leader understands that.

Real border security is a top national security need. Republicans have solutions to make our communities and our countries safer. These measures must be included in any national security bill, anything that goes to the President's desk, because without them, there will not be a national security bill.

The Republicans are ready to vote against what CHUCK SCHUMER is bringing to the floor because it fails to defend our borders and to keep our Nation secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I will just pick up where my colleague left off.

There are four parts to the supplemental appropriations sent over by President Biden. One deals with Ukraine. And count me in for Ukraine. Robust aid to Ukraine really helps us here at home. Helping Israel—no-brainer—count me in. Beefing up Taiwan makes perfect sense. There was money in the supplemental for border security, but it really didn't address the problem we have.

And here is what I want the body to understand. Here is what happened yesterday. The FBI Director testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee about the level of threats we face as a nation. And he said:

[W]hile there may have been times over the years where individual threats could have been higher here or there than where they might be right now, I've never seen a time where all the threats or so many of the threats are all elevated, all at exactly the same time.

This was yesterday.

What did he say?

Post October 7—

The horrible attack on our friends in Israel—

[Y]ou've seen a veritable rogues' gallery of terrorist organizations calling for attacks against us.

He said that yesterday.

[T]he threat level has gone to a whole other level since October 7.

This was what the FBI Director said yesterday. Are any of us listening?

I see blinking lights everywhere I turn.

I asked him about blinking lights regarding 9/11. Apparently, they were blinking, and we missed them.

Do you see any blinking lights?

And he said:

I see blinking lights everywhere I turn.

He said that yesterday. Now, why are Republicans, apparently, more than anybody else, insisting that the supplemental package not only help Ukraine, not only help Israel and Taiwan but actually help us? We have got to change the policy because what we have got is not working.

Yesterday—yesterday—12,000 encounters at the border. The highest ever, yesterday. Two days before, 10,000 were marching in the wrong direction.

As these numbers go to new levels and historic levels, the FBI Director yesterday told us he has never seen more threats against our homeland than he does today.

And since October 7, every terrorist group in the world is calling for an attack on America.

I asked him about the border. He is very concerned about the status of the border.

So we are on track, if this continues, to have 3.6 million illegal encounters that we know of at the border. That is like beyond unsustainable. All-time highs every day.

From 2023 to 2020, the encounters at the border are up 368 percent. Why? Because the policies of the Biden administration make people believe that if they get to our border, they stay in America and never leave. And if you don't change that, you are never going to fix the problem.

Six million people have already come to our border in the first 3 years of the Biden administration. We are on track to do 3.6 million in fiscal year '24.

The day that people think Trump is going to be the nominee and could win the White House, you are going to see a run on the border like you have never seen because people want to get the last good deal under the Biden administration. Because when Trump wins, if he does, all this is going to change.

There are two problems that have to be fixed. You make an asylum claim in America at the border; you pass the initial credible fear standard, which needs to be elevated; you are released into the country to go to your hearing regarding your asylum claim 3 to 5 years later—that makes people believe they are released, and they will never show up. Once you are here, you are never going to leave. We have to change that.

While you are waiting for your hearing that may be 3 to 5 years away, you

need to wait outside the country. That would stop a lot of the illegal immigrant flow because when people realize you can't wait in America, you are home free once you make your asylum claim, they will be less likely to pay \$10,000 or more to wait in Mexico or some other country for 4 or 5 years.

The second thing is that this administration is abusing the law. The Secretary of DHS has the ability on a case-by-case basis to allow urgent humanitarian parole for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. This is meant to be an individual case-by-case analysis. They are using this concept—the Biden administration—to have blanket humanitarian parole for 240,000 people from four different countries. That is an abuse of the law. This law is being used to just flow people through, and that needs to change.

So if you put a cap on how many people could come into the country through humanitarian parole, getting back to the original intent of the law, and you told people if you apply for asylum, you have to wait outside the country before your hearing is held, then you will have a dramatic reduction in illegal immigration. I know that works. That doesn't fix a broken immigration system, but it does give us control over an out-of-control border at a time of elevated threats.

To my Democratic colleagues, I have been negotiating with you for 20 years on how to fix an immigration system that is broken. You need more legal immigration. You need border security. You have to have a pathway to citizenship for those who are deserving. I get all that. This is not all about an immigration reform negotiation; this is about securing the border at a time of heightened threat to our country.

One hundred seventy-two people on the Terrorist Watchlist we know of have been caught. Only God knows how many we missed. This run on the border is locking the Border Patrol down just processing people, fentanyl poisoning of Americans is at an alltime high, 100,000 people have died because fentanyl is coming through a broken border. So to my Democratic colleagues, this is not about immigration; it is about national security. There are ways to fix this problem if you choose to do it. I want to help Ukraine. I want to help Taiwan. I want to help Israel. But we have got to help ourselves.

There will never be a bill I will vote for to help other countries that are very deserving until we control our own border that is completely broken. You need to understand that, and the public is with us. Most Americans would like to have their border more controlled, not less, and what you are doing is not working.

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. LANKFORD. Madam 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 Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, 12,080, it is not just a random number; it is the highest number of crossings ever in a single day across our southwest border. That is the record, 12,080. We have never had a day more than 12,080 crossing our southwest border.

You might ask: What day did we set the record for the most number of crossings across our southern border? And my answer would be yesterday. Yesterday was the highest number of illegal crossings in the history of the country. September was the highest September ever in the history of the country for illegal crossings.

October was the highest October ever in the United States in the history of illegal crossings. November was the highest November ever in the country in the history of our Nation for illegal crossings. And there is the highest number ever in the history of the country—yesterday.

What is really happening? The numbers continue to be able to skyrocket. If we look at what is actually occurring with the number of illegal crossings, they continue to accelerate day after day, month after month, unchecked.

We face very real threats in our Nation, and it is not just me saying that. People may recognize the FBI Director, Christopher Wray, who just this week in a hearing was asked about the threats that we are facing in the United States after October 7. He was asking what he saw with that, and his answer was, "I see blinking red lights everywhere."

"The threat level has gone to a whole other level since October 7," in the United States.

Yesterday, of those 12,080 people who illegally crossed the border, the vast majority of them were released into the country today. They had no criminal background check. They didn't have to prove their ID of what country they were from because right now the soft-sided facilities that are housing migrants all along our southern border are currently running at 400 percent occupancy.

So the goal is, get them through and into the country, hand them a piece of paper, and—literally—ask them to promise to turn themselves in, in the future at some point, just go because we need your space because there are more people coming.

At the same time the FBI Director is saying, "I see blinking red lights everywhere," we are literally releasing thousands of people, day after day, no criminal background check, no evaluation of their history—many of them we don't even know what country they are from—and releasing them into the country.

In the last 2 years, this White House has designated on our southwest border

70,000 people they designated as what they call “special interest aliens.” These are individuals who are coming from areas known for terrorism, but we had no background information on these individuals.

What happened to those 70,000 individuals? They were released into our country with a piece of paper saying: Please turn yourself in, in the days ahead, because we have no room to be able to house you here. That is what is happening.

Am I the only one who noticed this? Well, let’s see, the mayor of El Paso has said that “the city of El Paso only has so many resources and we have come to . . . a breaking point right now.”

The mayor of New York City is talking about this, and he said that “this issue will destroy New York City,” as they are over capacity in every spot that they have got.

The mayor of Chicago has called this an “international crisis” that he is actually experiencing in Chicago to try to be able to manage this.

As the stories come out on this over and over again, this is a New York Times story that came out:

Migrant-smuggling is now a \$13 billion business. Mangled limbs. Raped women. Congressional inaction is a boon to bad actors.

From the New York Times.

So my question is, What are we going to do about this? Currently, it has been nothing.

So what are we going to do about this? About 6 weeks ago, the White House sent over a request for supplemental funding. They labeled it a national security supplemental. They asked for funding for Israel, for Ukraine, for the Indo-Pacific, and for border security. In fact, what is interesting is the second highest request they put in the entire piece was actually for border security. And then literally within days, the administration put out an op-ed that said the funding request for border security is a tour-niquet. What we really need is a change in policy.

That same day, Ali Mayorkas from Homeland Security, President Biden’s Homeland Security Director, was in front of a hearing that I was in. I asked him some very specific questions during that:

What are the things that need to be able to change [in our system]?

He said:

Senator, we need . . . the ability to remove individuals who do not qualify [for asylum] with efficiency and [with] speed.

Secretary Mayorkas went on to say:

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

I asked him again:

[Are] policy changes needed?

Secretary Mayorkas said:

Yes, policy changes are needed.

The issue is not is the need there. The issue is not is there a problem in our immigration system. The issue is not is this a crisis at our border. Ev-

eryone knows that it is a crisis that literally the people working on our border have no tools in their hands to be able to stop this issue.

This needs a solution from Congress, and it requires all of us having the determination to say: 12,080 people that crossed our border yesterday is not sustainable.

So what is the request? It is pretty straightforward. It is what anyone would look at and, quite frankly, what DHS has talked about for years—not just this DHS; the Trump DHS, the Obama DHS have all asked for these issues.

They are looking for some very basic things. They want to know how to be able to manage the asylum requests. That accelerated and took off during the late half of the Obama administration.

If I can take us back in history to ancient history, in 2010, there were 21,000 people who asked for asylum a year on our southern border—21,000 people a year in 2010. That is now every 2 days of what we are facing now.

What the request was, at the end of the second term of the Obama administration, was that we have got to reform our asylum system. We have got to be able to process people at the border. We have got to be able to not change the rules of what asylum means but change when we actually do the screening—do it right there, to be able to manage those issues, so that people who qualify for asylum under our law are able to come into our country lawfully and people who do not qualify for asylum cannot come into our country unlawfully.

We all know it is happening. Every administration has identified it. So far, this body has been unwilling to be able to act on it.

We also know that, every day, the cartels actually run our southern border. They are a ruthless criminal organization that we have experienced firsthand in my State. There is drug smuggling. There is human trafficking and what they have done to literally millions of people whom they have trafficked from around the world. We need to take control of our border, not give control to the cartels.

I would challenge anyone in this body to be able to go to our southwest border and ask any Border Patrol agent: Do we have control of our border?

Most every one of them will respond the same way, because I have heard it over and over. There is situational control of our border. It is just on the south side, not on the north side, because the cartels are managing who is actually coming in, in what order, and how it is actually done. And they are paid, as the New York Times article detailed, billions of dollars to be able to traffic people into our country. They are the ones who are managing it.

So the simple, straightforward issue is, As the United States of America, are we going to manage our border or

are the cartels going to manage our border? Are we going to be able to have a system where we allow people who qualify for asylum to actually get a hearing on a timely basis or are we going to take people and push them into the country? And then real, legitimate asylum seekers don’t get a hearing for years, and people who don’t qualify for asylum—and we all know it—disappear into the country and live underground.

This is the decision that we have got to come to. President Biden asked for a national security supplemental and included into that border funding and then a request for policy changes. It is time to be able to address this issue.

And I will tell you what I will vote later on today. Republicans are going to speak clearly to say: We will not move to a national security bill that does security for other nations and ignores our own. We will not do it.

And we believe the American people, regardless of party—I don’t find many people who want chaos on our southern border. They want an orderly process. I also don’t find people who are opposed to immigration. They are just opposed to illegal activity on our border, unchecked activity on our border.

So let’s get back to an orderly process. Let’s have a system that actually works for everybody in the process, and let’s not put the national security for other nations ahead of the national security of Americans. Let’s do it together.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I first want to say that, as we proceed on the initial vote today—and I support the President’s package, including the work on border security—I do appreciate the Senator from Oklahoma’s work in trying to reach an agreement. So many of us want to see an agreement on border security.

I rise today to highlight another part of that agreement that is very important, and that is the importance of the critical humanitarian aid in the supplemental funding request, and to urge my colleagues to include it in a final bill.

Throughout history, the United States has been a leader. When Hitler sought to conquer Europe, American’s Lend-Lease Program ensured democracy triumphed over fascism, and it was our Marshall Plan that gave our European partners the resources they needed to rebuild after the war. When the Iron Curtain fell, American aid kept communism at bay. And, to this day, Agencies like USAID give nations across the globe the support they need to alleviate poverty, become stronger trading partners with our country, and recover from disasters.

We know that humanitarian aid, yes, saves lives in such a big way, but it is also important for our own country. It is our own security that we make friends. It actually helps us to spend

less on military when we spend more on humanitarian aid.

Today, armed conflict is tearing apart families and neighborhoods in the Middle East, and the largest land war in Europe since World War II rages on. Ripples from these conflicts are felt around the world. We are at a pivotal moment in not just American history but the history of humanity.

Israelis, innocent Palestinians, and Ukrainians are looking to us for support, and the whole world is watching. It is during moments like these that leaders are called to step up. So the question before us today that so many of those who came before us in this Chamber—Democrats and Republicans—have grappled with is, Will we step up? Will America step up? My answer: We must, just as we have time and time again throughout history.

That, of course, includes providing swift humanitarian aid to people across the world, including innocent civilians in Gaza.

Like so many in this Chamber, including the Presiding Officer, I strongly condemned Hamas's terrorist attack immediately, in the strongest terms. It was a massacre of innocent Israelis, and I am heartbroken by the devastation and the loss of life. But we must remember that the violence of this terrorist group Hamas does not represent the will of all of the people of Gaza, not by any means.

That is why I joined my colleagues in calling for a short-term cessation of hostilities in order to allow for the Hamas-held hostages to be released and to ensure that humanitarian assistance could reach innocent civilians in Gaza. I welcomed, as so many did, the announcement almost 2 weeks ago that Israel and Hamas had agreed to release more than 100 hostages during the cessation that would also allow, of course, for increased aid for food and the like into Gaza. Tragically, late last week, a continued agreement could not be reached, and the hostages, including, as we now know, so many young women—with very troubling and concerning reports coming out on their conditions—are still being held hostage by the terrorists. The fighting has begun again.

The United States has provided significant aid to both Israel and the Palestinian people, now and in years past, but we know we cannot shirk from our duties. We cannot turn our backs on what is happening.

In discussing the need for foreign aid, we must not forget the continued importance, as we will discuss later today, of standing with Ukraine as Ukrainians fight back against Vladimir Putin's inhuman barbarism. For almost 2 years, in bright blue and yellow, the Ukrainians have shown the world what it truly means to fight for freedom, and America has been with them, as have so many of our allies. Beyond critical military aid, the United States has continued to support Ukraine through humanitarian assistance for

both internally displaced Ukrainians and those who have been forced to flee their home country.

And we know that while we have taken in some of these refugees, including in my home State of Minnesota, which has a major Ukrainian population, many of whom are now working—I was just with a number of them who work in our Ukrainian restaurant that we are so proud of, Kramarczuk's in Minneapolis. We also have European countries taking in these refugees in unprecedented numbers—millions and millions of people.

When I visited Poland with a group of our colleagues on a bipartisan basis, just weeks after Vladimir Putin launched his brutal invasion, there were more than 2 million Ukrainian refugees. Today, that number is more than 6 million. I will never forget talking to those refugees—women, children, seniors, kids with nothing but a backpack on their back with a stuffed animal in it. We heard their horror stories about homes lost, families ripped apart, and lives destroyed.

We know that Polish people don't have to imagine what it is like to live through a full-scale invasion. Their history is marked by invasions by Prussia, the Hapsburgs, the Nazi, and, yes, Russia. As our Ambassador to Poland, Mark Brzezinski told us, the Poles are achieving the dreams their grandparents never could realize.

Poland is able to say to their Ukrainian neighbors: We value freedom and respect your democracy. We value you so much that we will take you into our homes and into our hearts. We will open our doors and not shut you out.

Just as our Polish allies and those small countries that I met with yesterday—the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—they are there for Ukraine on the ground and taking in their people and being on the front-line and putting in an extraordinary percentage of their own resources, of their spending, into defense, into NATO. America must be there for Ukraine by providing, yes, topnotch military assistance, as we have to enable Ukraine to retake half of the territory that Vladimir Putin took in his initial invasion, but we also must be there for them with critical humanitarian aid. Our Ukrainian friends continue to persevere against all odds, against one of the largest armies in the world, and this aid is critical to that effort.

As we all know, the consequences of Putin's unprovoked, unlawful, unjustifiable war extend beyond Ukraine's border. Ukraine is one of the world's top suppliers of grain, and Russia's illegal blockade of Ukrainian ports has put millions of people across the globe, in places like Africa, at risk of starvation. By providing critical support for the State Department's refugee aid program, including food assistance, the administration funding request will support displaced people around the world.

Our Nation has earned its reputation as the leader of the free world due to its unwavering commitment to democracy and helping nations when they need it—knowing they come out of it; knowing they become major trading partners and friends of ours on the security front, on the democracy front, and on the economic front. So now it is on us to decide if we want to keep that reputation, if we want to keep that leadership.

As we negotiate this bill, the supplemental, I am reminded of what President Zelenskyy said just hours after Vladimir Putin launched his barbaric invasion. Everyone counted him out. Everyone thought he was going to run. Instead, he stood on the streets of Kyiv, with just a few people, and looked straight into the camera and delivered a simple message that was, all at once, a rallying cry to his people, but a statement of defiance in the face of evil and a call to action for democracies across the globe. Three words: We are here.

So that is our decision over the next 2 weeks. Are we going to be here for democracy? Are we going to be here for our ally in the Mideast and our allies around the world? Are we going to continue to feed the world? Are we going to continue to stand up against terrorism and barbarism and help innocent people, like those in Gaza, those in Ukraine, and those around the world who depend on us?

Moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, kids, and grandkids are depending on us. We must be there. We must say: We are here.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

MS. WARREN. Madam President, nearly 2 months after Hamas launched brutal terrorist attacks on Israel, we continue to grieve for those who were killed, and we also pray for the return of loved ones taken hostage. And for those who have been injured, for rape victims, and for those who survived by hiding themselves among dead and dying friends, we offer love and support.

October 7 was the deadliest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust. I have seen video of Hamas's attack and their terrorists' contempt for Israeli lives. As I have said before, Israel has both a right to defend its citizens from Hamas's terrorist attacks and an obligation under the laws of war to protect innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Palestinians are not Hamas, and they should not be punished for Hamas's terrorism.

I want to be clear about how I see the war that Israel is currently waging in Gaza. Prime Minister Netanyahu and his rightwing war cabinet have created a humanitarian catastrophe, killing thousands of Palestinian civilians and risking a wider conflict in the Middle East.

The Gaza Health Ministry estimates that more than 15,000 people in Gaza

have been killed and more than 40,000 injured. The vast majority of those killed and injured have been Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children. This level of civilian harm is a moral failure. It is why for weeks I have called on Israel to stop bombing Gaza.

A 7-day cease-fire between Israel and Hamas gave hope that more hostages would return to their loved ones, gave hope that a massive amount of humanitarian aid would reach innocent Palestinians in need of food and water, and gave hope that negotiations would continue as the parties worked toward an enduring end to this fighting.

I applauded this cease-fire and urged its extension so that the parties could secure a lasting peace.

When the cease-fire lapsed, I urged the parties to get back to the negotiating table and build on the prior agreement so that the cease-fire could resume, but, instead, the fighting ramped up.

So I will say it again. Hamas must release the hostages and stop firing rockets at civilians in Israel. The Israeli Government must stop the bombing in Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid. All of us must do everything possible to resume the cease-fire and extend it for as long as possible.

The long-term goal must be peace—two states for two peoples.

Today, the Senate will vote on legislation to provide military funding to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. I will support this legislation because Ukraine is on the frontlines, fighting back a brutal Russian invasion that would destroy its existence as an independent nation.

A few months ago, I visited Ukraine and saw firsthand the courage of the Ukrainian people, who are literally putting their lives on the line to keep democracy alive.

This legislation also contains \$10 billion in humanitarian aid for families around the globe, including in Gaza. It also provides emergency shelter funds for migrants who are newly arrived in the United States. It includes money for mosques and synagogues that are dealing with threats here at home.

I strongly support those provisions. In fact, I fought hard for those provisions. But I want to be clear that when it comes to U.S. military aid to Israel, American support cannot be a blank check to a rightwing government that has demonstrated a gross disregard for the lives of Palestinian civilians. U.S. military aid always includes conditions, and there is no exception even for our allies.

The United States regularly conditions military aid on compliance with U.S. law and international humanitarian law. In the case of Israel, I have long argued that the United States should use all of the tools at its disposal, including placing conditions on U.S. military assistance, to move the parties closer to permanent peace and a two-state solution.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's actions are not moving closer to a two-state solution. Instead, his actions set conditions for endless violence.

Since October 7, extremist settlers in the West Bank have deliberately hunted down and killed Palestinians and, according to the United Nations, displaced more than 1,000 people.

In Gaza, Israeli forces have struck hospitals and refugee camps, killing scores of civilians in pursuit of its military targets.

Israel has ordered Palestinians to evacuate for safety and then bombed the safe zones.

The videos from Gaza of dead children and wailing parents are shattering. They document the current Israeli Government's continued moral and humanitarian failures.

It now appears that Israel is prepared to impose in southern Gaza the same staggering level of civilian death that it carried out in the north. That is wrong.

I lay these actions at the feet of Prime Minister Netanyahu. If the Prime Minister insists on conducting military operations with little regard for civilian life and in a manner that moves the region deeper into perpetual war, then he does not deserve America's blanket financial support.

I understand the desire to help Israel and the people of Israel, but given the actions of the Prime Minister, Congress should condition any military funding on an agreement that civilian lives will be protected, that Palestinians will receive the humanitarian aid they need, and that international law will be fully respected.

Over the past 2 months, I have had many conversations with people across Massachusetts about the path forward. This conflict is horrific, and it is deeply personal. I have talked to Israelis who have lost beloved friends and family. I have held parents who have had children violently taken as hostages. I have talked to Palestinians who have had family members killed. I have held hands with people conducting a desperate, long-distance search for missing loved ones. I have joined the sometimes-frantic efforts to help Palestinians who are desperately trying to get out of Gaza but can't. The pain runs deep for all of them.

This conflict has also sparked a wave of hate here in the United States. The Council on American-Islamic Relations in Massachusetts has received a record number of calls reporting vandalism, violence, and retaliation against Palestinians. A man in Boston was arrested for attacking the Holocaust Memorial, and synagogues in Attleboro are receiving bomb threats.

I have had Muslim and Palestinian constituents talk to me about being pulled over for extra screening at the airport while their White travel companions sailed right on through. I have heard stories of how hard it can be to land a small business loan or get a credit card application approved even when they meet all the criteria.

Anti-Palestinian hate is endangering our neighbors. Three college students in Burlington were shot on their way to dinner. I have had moms tell me they are now afraid to say that they are Palestinian, and they are now afraid for their children to leave the house.

Anti-Semitism is endangering our neighbors. Hillel leaders tell me they are afraid to walk alone on campus or speak up in classes. Mothers say they worry about bringing their toddlers to activities at their synagogue because it could be the target of an attack.

In these moments, each of us has an obligation to speak out clearly and loudly against hate. Each of us has an obligation to actively oppose hate in all of its forms. Anti-Semitism must be rejected. Islamophobia and anti-Palestinianism must be cast off. We should make our intentions clear. We should work toward those goals until they are finally true. No one should be afraid. No one should feel unsafe. And it is on our shoulders to build an America where there is no place for hate.

But there is more for us to do. We cannot give up on peace. Hamas leaders make their goals clear: perpetual war and death. But, as I said earlier, Hamas is not the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian people are not Hamas.

In the midst of the chaos and pain of this terrible war, I hold fast to the possibility that people of good will, both Palestinians and Israelis, can build a lasting peace.

I have long believed that a two-state solution is the best path, is the only path for Israel's long-term security and the only way to ensure that Palestinians have the rights, the freedom, and the self-determination they need to build a secure future for themselves and their children.

In the short term, the needed work is obvious: Resume the cease-fire, accelerate humanitarian aid, protect innocent civilians, and release the hostages. In the long term, the hard labor—the labor that ensures that we won't be here again and again and again to mourn the deaths of the people we love and have lost to an endless cycle of war—the hard labor is to drive toward a just and lasting peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I am going to say something that I don't think ought to be controversial—that Hamas should receive no U.S. taxpayer dollars. But apparently some people think that is controversial.

On October 7, Hamas, a terrorist organization dedicated to the destruction of Israel and to killing Jews, broke the cease-fire and attacked Israel.

Now, this was not a military attack; these were terrorists who came across the border to kill civilians. They killed 1,200 Israelis and 33 Americans.

Last week, along with my Senate colleagues, I watched an uncensored video

taken from Hamas body cameras, cell phones, on surveillance television, intercepts of radio and telephone conversations. It was horrific. This atrocity was perpetrated by barbaric savages. We witnessed them shoot unarmed civilians. We saw the evidence of young girls raped. We saw the dead bodies of children, some burned beyond recognition. We watched as a Hamas terrorist decapitated an Israeli soldier. It was truly horrifying.

Hamas started the war. They are responsible for every person who died on that day and every person who has died in Gaza since. They are a terrorist organization dedicated to destroying Israel. In fact, we heard some of the phone conversations from Hamas terrorists who called back their parents, bragging about how many Jews they had killed. It is absolutely horrific.

We must stand with Israel until Hamas is destroyed utterly. Humanity will have been done a favor by the State of Israel when Hamas is destroyed. We also must examine the Biden policies that are supporting Hamas. I know—yes, I said that. It is crazy, but it is true. The Biden administration has already given \$730 million and wants to add another \$260 million to it.

You see, there is this organization called the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and it has long been documented that they have been infiltrated by Hamas.

This organization, also known as UNRWA, has hired Hamas agents. Their teachers have been preaching about killing Jews. Their textbooks glorify martyrdom. They demonize Israelis and sow anti-Semitism. UNRWA schools have stored weapons facilities for Hamas. There is a U.N. report that shows UNRWA schools have launched attacks against Israel. On October 7, UNRWA employees applauded the attack, including 14 UNRWA teachers. Now we have a report that an UNRWA teacher held one of the hostages in that teacher's attic, barely feeding the hostage.

This is an organization that has been described as essentially a branch of Hamas. The Trump administration knew this, and so they cut off funds, with President Trump saying the organization UNRWA was irredeemable. Inexplicably, the Biden administration resumed funding and wants to continue resumed funding.

We must not let our tax dollars go to support Hamas, and that is why I have introduced the Stop Support for Hamas Act.

This act would make sure no economic development dollars go to Gaza or to the West Bank until Israel verifies that Hamas has been dismantled. It would ensure that the Palestinian Authority is not hiring Hamas or their affiliates. It would strengthen the Taylor Force Act to make sure the Palestinian Authority does away with this horrific pay-to-slay policy, and it

would ensure that any other NGO that is working would not hire Hamas or Hamas affiliates.

What we saw on October 7 was inhumane; it was barbaric; it was horrifying; it was an atrocity—an atrocity committed by Hamas. We must stand with Israel until Hamas is utterly destroyed.

We must ensure that no more funding from American taxpayers goes to Hamas through UNRWA as 118 of the terrorists who attacked Israel on October 7 were educated in UNRWA schools. These schools are part of the problem, and the Trump administration knew it. I ask all of my colleagues to support my bill that will end this terrible policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, following Senator MENENDEZ, I be recognized for up to 20 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

The senior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, as our allies and democracies around the world face compounding life-and-death geopolitical challenges, the world is watching what we do or fail to do here in the U.S. Senate, and the stakes could not be any higher.

Ukraine is rapidly running out of arms to defend itself against Russia's illegal invasion and the many war crimes it has been perpetrating against the Ukrainian people. Israel is in the midst of an existential war against Hamas—a barbaric terrorist organization funded and propped up by Iran's brutal regime with one singular mission: to wipe out Israel and every Jew on the face of the Earth.

Moreover, our allies in the Indo-Pacific, like Taiwan, remain on high alert as China aggressively flexes its military and economic might there and around the globe while, at the same time, taking careful notes on how democracies around the world respond when one nation violates the sovereignty of another by attempting to take its territory by force.

Now is the time for the U.S. Senate to come together in defense of America's allies in their hour of need. We have a strategic security, economic, and moral imperative to meet the moment, and that is exactly what Democrats in the Senate are ready to do.

Right now, Democrats are prepared to take up and pass the National Security and Border Act of 2024, a comprehensive package that provides aid to Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, and Taiwan as well as addresses ongoing challenges at our southern border, including the flow of migration and fentanyl into the United States.

Democrats are willing to put politics aside and defend our allies and our values with real dollars, real military aid, and real solutions. We are ready to se-

cure our southern border against the most dire threats we face, especially the relentless flow of deadly fentanyl fueling our Nation's opioid epidemic.

Now, to be crystal clear, some aspects of this supplemental package, which closely mirrors the supplemental request President Biden sent to Congress, raise serious concerns for me and for others.

For example, I am worried about funding to add another 1,300 Border Patrol agents to work at the border. The U.S. Border Patrol is already the largest Federal law enforcement Agency, and its alarming track record of the abuse and mistreatment of migrants gives me pause about expanding its force further.

I also have serious hesitations about funding to expand our detention capacity by over 45,000 beds. Detaining migrants en masse, including entire families, is never the most humane or effective solution to managing our border.

Supporting a supplemental package that includes these items would not be an easy vote for me and several of my colleagues. It would be quite difficult because these funds come with concerning policy consequences. However, in the name of getting a reasonable, thoughtful package across the finish line for our allies in need, without gutting our asylum and humanitarian parole laws, I certainly am willing to consider it.

But where are Republicans? Americans might ask. Where are our colleagues across the aisle who, for so many years, have posited themselves as the champions of defending democracy and freedom around the world? Where is the party of Reagan—the party of self-proclaimed defense hawks who supposedly never bat an eye when it comes to supporting our allies?

In an incomprehensible turn of events, Republicans have decided they are going to hold hostage vital aid to our closest allies in a life-and-death struggle over completely unrelated, hyperpartisan demands on immigration and border policy, and they are insisting on these changes without any actual, deliberative process or willingness to compromise.

No, you didn't hear that incorrectly. Senate Republicans have declared they are ready to tank this national security package—one that would help our allies defend themselves so that we don't have to send America's sons and daughters into harm's way and take the battle themselves when the next set of NATO countries is invaded by countries like Russia. I would rather have the Ukrainians fight for their freedom and provide them the resources to do so instead of sending America's sons and daughters abroad.

Now, why are they doing this? Because they are using the immigration issue, in my view, to hide behind the embarrassing fact that a significant number of Republicans in both Chambers doesn't want to vote for aid to Ukraine and because Democrats refuse

to accede to far-right and far-reaching immigration policy demands that have absolutely nothing to do with the existential crises threatening our allies.

It is the height of irresponsibility and partisan politics for Republicans to claim that the price for assisting our international allies is to gut our asylum and humanitarian parole laws, which, I would add, as someone who has been on this issue for almost a quarter of a century, will do nothing to mitigate the flow of migration and deadly drugs into our country.

Think about the dangerous signal that sends: The United States cannot temporarily put aside its domestic political disputes to confront the collective challenges facing democracies and freedom around the world. Such a signal would be crippling to those who look to the United States for our leadership when confronted with the evils of tyranny and terrorism. Such a signal would amount to a shameful retreat from America's singular place on the world stage and would leave us with fewer allies willing to stand with us. Who is going to stand with you if you are going to cut and run?

What makes this all so much worse is that Republicans are willing to gamble our national security interests—indeed, our ability to conduct foreign policy—over half-baked, failed ideas that do nothing to solve the problems they claim to solve.

Let's just take a look at a few of the demands the Republicans are making on immigration and asylum policies.

I heard one of our colleagues speak before that we only just want to have the asylum crisis be dealt with quicker. Well, that is not the case. Republicans say, for example, that they want to heighten the initial "credible fear" standard asylum seekers must pass and have been passing for decades in order to make it to the next stage of the asylum process.

Well, news flash: No matter how much the "credible fear" standard is heightened, it will do nothing to address the root problems causing asylum seekers to flee their home countries in the first place. If I am in one of these countries and my choice is to stay or die or see my daughter raped by a gang or be forcibly put into a gang, I am going to flee. That is why we have 20 million people in the Southern Hemisphere who are refugees and asylees displaced presently in other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Unless we deal with that root cause challenge and help those countries assimilate those people, those are 20 million feet that are going to come knocking. Worse yet, constricting access to asylum would only encourage more illegal attempts to make it into the United States through other avenues that will, ultimately, enrich human smuggling networks.

Our asylum system encourages order. In fiscal year 2023, 99.5 percent of asylum seekers appeared—appeared—99.5 percent of asylum seekers appeared for

their hearings before an immigration judge. So only about five-tenths of a percent were in absentia. The vast majority of those asylum claims was, ultimately, denied. Then, at that point, they no longer have a right to be present.

Pushing migrants outside of the asylum system is not in the interest of anyone who wants an orderly immigration system or who professes to care about reducing the numbers of migrants that are encountered throughout the border.

Republicans say, for example, they want to dramatically limit the President's statutory authority to grant individuals humanitarian parole into the United States in response to major crises such as wars and invasions.

Well, here is another news flash: Dramatically shrinking humanitarian parole risks dramatically increasing irregular flows of migration to our borders.

Think about what would have happened in the wake of America's withdrawal from Afghanistan or in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine if the United States did not have a robust humanitarian parole system screening tens of thousands of Afghans and Ukrainians for refuge through an orderly process. It would have been utter chaos with unknown numbers of unscreened, unvetted individuals from these countries potentially seeking entry at our borders.

Humanitarian parole allows the United States to be in the driver's view to determine which individuals can obtain protection in the United States and which cannot.

It also serves our national security interests by sending a clear message: If you stand with us, if you fight for freedom and there comes a life-and-death moment, we will provide you with refuge.

So this shouldn't be about sticking it to President Biden and the Democrats. The reality is that there will one day be another Democratic or Republican administration that will need to rely on our humanitarian parole laws to respond to moments of crisis like in Afghanistan and Ukraine. By fundamentally eroding these laws, Republicans would only hamper the ability of any future administration to respond to such crises. Gutting humanitarian parole only invites the very chaos at our borders that Republicans claim they want to mitigate.

What these and other demands reflect is the now-dominant and dangerous strain of Republican thinking that believes that our asylum, humanitarian parole, and refugee systems are largely fraudulent, allowing undeserving individuals to enter into our country.

Years of anti-immigrant fearmongering by former President Trump appear to have clouded the Republicans' ability to talk about our immigration system based on the facts—the type of conversations we had when

we passed comprehensive immigration reform in this Chamber with a gang of Senators—Republicans and Democrats—of which I was a part, with an overwhelming vote. That was a level-headed discussion. As a result, their policy ideas now are driven more by Stephen Miller's demagoguery than by any deliberative assessment of reality.

Here are some facts worth reminding my Republican friends about: Immigrants wield nearly \$1.3 trillion—trillion—in spending power in the United States, and they contribute tens of billions of dollars in taxes every year. A recent study found that a 25-percent reduction in the number of asylum seekers in the United States would cause an economic loss of over \$20 billion over 5 years.

Immigrants disproportionately make up our essential workforce by taking care of our sick, putting food on our tables, and taking care of our workplaces. They were the ones, when we were all home, sheltering, who were out taking the risks of their lives in order that the rest of us could be sheltered.

Immigrants are 80 percent more likely to become entrepreneurs than native-born Americans. Indeed, nearly 45 percent of Fortune 500 companies—45 percent of Fortune 500 companies—which employ tens of millions of Americans, were founded by immigrants or their children.

These migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees have not just enriched our economy, they have changed and shaped our Nation and the world more broadly.

Ever hear of Albert Einstein, a refugee who changed our understanding of science forever; Sergey Brin, the co-founder of Google, a refugee who changed technology forever; Gloria Estefan, a refugee who fled the Cuban revolution with her family and helped shaped our musical landscape; or how about former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright—does that name ring a bell?—a refugee from Czechoslovakia who helped shaped the modern world as the first woman to ever serve as U.S. Secretary of State. The list goes on and on and on.

The hard, undeniable reality is this: Our Nation's prosperity, power, and greatness are inextricably intertwined with our identity as a nation of striving, hard-working immigrants. So it is no wonder that our asylum, refugee, and humanitarian parole systems have received overwhelming bipartisan support over the decades. They are an essential source of our strength.

And let's be perfectly clear about something else. Welcoming asylum seekers, parolees, and refugees into the country is far from just an act of compassion. These systems directly support our national security and strategic economic interest at home and abroad.

Imagine a world where the United States and other countries did not have systems to provide refuge to dissidents,

journalists, lawyers, and others taking on tyrants and defending liberties in their countries. Would they have the same level of courage to enact change in their countries if they did not think they could protect themselves and their families if they faced life-and-death persecution?

So to my Republican friends, I say this: It is time to free yourselves from the Trumpian demagoguery that informs your current worldview on immigration. Join us in good faith to deliver inclusive, humane, and orderly immigration reform that will secure our borders, provide relief to the undocumented community, and strengthen our strategic posture in the world.

However, attempting to force this conversation here and now, when our allies have their backs against the wall, when they are fighting on the frontlines to protect U.S. interests, and when innocent people's lives hang in the balance is the height of recklessness and irresponsibility.

We can continue serving as the world's last, best defender of freedom and democracy without sacrificing one of our greatest strengths: our identity as a nation of immigrants.

We are the United States of America. Let's start acting like it.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, we have a lot of work to get done before January 19, the next deadline to pass our funding and avoid a shutdown.

The American people are looking for serious leadership and results, and I come to the floor today to be clear about what the standard for success is here.

We need to pass regular, full-year funding, based on the bipartisan spending agreement from earlier this year, that actually responds to the challenges before us. Anything less means missing critical opportunities and worse.

A "date-change, full-year CR," as proposed by House Speaker JOHNSON, would be unprecedented and reckless.

Why is that? Well, because the Speaker's proposal would lock in outdated spending plans and devastating across-the-board cuts while locking all of us out of any kind of thoughtful decision-making process for our Nation's future, all of which should be absolutely unacceptable to everyone here.

It is one thing to have a short-term CR so we have additional time to negotiate in good faith and finish passing bills, full-year bills that strengthen our Nation, but it is another thing entirely to do a yearlong CR because we have no intention of doing our job.

We cannot just throw up our hands, act like nothing in the world has changed in the past 12 months, abdicate our responsibility to our constituents, and box in our Nation's future by putting the government on autopilot.

When you put the government on autopilot, without direction or any

consideration of changing needs, you are functionally causing year-over-year funding cuts without any rhyme, reason, or recalibration for new and changing priorities, causing huge uncertainties and inefficiencies across our Federal Government and seriously impairing every single one of our Agencies' ability to fulfill their mission and move our country forward. And that, by the way, is all before taking into account the incredibly steep across-the-board cuts that would come into play under this scenario under our Fiscal Responsibility Act.

This runs way deeper than numbers, at best, stagnating on a page and Agencies cutting hard-working staff and crucial services. We are talking about missing opportunities on issues where the clock is ticking, pulling the rug out from our families who are struggling, and undermining our national defense and security in front of the whole world.

I think we all understand now is a dangerous time to signal America's global leadership is faltering, but that is exactly the message a yearlong CR would send: a year of America's military falling behind and a year of our diplomatic and humanitarian efforts falling behind.

When we put our government on autopilot, we are telling the world Congress is asleep at the wheel and incapable of responding to the growing threats of an ever more dangerous world.

In practical terms for defense, as my colleague—the senior Senator from Maine and vice chair of the committee—said here on this floor recently, it means the Pentagon freezing 330 new programs or production increases. It means falling behind in building our ships and our subs and much more and doing so, by the way, at a time when China already has a larger navy.

It means essentially no new progress in our efforts to strengthen our military and diplomatic footprint in the Indo-Pacific so we can forge strong partnerships and deter aggression from the Chinese Government. This is something we devoted significant thought and resources to across our bipartisan spending bills, with new funding for our Indo-Pacific strategy and the Countering PRC Influence Fund, not to mention other global leadership investments like the new Economic Resilience Initiative that will help strengthen our supply chains for critical resources and weaken the financial pressure our competitors can exert on key U.S. partners.

But all that goes out the window with a full-year CR, particularly under the construct that has been proposed by the Speaker of the House, where he would simply change a date and quit—change a date and quit.

Can you imagine a leader, one of the highest ranking officials in this country, if not the world, seriously proposing that as an answer right now?

Under the yearlong CR, we would not have critical funding increases to support our servicemembers, to support their families, from troop readiness essentials like recruitment and training to family support like childcare and barracks, to other projects like the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan.

I also want to remind our colleagues, a full-year CR would not just hurt our national security, it would be devastating for our families and our communities across the country and our country's future.

When it comes to keeping our economy strong, there are simply too many missed opportunities to even list.

We would lose out increases in bolstering trade and U.S. business competitiveness. We would lose out on strengthening our supply chain and building innovation hubs. We would lose out on research funding for manufacturing; AI; agriculture; clean energy; cures and treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's, and other terrible diseases and a lot more.

We would lose ground in our plans to send Americans back to the Moon, while the Chinese Government is going full speed ahead.

And when it comes to fighting the opioid epidemic, resigning our Nation to a yearlong CR means the increased investments that we did include in our Senate bills to keep fentanyl out of our country by stopping drug cartels and getting help to patients and families won't happen.

Instead, stagnant funding means furloughs at our border and thousands of pounds of illicit drugs reaching our communities.

A CR also will not include any funding to reform cosmetics safety or retirement security or the organ donation and transplant system.

And let's talk about WIC. WIC is the lifeline for moms who need formula, nutritious food, and other essentials to feed their babies. It is at risk of being severely underfunded by a CR.

I grew up in a family who knew what it meant to fall on hard times and have a government that had our backs. I will not let our country pull out the rug from folks in their time of need. But if we put spending on autopilot for the next year, we will be kicking struggling families off benefits and onto wait-lists.

It is not just WIC that is going to see these painful shortfalls that will ultimately hurt families, it is programs that keep families warm in the winter or cool in the summer and safe from extreme temperatures like LIHEAP. It is programs that give people healthcare, like community health centers and the new suicide prevention lifeline. It is programs that make sure families have a roof over their head, rental assistance, affordable housing, homelessness prevention—programs that already can't meet the needs in their communities.

It is the Social Security Administration, for crying out loud. A CR would

force them to reduce hours and lay off staff. You want to call up and sign up for new benefits or see how you can fix a problem? There will be no one to answer you—long wait times.

And let's not forget, it is programs for folks who are trying to improve their situation, get a better job, and further their own career. A CR means no increases for apprenticeship funding, workforce training, or the maximum Pell amount.

What else do parents need if they are going to go to work? I have said it many times, childcare. We are in a childcare crisis, and with a full-year CR, this is only going to go from bad to worse because we will be resigned to across-the-board cuts to our Nation's childcare programs.

And our public schools also will face tight budgets. Kids are still recovering from this pandemic, and we can't afford to provide our schools less funding when our students deserve and need more support. It is that simple.

Look, I have been going on for a while. But the truth is, I have barely scratched the surface on what we will lose with a full-year CR: Increases throughout our bills to support Tribal communities, gone; over a billion dollars for FAA modernization efforts, gone; housing for wildland firefighters, improvements in our rail system, next-generation weather satellites, gone, gone, and gone.

And here is the kicker: I have only been talking so far about half the equation because the Fiscal Responsibility Act would force absolutely devastating across-the-board cuts on virtually all domestic programs that could be as much as nearly 10 percent.

Let's be clear about the damage here. Immediate hiring freezes and furloughs at just about every Agency. Millions of women and kids would lose WIC benefits; wait times at ports of entry would quadruple; wait times for new business permits from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau would increase fivefold; nearly 1,000 fewer full-time food safety inspectors; 2,500 fewer national park employees and less staff and equipment for our Federal firefighters; 5,000 scientists, students, and technical staff no longer receiving research support at our national labs and universities; 130,000 fewer small businesses getting training and counseling from the Small Business Association; nearly 700,000 households losing Federal housing assistance and being pushed toward homelessness; 2½ million patients across Indian Country hurt by a \$235 million cut to the Indian Health Service hospitals and clinics.

And that is the tip of the iceberg. We are talking tens of billions of dollars slashed to programs that keep our country competitive and our economy strong and our families safe and sound. So this is really no run-of-the-mill CR outcome, which would be bad enough as it is.

The bottom line here is this: We have a job to do. We have a job to do. Our

constituents expect us to come to work, to listen to them, respond to the challenges in their life, write the bills, solve our problems, and deliver results. At a minimum, they expect us to try—not threaten, as the Speaker is doing, to change a few words and give up.

A long-term CR wouldn't just shut out their voices, it would cede ground to our adversaries, let America fall behind, and cut off vital resources families count on each and every day.

If we want to make sure that America continues to lead; if we want a strong, competitive economy; if we want a safer world; and if we want a real future for our families, we cannot just throw our hands up and hope for the best. We have to come together, do the hard work of governing, hammer out bipartisan spending bills that actually reflect what we think our Nation needs, get back to the bipartisan spending agreement that the House Republicans wanted—actually, getting back to that, they demanded it—and agree that extreme partisan riders have no place in our spending bills.

In the full Senate here, as the Presiding Officer knows, we wrote 12 bipartisan spending bills that follow the full terms of the bipartisan spending agreement, but now we need House Republicans to hold up their end of the bargain. That means sticking to the entire agreement and using the full resources it provides for defense and domestic programs.

We cannot move forward if House Republicans are busy trying to go back on their word, especially for a deal that they pushed for and negotiated in the first place. Let's all remember that House Republicans were the ones who chose to hold the debt limit hostage until they secured this agreement. Let's also remember it was their leader who negotiated this deal directly with the President. They cut this deal. When you negotiate a deal, you don't then bargain over how much of your word you are going to keep. Deals are built on common ground and mutual trust, not shifting sand.

So, Madam President, I will be clear. I am not calling on Republicans to do anything extreme here or anything I wouldn't do myself. I get that no one ever gets everything they want, especially in a divided government. In fact, as I have said many times, I believe the cuts that were enacted by the Fiscal Responsibility Act set us back. But that was the deal. That was the deal we voted on. So, here in the Senate, we did write 12 bipartisan bills to those terms. That is the job. That is what legislating looks like in a divided government.

If we are going to avoid an unnecessary shutdown or an absolutely unacceptable, inflexible, yearlong CR—for the first time ever—we need everyone to get real about just what is at stake if we give up on writing serious, full-year funding bills. And that is just what it is going to take to get that done. So I call on everybody: Let's do our job.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Now, Madam President, I also want to take a few minutes to talk about the supplemental funding package we are going to move to vote on shortly.

The clock is ticking, and the eyes of the world are watching to see how quickly and how completely the United States responds to urgent challenges across the world. We cannot afford delays that tell our adversaries they can just wait us out. We cannot afford half-steps that tell our allies we will only stand by some of them, some of the time. We cannot accept the notion that there is a "price" that must be paid in order to stand by our allies. That is why we are voting today to move forward on a bill that would respond to the pressing security challenges. It is past time for Senators to show they appreciate the urgency of this moment.

Now, I have heard some Republicans criticize this package for what is not in it—the extreme, partisan policy changes to our Nation's immigration laws that they have been pushing. Well, here is how I see this: When you have a bill like this one, with funding that is urgently needed for issues that have really broad, bipartisan support, and you face a moment like this, where civilians are suffering, our allies are under attack, our adversaries are watching for signs of weakness, and American leadership and our country's long-term security are on the line, you don't vote down the bill because you weren't able to attach your partisan wish list to it. And you don't tie aid for allies you believe is vital—vital to their safety and security—to passing partisan nonstarters; you work to find consensus and get that aid across the finish line.

Now let's talk about that aid and the funding that is in this bill and why it is so crucial to pass it without delay.

First, this package extends essential support for our allies in Ukraine—something we have been discussing even longer than aid to Israel and have already been forced to delay too many times.

Ukraine has fought bravely to push back Putin's bloody invasion, and our support for their efforts has been indispensable, but it is now—right now—at a critical juncture. We are about to leave the tank empty while Putin continues his attacks. If you are stopping us from getting this done, you are choosing to leave Ukraine with fewer resources and put Russia in a stronger position. Those are just the plain facts of the matter. This is not hyperbole; that is the military reality on the ground.

Ukraine's success on the battlefield depends on its air defenses, and those defenses depend on U.S.-made interceptor missiles, which they will not get without this package. So if we don't get this done quickly, we will, as just one example, give Russia an opening to potentially destroy Ukrainian air defenses and achieve air superiority.

That would mark a catastrophic turning point in the war, in the region, and in the balance of power between the free world and brutal dictatorships—a U.S. ally weakened, if not beaten, not due to lack of courage on their part but a lack of commitment on ours. That would send a dangerous and disgraceful message to our adversaries and our allies alike about just how serious to take America's commitments.

We cannot let this get pushed off again. We have to send a clear message to dictators: You cannot wait the United States out and trample democracies. We stand firm by our allies. And that is what this package does with aid to Ukraine.

It also includes security assistance for Israel in the aftermath of the horrific Hamas attacks.

The latest activity from Houthi rebels against U.S. forces underscores the importance of supporting our allies and promoting stability in the region.

Critically, this package provides humanitarian aid for Gaza and elsewhere to get the civilians the food, water, medical care, and other essentials they desperately need. This is not just the absolute right thing to do, but it is a key part of combating hopelessness and the extremism that it can breed.

This bill also includes much needed investments in the Indo-Pacific so we can strengthen our allies and bolster our presence in the region and deter our adversaries.

Let's be clear. This bill also does include resources for the border and to stop the flow of fentanyl. If you truly, honestly believe we need to do more on the border, I don't know how you decide to do nothing and think it is better than something substantial.

So let's cut to the chase here. This bill is made up of basic bipartisan priorities—supporting Ukraine, supporting Israel, getting humanitarian assistance to civilians, stopping fentanyl, making commonsense investments to humanely manage our border—and they all have broad support here in the Senate.

So let's take this opportunity, with this vote today, to get things moving, to get onto this bill so we can do the hard work of legislating and debating and considering amendments to it instead of pitting allies and crises against each other as political bargaining chips.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes and show they are serious about responding to all the crises before us, and then let's get right back to work in a bipartisan way on our annual spending bills, like I just talked about, and other urgent issues like childcare, because—let's be clear—this is another crisis that is growing worse every day.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON RAYES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 331 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	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—47

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

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the question before us is simple: Will Senators rise to defend Western democracy, protect our fundamental values, and support our friends abroad fighting for their lives? Are we willing to stand up to autocratic brutes and respond to our adversaries with strength, not weakness? Will we help the people of Ukraine fight against Vladimir Putin like we promised?

This is a moment in history. This is a moment history will record. The answer to all these questions should be an emphatic yes. At stake is America's safety, the survival of democracy, and the future of the war in Ukraine. As we have always done in our history, the Senate should rush to the defense of democracy and stand up to autocratic brutes.

You can be sure Vladimir Putin is watching closely to see if the Senate will approve more aid to Ukraine. Whether or not we approve an aid package will likely sway the outcome of the war. We must act.

To show our Republican colleagues that we care about this issue deeply

and are serious about moving forward in a bipartisan way, we are willing to give them an amendment here on the floor on any border proposal of their choice at 60 votes. We will not interfere with whatever policy they want to present. It is vital we move forward and to show that we are willing to work with our Republican colleagues to be reasonable.

This, again, is a moment of truth for the Senate, for the country, for the fight for democracy and Western values. Again, history will record this moment. We must rise to the occasion. We must stand with Ukraine. We should all vote yes.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Mark R. Warner, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan.

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 motion to proceed to H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 332 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Coons	Kaine
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Blumenthal	Duckworth	King
Booker	Durbin	Klobuchar
Brown	Fetterman	Lujan
Butler	Gillibrand	Manchin
Cantwell	Hassan	Markey
Cardin	Heinrich	Menendez
Carper	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Casey	Hirono	Murphy

Murray	Shaheen	Warnock
Ossoff	Sinema	Warren
Padilla	Smith	Welch
Peters	Stabenow	Whitehouse
Reed	Tester	Wyden
Rosen	Van Hollen	
Schatz	Warner	

NAYS—51

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 51.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tonight is a sad night in the history of the Senate and in our country. Republicans just blocked a very much needed proposal to send funding for Ukraine, funding for Israel, humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Gaza, and funding for the Indo-Pacific.

If there is a word for what we most need now, it is to be "serious." If Republicans in the Senate do not get serious very soon about a national security package, Vladimir Putin is going to walk right through Ukraine and right through Europe.

This is a historic moment for the Senate. Are we going to do something about the threats to democracy happening around the world? Are we going to hold the line against autocrats and dictators and the enemies of our way of life?

We had before the Senate a proposal not only for national security but one that included significant funding for border security that President Biden requested.

We also made our Republican colleagues an offer to get something done on border by allowing them to vote on an amendment on any border package they wanted—any one they wanted, and all they would need is 11 Democratic votes.

Unfortunately, Republicans refused to move forward, even with the offer to vote on a border amendment that would have required only 11 Democratic votes. They couldn't come up with a solution.

Nevertheless, Democrats remain committed to working very hard to find a solution to this impasse. I understand that Republican negotiators are

preparing another package of border policies very soon, and I hope they come up with something serious instead of the extreme policies they presented thus far.

Democrats have always supported commonsense, realistic solutions to the border. We wished Republicans would have taken us up on our offer to have a debate on the floor. Our offer to the Republicans of an amendment still stands, and we hope we can break this impasse soon.

This is a serious moment that will have lasting consequences for the 21st century. If Ukraine falls, Putin will not stop there. He will be emboldened. President Xi will be emboldened. Our adversaries will keep undermining us at every turn. Western democracy will begin to enter an age of decline if we aren't willing to defend it.

This Senate, this Republican Party, must get serious.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, the clock is ticking. Aid for our allies in Ukraine has run dry, and the whole world is now watching to see if the United States is still capable of standing by all of its allies in times of need.

There is a lot at stake here. Now is the time for choosing whether the United States will continue being a leader in the world and a champion for democracy. So I hope Senate Republicans think carefully about whether they truly want to abandon our allies in Ukraine over draconian, far-right immigration policies that will never become law or if they will work with us to stop conditioning this aid on partisan nonstarters and get this vital funding over the line.

If they can put forward a commonsense bipartisan proposal regarding the border, we will consider that. They had a real opportunity today to do just that and debate those policies here on the Senate floor.

But let's be clear: We do not have time to give up and call it a day. We have too much at stake to settle for half steps that tell the world the United States no longer knows how to stand with its allies or stand up to dictators.

Votes matter. Blocking consideration of today's supplemental sends a real and dangerous signal to the entire world—to our allies and our adversaries alike. But it is not too late for us to come together and send a different message, a message that says "America is united" when it comes to leading on the world stage and keeping our country and our friends safe.

Let's talk to one another. Let's understand that compromise has to happen. And let's act quickly and completely to deliver the national security resources that are so badly needed. I am ready to get to work with my colleagues and do just that.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The Senator from Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6126

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, twice before, Republicans have come to this floor to attempt to pass by unanimous consent the House-passed standalone aid package to Israel that would provide our ally with \$14 billion in military assistance for their fight to destroy the Hamas terrorists and send a loud message to Iran and its proxies.

I would like to yield the floor to the Senator from Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I want to thank the Senator from Kansas for his continued effort to make sure we get Israel aid.

The United States must always stand with our great ally Israel and with the Jewish people. Israel is fighting against Iran-backed terrorists for its very existence.

Iran-backed Hamas terrorists have murdered thousands with the intention of destroying Israel and the Jewish people. Hamas terrorists have beheaded babies, burned them alive, raped and murdered young women.

We have seen the news reports of the sexual assaults committed by Hamas terrorists—all too graphic to speak of here, but here are some of the headlines.

ABC News: "New signs emerge of 'widespread' sexual crimes by Hamas, as Netanyahu alleges global indifference."

The Washington Post: "Israel investigates an elusive, horrific enemy: Rape as a weapon of war."

The Jewish Chronicle: "Hamas terror attack: Girls 'raped next to their dead friends' at rave massacre."

We cannot turn a blind eye to these barbaric acts. The world must know what these animals did to innocent Jewish women and girls.

Just yesterday in the U.S. House of Representatives, the presidents of Harvard, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania were asked, under oath, if calling for the genocide of Jews violates their university's code of conduct or rules regarding bullying and harassment.

A simple yes-or-no question. Their response? They could not even answer yes.

We have to really let that sink in. They couldn't say yes. The president of three Ivy League schools could not answer yes to that simple question.

It is clear that we need to use this moment to stand with Israel and the Jewish people.

The House took decisive action by passing this bill. They moved quickly, and the measure is fully paid for. This bill was blocked by the Democrats

once, but today the Senate can change that error and pass this bill right now. And I am proud to colead the companion bill in the Senate with the Senator from Kansas.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I would like to yield the floor to the senior Senator from Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor this afternoon with my colleague from Kansas.

It is 2 months ago tomorrow that Hamas carried out these horrific attacks in Israel. Now, bear in mind that the Jewish State—and this is the world's only Jewish State—is in a fight for their very survival because Hamas has decided that they are going to continue this. They said October 7 was basically the beginning. And they continued to do this over and over and over.

Now, this is why we have said let's deal with the aid to Israel and do it separately from Ukraine and from Taiwan. And let's also talk about our border. So there is a reason for what we are doing.

Now, I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not want to have a pay-for. House Republicans have chosen to have the pay-for. And yes, indeed, this Chamber needs to be working with the House to fund a resolution to this issue. And I appreciate that my colleague from Washington brought up the fact that we need to work through this issue. Indeed, we do. So let's work through these issues separately.

When it comes to Israel aid, there are some urgent needs that are there. There is \$4 billion to replenish the Iron Dome. This is a wonderful technology that we have worked with Israel in creating. It is incredibly effective. They need \$4 billion for replenishment.

Bear in mind—I said Hamas has told us—they did it once; they are going to do this again.

They need \$1 billion for munitions. They need \$50 million for help to evacuate Americans, \$150 million to help secure our Embassy in Jerusalem.

And using the money that was set aside for additional IRS agents but has not been used—that makes sense to Tennesseans, that we would do that.

I tell you where Tennesseans do have a problem. They look at our national debt, \$34 trillion. That is about \$100,000 for every man, woman, and child.

I have a grandbaby who will be 4 months old tomorrow—his debt share, \$100,000.

Think about what we are doing. Think about what effect this will have 18, 19, 20 years from now, when that child draws their first paycheck, and how it is going to limit their opportunity.

Another thing that doesn't seem to make sense, while we all agree that Israel needs to receive their funding, Tennesseans don't want this to come

attached with billions of dollars for other programs, like \$10 billion for global humanitarian assistance and more than \$2 billion for assistance to resettle refugees.

This is something that separately needs our attention. If we want to talk about securing borders, let's secure our border first. When we talk about aid to Israel, let's do it, and let's pay for it.

I appreciate my colleague from Kansas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I would like to yield some time to the senior Senator from Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I join my colleagues to support our ally Israel.

On October 7, Israel was suddenly and deliberately attacked by Hamas terrorists. The terrorists targeted innocent people, not military targets. That is very important. They killed thousands of civilians, including dozens of Americans. They filmed their own atrocities and put videos on the internet. They were very proud of what they were doing. It is absolutely disgraceful.

The United States has supported Israel from the very beginning. The first leader in the world to recognize Israel was Harry Truman. Administrations from both parties have strongly supported Israel, but now the Biden administration is trying to ride the fence.

Joe Biden knows that his voting base does not like it. The left dislikes Israel. In their woke ideology, they say Palestinians are oppressed by Israel. It is just not true.

Since the war broke out in October, liberals in Congress and around the country have expressed sympathy for Hamas. It has been especially bad on college campuses. I am not even going to repeat some of the things that have been said by Democrat Members of Congress.

Joe Biden has also continued to practice appeasement of Iran. When Joe Biden took office, Iran was dead broke. They had access to just a few billion dollars in foreign currencies. Today, they have 10 times that much money. This is because of loosened sanctions and because of oil sales by Iran.

Iran is the No. 1 sponsor of terrorism in the world. Iran provides funding for Hamas and for Hezbollah. Joe Biden is helping Iran to get rich. There is no question that sanctions relief for Iran will end up in the hands of terrorists. Joe Biden wants to ride the fence, but we can't ride the fence on this one, not for our ally.

This is a battle between good and evil. This is about an ally of the United States of America fighting terrorists who killed innocent women and children. And let's remember, the terrorists killed Americans too. Hamas would love to kill more Americans, and they will kill more Americans if they

get the chance. So Israel needs to wage a war of extermination against Hamas.

I am supporting this legislation to provide \$14 billion in aid to Israel. Unlike the Democrats' request for foreign aid, this is paid for. We pay for it by cancelling out the Democrats' plan to supersize the IRS.

Are they more important than Israel?

Last year, the Democrats cut the IRS a check for \$80 billion. Their plan is to hire 80,000 new IRS agents. They want to double the size of the IRS. They want to shake down the American people for every last dime.

The wealthy will be just fine. The wealthy have tax lawyers and accountants. It is families and small businesses that will pay this price. A report from the Joint Tax Committee said that the Democrats' bill last year raised taxes on almost every tax bracket.

So, last month, every Senator went on record on this bill to support Israel. Every Republican voted for it. Every Democrat voted against it.

Now, it is clear for all the American people to see who supports Israel. It is pretty simple. Who has other priorities? If the Democrats block this bill today, they are just doubling down.

Democrats care a lot more about the IRS—bureaucrats shaking down small businesses—than they do about supporting our ally Israel in their fight against terrorism. It is time for Democrats to stop riding the fence. Stop trying to play both sides, and let's support our ally, Israel and ensure that the terrorists are defeated.

I yield back to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Next, I would like to yield the floor to my good friend, a staunch supporter of the people of Israel, the senior Senator from Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I am here on the floor to join my colleagues in support of Israel, and we are willing to do more than just speak those words. We are willing to do something about it—something that, miraculously, the majority leader has been unwilling to do since November 2, when the House passed a \$14.3 billion bill to provide aid to Israel.

And, for some reason, the only person who has the authority to bring a bill like that to the floor to vote has refused to do so. It makes me wonder why. Why in the world would the majority leader, who I know supports Israel, refuse to bring a bill to the floor to provide that aid? So far, it is almost 5 weeks since the House passed an appropriations bill to do exactly that.

Well, it could be that he doesn't like the pay-for, that he doesn't want us to quit adding to our national debt. But if that is the case, he could suggest another offset or pay-for. He could have tried to bring the bill to the floor and eliminate the pay-for that the House provided.

Frankly, I think it makes plenty of sense to keep the House pay-for in the bill so we don't add to our national debt, which is now about 100 percent of our economy. This last year alone, the United States Government paid over \$600 billion in interest to our bondholders who own our national debt. And, apparently, the majority leader and our Democratic colleagues want to add to that and not stop this march toward bankruptcy or insolvency.

So here we had a vote. The majority leader brings a bill to the floor to deal with Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, and to provide more money to pay for the current broken border policies by the Biden administration.

You might wonder: Why would he bring that bill to the floor with those four pieces, those four components, but yet refuse to bring a bill to the floor to fund Israel?

You would think, well, at least it is a step in the direction he apparently wants to go. But the truth is that he is holding this Israel aid hostage to his desire to pass this other \$106 billion appropriations bill, this supplemental.

Now, don't get me wrong. Many of us support aid to Ukraine, but we also are going to insist on policy solutions to help prevent and stop and reverse what we see happening at our border, which is historically catastrophic.

So this is really a very strange way of doing business. Here we are, almost 5 weeks after the House passed an Israel aid bill. You would think, well, the majority leader would say: Let's pass that and send it to the President, and then we can focus on the rest of the bill that was on the floor this afternoon—Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, and the border. But, apparently, he wants to use the support for the Israel aid to build the vote for the larger bill, understanding that, while support for Israel is virtually universal among both parties and in both Houses, there are some divisions on the Ukraine aid or the terms under which that aid is provided.

So it is clear to me that he is holding up aid for Israel in order to achieve other objectives. That is his prerogative as majority leader, but I have to ask to our pro-Israel supporters around the country whether they think this is a legitimate leverage that could be used in order to achieve a larger objective, or whether it would make more sense, if you truly are a supporter of Israel, to go ahead and get this to the President and to get that aid to Israel and then come back and do the rest of what I know the majority leader wants to do.

So the other part of this—which is amazing to me—is we know the Speaker passed the Israel aid because he knows he has concerns, and he doesn't know if he has the votes in the House to pass the larger package. So why would you not take up and pass the Israel aid as opposed to send the House this larger \$106 billion package when it is unlikely that the Speaker is going to be able to pass that, at least based on

his experience. Doesn't that also delay aid to Israel even more by packaging it with other items?

Frankly, it is mysterious to me why all this time—2 months after Israel was attacked by Hamas, 5 weeks after the House has passed an Israel aid bill—that, finally, here we are coming to the floor, offering to take up and pass the Israel aid, and we are going to get an objection from the Democratic side.

It is really mysterious to me. It is very puzzling. Why in the world would our Democratic colleagues, if they truly support Israel, if they truly want to fight—give Israel the tools they need to fight Hamas, a terrorist organization, bought and paid for by Tehran—why in the world would they object to it?

Well, Washington, DC, in many ways, is a parallel universe that is very much unlike any of the rest of the country. What makes sense here, inside the beltway, makes no sense to our constituents back home, and this is just another example of that.

So I applaud my colleague from Kansas for taking the initiative here and calling us together, and not just saying we support Israel but actually being willing to do something about it.

That is another phenomenon here in Washington, DC. There are a lot of people who say the right words, but, when it comes to actions, they are missing in action.

So I thank my colleague from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I sure appreciate the Senator from Texas speaking up and the wise words he shared. It reminds me of an old saying, that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, that funding Israel today is worth two of these other issues that seemingly just never can come together as we try to solve this four-headed riddle.

As I said earlier, this is now my third time to the floor to try to pass with unanimous consent the House-passed, stand-alone aid package to Israel that would provide our ally with \$14 billion in military assistance.

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stood on the Senate floor and debated with us and lectured us on why this bipartisan, House-passed legislation that maintains the exact spending levels requested by President Biden is somehow unreasonable. But I would like to share with you what I think is unreasonable. I think it is the Democrats' unwillingness to help our ally and separate this package to get it to the President's desk today. Unreasonable is my colleagues across the aisle using the crisis in Israel to secure more money for Ukraine. But what is unfathomable is what this body just admitted—that we are nowhere closer to getting this aid package passed than we were on October 7 when the war broke out.

In case nobody is paying attention, tomorrow will be 2 months to the day

that Hamas brutally and savagely attacked the people of Israel.

I think we need to be honest with the American people. Negotiations aren't just stalled; they never started. Meaningful negotiations never started. We have a better chance of finding an ocean in Kansas than this \$106 billion package seeing the light of day.

Today, every single Republican sent a unanimous message to the Democrat leadership and 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: We will not be bullied into voting on massive spending packages that use Israel as leverage to fund Democrat priorities, and we will not vote for any legislation that secures foreign nations' borders but not our own.

So here we are once again offering an olive branch to separate this package out and address each of these issues one at a time. The House made this easy for us. They passed a bipartisan bill that would grant aid to Israel and allow us to break this logjam and focus on the more pressing matter to our national security: the border. The border. The border. The border.

Now, the Democrats showed their hands 2 weeks ago when they voted unanimously against our bipartisan, stand-alone Israel aid bill that would have fast-tracked this package straight to the President's desk before Thanksgiving. But, sadly, this city loves to make the perfect the enemy of the good.

The sensible thing for this body to do now is pass this bipartisan, stand-alone aid bill for Israel. This legislation passed the House over a month ago and could be delivered to President Biden's desk tonight. We should pass aid to Israel and then continue debating a potential broader package.

Now, I have never heard of an American asking for more IRS agents. And if you are concerned about the pay-fors we presented, as I said time and time again, show us another pay-for.

It is time to end the political talking points that we have heard on this floor.

And please don't insult our intelligence. Don't insult the intelligence of Americans with the fake border security that is in this bigger, broader package that will only accelerate asylum, leading to more people crossing our border illegally.

If you plan to object to this stand-alone bill's passage on the ground that military aid to Israel should include conditions, I want to note for the record that senior officials from the White House have said they are not pursuing such conditions.

So, indeed, let's come together. Let's all come to the table. We tried it your way, and it failed. This is a huge opportunity to secure a bipartisan win and get to work on the most immediate threat to our national security—our wide-open southern border.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6126, which was received from the House. I further ask that the bill be considered

read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have been clear about why we must deliver support for Ukraine, Israel, and humanitarian assistance together, as have many of my colleagues. That is actually why we just attempted to move forward on one package that meets all of these needs—a package that Republicans blocked.

I spoke about this before the vote, but let me just reiterate how dire the situation is right now.

Our support for Ukraine has been essential, but it has also now been exhausted. Our allies are waiting for aid, and Putin is just waiting for us to send a sign that it is not coming. But Putin is not the only one watching right now. The world is watching this debate. Our allies want to know, when they are facing a crisis, can they count on America to stand with them or will we give up on them when it gets tough or when we get distracted with other crises? They are all watching and wondering, can America still lead or are we overwhelmed? Will America pick and choose which promises it keeps?

Let's not forget, it is not just big-name allies and adversaries we are talking about here; there are many smaller but no less important countries that are watching. Some are in critical regions, facing historic decisions about the paths and partnerships they will pursue in the years ahead, and they are wondering, is the United States a reliable partner? We have to put those concerns to rest with a strong package that shows that our commitment to our allies and to standing up to dictators is ironclad.

That is what is at stake here—not just our allies in Ukraine, who are at a key moment in their battle to protect their sovereignty, not just our deterrence to adversaries like Putin and other dictators who would trample democracy if given the chance, but our very credibility on the world stage.

We have to respond to all these crises or we are telling the world: Don't count on America. We are at capacity.

That is an incredibly dangerous message to send, especially at such a critical moment. It should be unthinkable.

I appreciate my colleague's urgency to get aid to Israel, but this is a deeply flawed way to deliver it. This bill would not provide a single dollar in desperately needed humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza and elsewhere, and it would not address the urgent need to extend funding for Ukraine.

There are civilians in Ukraine right now who are suffering and have been for months. There is also an enemy in Ukraine who is on the march and is just waiting for an opening to gain the upper hand.

We have been discussing the aid for our allies in Ukraine for much longer than aid for Israel, which is also urgently needed, and we have already been delayed here for too long. To force Ukraine to wait or to withhold future aid is to abandon an ally, surrender to a dictator, and invite more chaos around the world.

We cannot leave Ukraine behind, nor can we fail to deliver humanitarian assistance before the humanitarian crisis in Gaza devolves further into hopelessness that can worsen the threats we are already facing.

At this critical moment, it is not just the right thing to do, it is essential to our national security interests to help promote stability and security. That same logic applies to other investments as well, like supporting our allies in the Indo-Pacific. Invest in stability so we avoid paying for chaos.

We have to move quickly to respond to these challenges, yes, but we also have to move completely to respond to them because, as I have said before, they are all connected.

If we let the Israel-Hamas war weaken our resolve elsewhere, we are telling dictators across the world: The best way to get America off your back is for it to be distracted by a crisis somewhere else.

We are essentially giving Hamas and other extremists a new sales pitch to make when seeking support from bad actors: Give us support, and we will keep America busy. They can't deal with you if they are focused on us.

That is a profoundly dangerous message to send.

Putin is watching closely to see if this is his opportunity to make our resolve waiver in Ukraine. As it plots its next move, the Chinese Government is watching closely to see if we will stand up to aggressors. If we falter, other adversaries will take note as well. That is why doing half the job here is just not going to cut it. We have to do the whole job. Anything less is telling our allies that America cannot be trusted and telling dictators that they have free rein because America is too busy to lead right now.

We must not invite chaos. We must not abandon any of our allies. We have to show that U.S. leadership is strong and capable of meeting all the challenges before us.

So I urge Republicans to get serious about the situation before us so we can pass a package like the one we just voted on that shows the world that America takes its commitments seriously and doesn't just stand by some of its allies some of the time.

With that, I yield to Senator REED.

Mr. REED. Thank you, Senator MURRAY.

Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator reserve the right to object?

Mr. REED. I would like to be recognized and reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, just a few minutes ago, my Republican colleagues voted down the National Security and Border Act. In doing so, they essentially said no to supporting Israel, no to supporting Ukraine, no to supporting Taiwan, no to humanitarian assistance, which is absolutely critical, no to rebuilding our defense industrial base, no to border security funding, and no to combating fentanyl.

These items are not the partisan demands of any one party; they are bipartisan priorities and necessities. They are the fulfillment of our commitments to our allies and to our national security.

I believe the majority of our Republican colleagues do believe this, but some may see this as leverage—as one of my colleagues put it in a discussion, leverage for extreme immigration legislation that they don't at the moment have the votes to pass.

In delaying the much needed assistance that I indicated, my Republican colleagues are indirectly, directly, or however you want to put it, giving too many opportunities or at least ideas to people like Putin and Chinese communists and others who are engaged in trying to undermine democracy throughout the world.

Speaking for myself, I hope that what we can do is begin a serious debate now—not on the one issue that I listed but on all those issues—and come to a serious, principled compromise so that we can move forward together.

It seems that my colleagues on the other side simply want us to accept their version of immigration reform, and then everything else will be OK. It is not that at all. In fact, one of the aspects of the legislation that was just voted down was a significant infusion of resources into the border area—1,300 additional Border Patrol agents, 1,000 law enforcement personnel and investigative capabilities to prevent cartels from moving fentanyl into the country, 1,600 additional asylum officers, funding to conduct robust child labor investigations and enforcement to protect vulnerable migrant children entering the United States through the southern border, and the bipartisan FEND Off Fentanyl Act, led by our colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina.

My colleagues just voted against a series of important ways to fix our problems at the border. We need them desperately, and we could have gotten them if we had moved forward procedurally.

I have been here for a couple of years, and I have seen several occasions where we have been together on a bipartisan basis. I know in 2013, led by Senator McCain and others, we passed comprehensive immigration reform, only to see it set aside by the Republican House of Representatives at the time.

So we, I think, have to do much more, and we can, but it will be on a bipartisan, cooperative basis. We have to do much more to help not just Israel—

it is critical—but also Ukraine. It has been a long time since we have had their funding request—August of this year. They made a serious request for additional resources, anticipating the attrition they would suffer over the intervening months, long before the October 7 tragedy.

It has been more than 2 months since President Zelenskyy was here in person asking us all personally for the help he needed to lead his country forward. It was at that time that Senator MCCONNELL correctly and sincerely indicated, in his words, “American support for Ukraine is not charity. It is in our own direct interests, not least because degrading Russia helps to deter China.” But the foot-dragging has continued since then.

Ukraine cannot wait. The OMB Director wrote earlier this week:

[W]ithout congressional action, by the end of the year we will run out of resources to produce more weapons and equipment for Ukraine and to provide equipment from U.S. military stocks.

There is no magical pot of funding available to meet this moment. We are out of money—and nearly out of time.

So without our help, the Ukrainian people will be in a very desperate situation. We need to help them. We need to help our allies in Israel. We need to help those in Taiwan, and we need to help the innocent victims of conflict throughout the world.

So this one-shot deal doesn't cut it. We have to come together, work together, and deliver assistance to Ukraine, to Israel, to Taiwan, humanitarian aid, and aid for our borders.

With that, I will yield to Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Senators MURRAY, REED, SHAHEEN, SCHATZ, and HEINRICH to discuss the need to pass this supplemental funding package.

I spoke earlier today about the importance of humanitarian aid—humanitarian aid for the innocent civilians, Palestinian civilians in Gaza; humanitarian aid for people throughout the world. It is one major way that America has led through World War II and after, through the Cold War. Yes, we have led with our military strength, but we have also led by making friends and making sure people have what they need so they don't starve. And so many of those countries have gone on to do great things, to be great countries, to be democracies, to work with us to be trading partners.

But, today, I am here to focus on Ukraine. We are at a pivotal point not just in American history but in the history of humanity. It is during moments like these that nations across the globe look to America for leadership. They expect our leadership.

Yes, our friends in Ukraine are counting on us, but so are so many other allies as they look to see what we

will do. This has never been America alone helping Ukraine. It has been all-in for many countries.

Early in the conflict, I traveled to Poland with a number of Senators—Democrats and Republicans—and it was right when one of the first major loss of life had occurred in Ukraine at a military training facility. And we happened to be at the entry point where families were fleeing—people in wheelchairs, little kids with backpacks with nothing but their stuffed animal in it. That is what I remember.

I remember the Polish people who had been invaded over the years by the Hapsburgs, by the Nazis, by the Russians, opening their arms to these Ukrainians, which they are still doing today—millions of refugees.

We have played a very important role in this conflict. We have surprised the world, and I am certain we surprised Russia. And the Ukrainians have surprised them with their incredible courage when everyone had counted them out. This scrappy force who had been at the frontline for years already in Donbas and other regions in Ukraine who, once again, went to the frontline.

We trained them. It is our equipment that has been so superior, as well as those from our allies in this fight. And what has happened? Well, since Vladimir Putin's unprovoked and unlawful, unjustifiable invasion last February, our Ukrainian friends have reclaimed half of the territory that is rightfully theirs. Vladimir Putin tried to capture Kyiv, but he failed.

Senator PORTMAN and I, in the middle of the war, went and saw that airfield where the Russians had come down in parachutes thinking that the Ukrainians would just fold. They didn't fold. They held their ground and they kept Kyiv.

Vladimir Putin tried to wipe Ukraine off the map, but he failed.

He tried to break the Ukrainian spirit, but he has made it stronger.

He tried to take them down in the middle of winter last winter by cutting off their electricity. He threatened the biggest nuclear plant, not only in Ukraine but in all of Europe. There is no limit to what they will do. He has shown his true colors: capturing cities, slaughtering innocents, abducting Ukrainian children. But the Ukrainian people have shown theirs: defending their democracy against all odds in brilliant blue and yellow; cellists playing their song and their national anthem on burned-out steps; ballerinas going to the frontline in camo; a videographer delivering medical supplies to Ukrainian troops; the DJ at the national call center using her platform to find missing loved ones. It is not just the troops on the frontline; it is the entire country. And they are watching to see what they are doing.

I met with the Ukrainian Ambassador today along with the Speaker of their House, along with their Defense Minister; and they are watching. The Russians are using everything that is

said in this Chamber, everything that is done, because they are trying to use it against the Ukrainians. They are trying to break their spirit, break their backbone, break the morale of their troops. Well, it is not working. But they are watching.

This is our moment. I think Leader MCCONNELL put it best when he said—and I say this to our Republican colleagues when you think about the Iranian drones that were used by the Russians, when you think about the massacre in Israel and the fact that Hamas then went to Russia—a representative of this terrorist group went to Russia and met with leaders there:

Think of it as an axis of evil: China, Russia and Iran. So this is not just a test for Ukraine. It is a test for the United States and for the free world. And the path toward greater security for all of us is simple: Help Ukraine win the war.

Let us not forget what President Zelenskyy did in the hours immediately after the initial invasion, when everyone in the world—all those pundits that were at the Munich Security Conference that Senator SHAHEEN and I attended—people were counting him out. He did one incredibly brave thing followed by thousands of brave acts. He went to the street corner with just a few of his top advisors, and he stood there and looked at the camera and in the face of evil, in a statement of defiance, in a call to action to democracies everywhere, he said three simple words: “We are here.”

America heeded that call. Ukrainians heeded that call. And democracies all over the world united in every corner of the world, and we said: “We are here, too.”

The Ukrainian people have defended its nation against a tyrant, against one of the largest armies in the world. It is our moral obligation to stand by them. And talking to those leaders in the Baltic countries yesterday—Lithuania and Latvia and Estonia—they have been through this before. They have stood tall, but they know what the stakes are.

If we let this happen and we let Putin just march right in next month because we refused to help, he is not going to stop marching in their eyes because they have seen it before. We must ensure that democracy triumphs over autocracy; that humanity prevails over brutality; and that the spirit of Ukraine carries the day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I just want to make a point that we need a complete security package. All of these things are related, and all of them reinforce not only our allies and innocent civilians but also our own security and the future of the direction of the free world.

We are not going to turn our back on Ukraine. How many meetings did we

have via Zoom or actually in person with Zelenskyy where so many of our colleagues said we would always stand with Ukraine after all that Ukraine has been through. And I remember being in briefings where people were predicting that Ukraine would crumble in a matter of days. And they stood up to the Russian aggression and they continue to stand up to Russian aggression and they have actually pushed Russia back. That isn't just in Ukraine's interest. That is in the interest of the free world.

We need a security package that supports our allies in Israel, that supports the innocent civilians in Gaza that are also the victims of what Hamas has done. And we need a security package that stands with our allies in Ukraine.

Mr. President, I would offer the rest of my time to my colleague from Hawaii.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. We are in a global fight against fascism and authoritarianism. We are seeing it in Putin's war in Ukraine, and we are seeing it with Hamas and the unspeakable horrors it committed on and since October 7. And we are seeing it with Xi Jinping's explicit desire to take Taiwan by force.

These people do not hide their true intentions. They telegraph them to the whole world; and, worse, they are willing to do whatever it takes. Nothing is off limits to them. And that is the seriousness of the global threat of an increasingly coordinated fascist movement. And so to address one of these problems but not the other, to somehow judge one threat to be greater than the other, to say we are going to fund Israel but not Ukraine, is wrong. It is wrong morally because evil is evil, no matter where it occurs. And it is wrong strategically because we have a direct national security interest wherever fascism rears its ugly head.

Take off your Ukraine lapel pins. Take back everything you said to President Zelenskyy.

We were in the House when he addressed us. Everyone was anxious to shake his hand and express support. We put it into our Twitter bios. We put on the little lapel pin. We had him in the Old Senate Chamber on a bipartisan basis.

Everybody is for Ukraine—unless it is hard. Everybody is for Ukraine—unless I can't get something unrelated on domestic policy.

Everybody is for Ukraine when it is popular, when it is the thing that just happened. But the moment Donald J. Trump wants to defund this war, a lot of people go: Oh, my God, maybe I am not so enthusiastic about this.

If you are for something, vote for the thing. There are a million other jobs out there where you can be for something and never be put to the test. I have an opinion. I am a guy at a bar. I am a person at a bus stop. It is Sunday

night dinner. I have an opinion. But in this job, the way to determine whether or not you are for something is not what you said before the vote, but it is how you voted. And if you are for Ukraine, you have to vote to help Ukraine to defend itself in a land war in Europe.

There is a land war in Europe. Vladimir Putin is trying to take Ukraine by force, and he might just do it if we abandon them. So, if you are for Ukraine, vote for Ukraine.

I would now like to yield to the senior Senator from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I am pleased to be able to join my colleagues again on the floor of the Senate to support a supplemental funding request that recognizes the breadth of our national security interests in this country. That is a supplemental funding request that must include Ukraine, Israel, humanitarian needs, and the emerging challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

The horrific events of October 7—2 months ago tomorrow—was the worst terrorist attack that Israel has faced. We know that over 1,000 innocent Israelis were killed. It was barbaric. Now, both Ukraine and Israel face a similar threat against adversaries that seek to destroy them. A holistic national security supplemental bill is critical to protecting our interests—America's interests. We must pass an appropriations bill that supports our allies in Israel and Ukraine and that fully funds the other critical efforts that provide for our national security.

My colleagues have been very eloquent tonight, but I want to add to their explanations about why continued support for Ukraine is critical.

We should be proud that with strong bipartisan support, our country has stood with Ukraine since before the beginning of Russia's unprovoked invasion almost 2 years ago. We have done so with our NATO allies and our international partners, including South Korea and Japan, that recognize what is at stake even though they are a half a world away. Our allies and partners have contributed a total of \$94.1 billion to support Ukraine's war and recovery effort. That is more than the United States has contributed.

We had a chance earlier this afternoon in the Foreign Relations Committee to meet with the new Foreign Secretary, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, David Cameron.

I asked him: How will Europe—how will our allies in Europe—view a decision by the U.S. Senate not to provide funding to help Ukraine wage this courageous war?

He said that it would have a dramatic impact in Europe, where we are seeing NATO stronger than he said he could remember in his lifetime because of coming together to support Ukraine

and to oppose Putin. He said it would send a message about future support for Ukraine that would have a huge impact as we think about the international order and our ability to keep dictators like Vladimir Putin and President Xi of China, like the Ayatollah in Iran, like North Korea—those dictatorships—from thinking they can invade any country they want to if they happen to be stronger.

Alongside our international partners, we recognize that the Ukrainian people are not only defending their land and freedom, they are fighting for the preservation of liberal democracies around the world.

What Senator MARSHALL is proposing strips out the essential funding that we need to address the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party in the Indo-Pacific. It neglects the urgent and growing humanitarian needs for both Ukraine and the people in Gaza who are affected by this war. Failing to pass a national security package would embolden Putin, Iran, and the Chinese Communist Party. It would show our adversaries around the world that America is not up to the task of defending democracy and that we are not capable of standing by our friends for the long run.

I remember the outcry in this body when the United States pulled out of Afghanistan, and I have to say I opposed that effort. But what do we think the pulling of our support for Ukraine is going to say to the rest of the world?

We must be clear in sending an unequivocal message: America stands with our allies in the face of this kind of devastating attack that Vladimir Putin and Russia has made on Ukraine. To do that, we must pass a holistic funding package to underscore that America is not going to pick and choose when the United States stands on the side of freedom and democracy.

Our adversaries want the United States to fall short in standing up for its allies; they want us to be divided. We need to show them that we are not divided but that we are united.

When I am back in New Hampshire, my constituents continue to tell me that they support continuing to provide funding and help for Ukraine. We have a great humanitarian effort in New Hampshire called the Common Man for Ukraine that is headed up by a number of businesspeople. They provide supplies and support for the Ukrainian people and for kids. It is important that we fund a holistic response to address all of the issues that we are facing—Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, humanitarian, and our southern border. And, yes, we should be able to come to a compromise on addressing border security.

The Democrats stand ready to work with our colleagues in the Senate. We can come up with a compromise. We can do this in a way that is in the United States' national security interests.

With that, I would like to turn the time over to Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator SHAHEEN.

In reserving the right to object, in 1978, before I was elected to Congress, I had the opportunity to take a trip to the Soviet Union and spend 3 weeks there. I saw a lot. In addition to the visits to Russia and Moscow, we visited countries like Lithuania, where my mother was born, and I witnessed firsthand the vision of Vladimir Putin and the Soviet Union.

Make no mistake, his goal is to restore the Soviet Union, to take vulnerable countries and to subsume them with his own ego and his own view of the world. To visit Lithuania and see what they had done to the freedoms that we just take for granted in America was an eye opener to me: to see the cathedral in Vilnius, with its beautiful frescos whitewashed by the Soviets because they didn't want people to practice religion; to realize that they controlled everything—radio stations, newspapers—and to realize that they dictated who would win an election. There was no freedom in that country.

That is the communist view. That is the Soviet view. That is the Vladimir Putin view. Are we in favor of that, Senator? I don't think so. I know you aren't personally, and you don't want to see that lifestyle imposed on people around the world any more than I do.

In Ukraine, they had the courage to stand up and say to Putin: We will fight you to the death to stop this from happening.

They have surprised a lot of people. I remember the briefing—the Senator from Kansas might have attended it—where we asked the intelligence experts: How long can Ukraine hold out when the Russian military machine comes marching in?

They said: A matter of days—days—maybe weeks, but not much more.

They were wrong. And do you know why they were wrong? Because they underestimated the Ukrainian people and what they were willing to do to protect their country.

I have a special, as they say, selfish interest in this because I know that if Putin is successful in Ukraine, if this war criminal has his way and takes over the Ukrainian country for his Soviet Union—his new Soviet Union—the next country on the list is probably Lithuania and the Baltics: Poland, Latvia, Estonia. They are obvious targets because they are small and vulnerable, but they do have the NATO alliance standing behind them.

So not only do I support the Ukrainian effort because of the courage of the people and their success and how much I abhor Vladimir Putin and his agenda, I also realize it is in America's best interest that Ukrainians prevail. It is in our best interest to stop Putin in Ukraine so that we don't have to use the NATO alliance to stop him in a country where we would be sending American troops to fight the battle. We

should stand foursquare behind Ukraine because it is the right thing to do, and it is the right thing for America.

Today, the Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament came to my office, Mr. Stefanchuk, and he had a very simple message for me and the Senators who had gathered there: Without U.S. assistance, Ukraine will struggle and probably lose this war.

Oh, he reminded us that they would fight to the death, and I am sure they will if it comes down to that dire situation. It also reminded me that this is not just another political debate. What we are talking about is assistance to a country where people today are fighting and dying for their freedom, a country for which we promised support for over 2 years, a country we need to stand by.

Now you have asked us to support Israel. I will tell you this as well. Last week, many of us, on a bipartisan basis, watched videos from the October 7 invasion of the Hamas terrorists into Israel. It was horrifying. It was a terrible 40 minutes. I had to avert my eyes several times because I couldn't stand to look at the scenes of systemic rape, of attacks, murder. I will never forget those two little boys whose parents had just been killed outside the living room, sitting in their living room, saying: Are we going to die? It was these two little boys, and it was on tape. That was the reality of the atrocity of October 7.

Israel has the right to exist. Israel has the right to defend itself, and I stand behind Israel as most Americans do. I want to see their support. But please don't give us this "Sophie's Choice" of picking our favorite child to die. I don't want either Israel or Ukraine to die. I want them to have bright futures, and to have that, they need the United States now more than ever. Don't separate our loyalty. Our loyalty should be common and unified for both countries, Ukraine and Israel.

There are things we can say about humanitarian issues in the Gaza territories and what is happening there, but I am going to spare that for another day.

I will just say this: I stand behind Ukraine. I stand behind Israel. Don't separate them. Let's stand behind both of them because they are both consistent with the values of the United States.

I yield to the Senator from Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on behalf of all the Senators who spoke so eloquently and forcefully tonight, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, what we have brought forward tonight is a House-passed, stand-alone package of aid for Israel. We didn't bring for-

ward the entire security package, which already failed. We have tried that. It didn't work.

So many of my colleagues across the aisle, indeed, spoke eloquently in support of Ukraine as well as Israel. I think back to what my college track coach said.

He said:

Don't tell me. Show me.

So I am going to quote some words from the Democratic Party, and I want you to think about the words lining up with the actions. When people vote against the stand-alone aid for Israel, is that consistent with their own words?

This is Secretary Blinken on October 13:

No country can tolerate having a terrorist group come in, slaughter its people in the most unconscionable ways and live like that. What Israel is doing is not retaliation, it is defending the lives of its people.

Next is Secretary Austin on October 20:

So, make no mistake: The United States will make sure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself.

Next, President Biden on October 10:

So, in this moment, we must be crystal clear: We stand with Israel.

He says it again.

We stand with Israel, and we will make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens, defend itself, and respond to this attack.

Again, President Biden on 20 October:

In Israel, we must make sure that they have what they need to protect their people today and always.

Finally, the majority leader, the senior Senator from New York, on 15 November:

We will not rest until you get the assistance you need.

Folks, this is the opportunity. This is the time. This is the time to stand up for Israel, to make good on those pledges. I meticulously listened to my friends across the aisle and their arguments. What we are talking about today—what the bill is about today—is aid to Israel.

As I listened carefully to their objections, their objection with this particular bill was with the pay-fors, and I respect that. The second objection was that they wanted more humanitarian assistance to Hamas and the people of Gaza as well, and I respect that as well.

So bring us that bill—that stand-alone bill—that includes what you think is appropriate for a pay-for and what type of humanitarian assistance you want to make sure Hamas gets as well.

But the real argument—the real argument made tonight—was to use Israel as a tool, to use it as a lever to fund Ukraine. And, again, I listened carefully. I tried to count how many times my friends across the aisle said "Ukraine" or "Putin," and I stopped when I got to over 50. Israel was mentioned less than 10 times. They talked

about their national security package—their supplemental package—and they really should call it the “lovefest for Ukraine” package.

I respect where they are coming from. I think it is how and how much and when do we give the people of Ukraine right now in a situation that has been a stalemate for a year—really, no progress made for a year.

Two hundred thousand people have died in that war and 500,000 casualties. There is no end in sight. This looks to me like a 7- or 10-year war. It looks like it is Vietnam all over again.

I remember the early days of Vietnam, when there were a few people saying: Slow down. Let's stop. There are too many people who are dying in this situation right now.

Let's have that debate. Let's pull Ukraine out, and let's have that debate.

I honestly believe, if we would have passed this Israel package a month ago and then worked on a Ukraine package starting then, we would have a Ukraine package done.

What I wish is that my friends across the aisle were as passionate, though, about the security of our own southern border as about the lines of another country—the property lines of another country, their boundaries.

I think I heard my friends across the aisle talk about the border maybe four or five times. The No. 1 national security threat—the most immediate national security threat to Americans—is our open southern border. Do we have to repeat the numbers? Ten million people have crossed the border illegally in the past 3 years, 1.7 million “got-aways,” 70,000 aliens of interest, hundreds of known terrorists.

All the lights are blinking red right now. All the lights are blinking red. That is what Director Wray said, yesterday, up here on the Hill, that on terrorist threats, all the lights are blinking red. And why wouldn't they, with these 1.7 million “got-aways” throughout the country doing who knows what?

If my friends across the aisle are serious about a national security supplemental package, it starts with meaningful security at the southern border—meaningful security, not a process that actually promotes more people crossing the border.

It has to include something that impacts asylum and parole. It has to literally secure the border, I think, even to begin this next debate. America needs to get its own house in order before we can help fix other people's houses.

I understand the needs across this world are many. And my compassion, my heart, whether it is for the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel—I share those same compassions, but we just can't keep throwing good money after bad money. We have to have people with accountability. We have to make sure that there is a goal—that there is a goal that we can win.

So, at the end of the day, the most prudent thing for this body to do would be to pass this standalone aid for Israel. Take it off the chess board. Let's get that one done. But, instead, my friends across the aisle want to use it as a political tool, a tool to leverage their funding for Ukraine. Let's have that discussion separately.

I think it is time that this body do what we say we want to do. Let's not rest until we get this assistance to Israel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, a couple of hours ago, Republicans voted down the motion to even begin debating the national security supplemental appropriations bill. They claim to support Israel and Ukraine, but, when it came time to act, they voted no.

But let's be clear about one thing: Every part of this bill is essential for America's national security.

We have two wars raging and a number of other threats brewing around the world, and this funding for our allies and our partners could not be more urgent. It is the difference between having the weapons to fight terrorists and authoritarians or not, having food and water for civilians caught in conflicts or not, having the defense systems to deter China from meddling in Taiwan or not.

Our friends are counting on us to help them, and our adversaries are counting on us being too divided to do even the most basic task.

America remains the indispensable Nation. It is the leader of the free world. It is the Nation that other countries, big and small, look to in good times and in bad, and it is a responsibility that we have never shirked away from. And now is not the time to start. Now is not the time to turn our backs on Israel, on innocent Palestinians in Gaza, on Ukraine, on Taiwan, or on any of our other allies and partners around the world.

We are fighting an increasingly linked global fascist movement, and it is directly tied to our security interests. So we ought to act like it and pass this supplemental to keep our adversaries and competitors from redrawing the world as they wish, at the point of a gun.

So let's start with Israel. There has been a lot of talk on both sides of the aisle about the merits of conditioning aid, as if it is a novel or unusual concept, except that it is not. The idea that funding requirements under Federal law for any Federal appropriations, that that is somehow amounting to abandoning our ally or a break from the norms is belied by history.

Whenever we approve Federal spending, whether it is for HUD for public housing or the Federal Highway Administration for repairs or the Department of the Interior for parks, we require detailed plans on exactly how the money will be used, and we expect to

receive some sort of reporting on it afterward. It is also standard practice for our own Defense Department and aid to other allies, which we routinely scrutinize.

So it should be no different for Israel and the IDF or Ukraine—and in a hot war, no less. There are millions of innocent lives caught in the crossfire, and we have every reason to make sure that Israel is using the weapons that we provide, funded by our own taxpayer dollars, in a manner that is consistent with international humanitarian laws and American values. That is taking every step possible to minimize civilian casualties.

In many ways, the debate around conditioning aid is emblematic of the wider one around Israel and Palestine, which has become so hostile and so binary that people aren't even open to hearing the other side. It is near impossible to have a dialogue when all people are interested in is throwing rhetorical barbs and attacking the other side.

If you condemn Hamas's unspeakable brutality on October 7 and hold it accountable for the death and bloodshed on that day and in the days since, then you are supposedly excusing the conditions under the blockade or you are accused of turning a blind eye to settler violence before and since October 7.

If you question the manner in which Israel is waging war and the carnage and suffering the war has wrought on innocent lives, including children and babies, you are suddenly not sufficiently pro-Israel.

If you call out the fact that anti-Semitism is on the rise here in the United States and around the world, that it is one of the oldest sicknesses and a scourge that must be addressed, then somehow you are indifferent to Islamophobia or the suffering of Palestinians.

No, I know anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hatred are alive and well, too, and believe that they must be rooted out with equal force. And my heart breaks for the countless innocent lives being lost in Gaza daily.

All of these things are true at the same time. They are in tension with each other, yes, but not in contradiction. There is an awfully messy and deeply, deeply contested history underpinning this conflict. So to strip away all that context and flatten all these complexities into a 15-second TikTok is a disservice to the Palestinian and Israeli causes alike.

There are no simple and straightforward paths to peace here, but if we can't engage without first holding purity tests, if we can't acknowledge two things to be true at the same time, if we can't recognize each other's humanity, then we are not going to be able to build a just and lasting peace in the region.

Almost everybody believes Hamas is terrible and should be eliminated. They want the hostages who were cruelly abducted and have spent 2 agonizing

months in captivity to be immediately released. They are appalled by reports of Hamas's sexual violence against women and the drugging of hostages. And they believe Israel has a legitimate right and responsibility to go after the bad guys. The question is how.

People are increasingly and understandably alarmed at the scale of human suffering and the high rate of civilian casualties in Gaza. It is our job, as Israel's closest ally, to convey that truth and to make clear that mass suffering actively undermines the possibility of a future peace. A whole new generation will be radicalized watching scores of loved ones die and entire neighborhoods leveled. That is in no one's interest.

So our responsibility in the current moment is twofold: to provide Israel with military aid, which I have consistently supported and I will continue to support, but it is equally important to provide moral clarity and strategic counsel when actions cross a line.

We do both of these things because we care. We also have an obligation to look at the future because, whether it is 10 months from now or 10 years from now, these two peoples need a way to live in relative peace and stability side by side—if not as friends, then as neighbors.

Palestinians, like Israelis, deserve a legitimate, representative, and democratically elected government, and the only viable path to achieving that is through a two-state solution. It is the only way to guarantee a safe home for the Jewish people in Israel, and it is the only way to ensure Palestinians have a secure state of their own. A solution that does not recognize the humanity of both Israelis and Palestinians is not just, and a solution that does not give both peoples the condition to prosper without fear of violence will not last.

Let's talk about the other part of this supplemental—Ukraine, which is, unfortunately, also all too familiar with battles over sovereignty and coexistence.

Ukrainians have spent almost 2 years fighting against Putin for their very survival. And, make no mistake, Russia's failure to capture Ukraine so far is in no small part due to America's support and our leading role in rallying the world to stand up to Putin's aggression. We know that President Zelenskyy knows that and, crucially, Putin knows that. In fact, not long ago, he crowed that Ukraine wouldn't last a week—wouldn't last a week—without help from the West.

So the consequences of failure to support Ukraine are not theoretical. They are dire, and they are dangerous. Ukraine, as we speak, is running out of bullets and other munitions. Already, our shipments have been diminishing in scope and frequency, as existing aid runs low, and it will be completely exhausted in a matter of weeks or months. Heading into the winter, the

lack of additional assistance is likely to prove catastrophic.

But some of my Republican colleagues here are willing to undermine the free world. I don't say this lightly. I like a lot of them. But they are willing to undermine the free world and let Putin win because they want hard-line immigration and border policy.

Democrats have demonstrated a willingness to stretch here. Democrats—and I was texting some of the Republican colleagues with whom I work very closely, and I said: Look, we are already two-thirds of the way. We can't go all the way to your position. We cannot enact a bipartisan bill if it is a partisan bill. But the idea that, if we don't concede on a wholly unrelated matter, then Putin wins in a land war in Europe? Are we really doing this?

And I want to just say one thing to my friends in the media—and God bless them. God bless the fourth estate for all they do, but I am also entitled to offer a constructive criticism: Stop pretending this is normal.

(Ms. HASSAN assumed the Chair.)

Stop pretending it is acceptable to take a major foreign policy issue—this is a land war in Europe. Vladimir Putin just decided to try to take a country by force. And what they say is: Well, we don't support that. We support Ukraine, but we see that we have leverage.

By the way, this is not a rhetorical flourish of mine. Senator CORNYN said this 2 days ago. This is not a negotiation, is what he said. This is the price you have to pay. This is the price you Democrats have to pay.

What are we doing here? This is a foreign policy supplemental. We are supposed to be for these things.

I could have woken up one morning and said: You know what, if we don't enact my climate policies—which I feel urgently passionate about—then I am a “no” on Ukraine because I know I have leverage and they need every vote.

The reason I won't do that is I am not bananas. I am a responsible legislator, and I know that is not the way you do things.

The idea—I have never seen this before. I have only been here 11 years. I am sure there is some historical precedent for it, but not recently have we tied a foreign policy objective to an unrelated domestic policy objective.

What they will say is: Look, it is all security.

Oh, come on. I understand the passion there is on the border. I understand the problem there is on the border. But it is not a foreign policy question, and the idea that we are going to let Ukraine get taken—Kyiv will be in Russian control because we couldn't make a border deal? We haven't been able to make a border deal for—well, since I have been here for sure and then 5 years prior to that. That stuff is hard. You don't take literally the most difficult issue that I can think of in the Congress to forge a bipartisan consensus and say: If we don't get it, then, I am sorry, Kyiv is just going to fall.

That is no way to run a railroad. That is no way to be the indispensable Nation.

You walk into any global convening—and I remember—I am looking at the Presiding Officer. I am sure the Presiding Officer has had this experience. You are a Governor, and everybody wants to know what you think, but when you are a Senator, you are not sure if people are going to be as interested in what you think.

When you travel abroad, even when I was an appointed freshman Senator, people are hanging on your every word—not as a head of state but just as a representative of the U.S. Government. We remain the indispensable Nation. Everyone wants to know what we are going to do. Everyone wants to know what we think. They want to know what we are funding. They want to know what our priorities are. So we cannot forfeit that global leadership because we are fighting about something else.

Now, again, Democrats have demonstrated by their negotiations, by all of our public pronouncement, that we are willing to stretch a little bit on this because it is that important. But it would be a hell of a thing for us to allow Vladimir Putin to win because we are too busy in a partisan battle about something totally unrelated.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of PN802, Jamie Fly to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board, and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: PN802 and Calendar Nos. 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, and 164, and vote without intervening action or debate, en bloc; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Jamie Fly, of Virginia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027, (New Position); Kathleen Cunningham Matthews, of Maryland, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027, (New Position); Jeffrey Gedmin, of the District

of Columbia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2025, (New Position); Kenneth M. Jarin, of Pennsylvania, to be Chair of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board, (New Position); Kenneth M. Jarin, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027, (New Position); Luis Manuel Botello, of Maryland, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2025, (New Position); and Michelle Mai Selesky Giuda, of Virginia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027, (New Position)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 206, Dante Quintin Allen, of California, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dante Quintin Allen, of California, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

PROVIDING REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3250 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3250) to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988

Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

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

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1372) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 3, lines 11 and 12, strike "that remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case be made available" and inserting "that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available".

The bill (S. 3250), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3250

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND.

(a) DEFINITION OF VICTIM OF CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the term "victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103" means any individual—

(A) who suffered direct or proximate harm as a result of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that occurred over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, and was present at or near the scene of the bombing when it occurred, or immediately thereafter; or

(B) who is the spouse, legal guardian, parent, child, brother, sister, next of kin, or other relative of, or who is determined by the applicable district court of the United States to be an individual who possesses a relationship of similar significance to, an individual described in subparagraph (A) or an individual otherwise described in this subsection.

(2) LIMITATION.—The term "victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103" does not include an individual who participated or conspired in the crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or other law or rule to the contrary, in order to permit victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 to access court proceedings in the criminal case against Abu Agila Mohammed Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi and against any co-conspirator subsequently charged and prosecuted in a court of the United States for crimes related to the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the district court of the United States in such a case shall order that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available to victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(2) NO LIMIT ON LOCATION.—Remote video and telephonic access to proceedings shall be made available under paragraph (1) to a victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 without regard to the location of the victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(c) DISTRICT COURT DISCRETION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate or limit the discretion of a district court of the United States to control the manner, circumstances, or availability of remote video or telephonic transmissions where necessary to control the courtroom or protect the integrity of court proceedings or the safety of parties, witnesses, or other participants in the proceedings.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

RECOGNIZING JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 445 and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 445, S. Res. 487, S. Res. 488, S. Res. 489, and S. Res. 490.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table, all en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 445) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 2, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolutions (S. Res. 487, S. Res. 488, S. Res. 489, and S. Res. 490) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 116-156, on behalf of the Majority Leader, reappoints the following individual to serve as a Member

of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: Rev. Alfred C. Sharpton of New York.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ALLEN "SIG" BLACK

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize Maj. Allen "Sig" Black who has worked in my Senate office this year as a defense fellow. Major Black is a patriot who has served our country nobly and made it a safer and better place. It has been a pleasure to have him in my office.

Major Black joined the Air Force in 2011 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Pennsylvania State University. He began flying the F-22 fighter aircraft soon after completing the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training in Texas and has since become a masterful Air Force pilot and knowledgeable authority on virtually every detail of the Raptor. In total, Major Black served as an operational F-22 pilot for 5 years, deploying for combat operations in Operation Inherent Resolve and executing numerous homeland and Presidential protection missions.

Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., Major Black spent 3 years at Edwards Air Force Base in California. There, where he attended the U.S. Air Force Pilot Test School and left as a distinguished graduate and the Liethen-Tittle Award winner as the top test pilot graduate in class 19A. While still serving at Edwards, Major Black also distinguished himself as F-22 command chief pilot and assistant director of operations of the 411th Flight Test Squadron, 412th Operations Group.

In 2021, Major Black led the F-22 Combined Test Force through 26 F-22 and 20 F-16 developmental test missions and several first-time events. Twelve of his missions were supporting elevated risk F-22 envelope expansion tests. For one such mission, Major Black planned and led the first F-22 high angle of attack test in 17 years while carrying a new externally podded capability. His success in executing 12 additional missions evaluating new F-22 software led to the fielding of the first F-22 Rapid Agile Capability Release operational flight program.

Major Black is a skilled military leader. He directed the No. 1 DOD weapon program, developed new F-22 open software pathways, and has helped lead numerous working groups. According to Air Force Materiel Command, "The distinctive accomplishments of Major Black reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force." For these achievements, Major Black was awarded the Lieutenant General Bobby Bond Memorial Aviator Award, which is the award for the best test pilot of the year in the entire Air Force.

I could not have been assigned a more talented pilot to join my office in January 2023, representing the Air Force in Congress as a Defense Fellow.

During his time in my office, he staffed over 25 high-level engagements and at least 10 hearings, along with helping draft dozens of pieces of legislation to strengthen our Nation's defense. He has also provided meticulous and incisive research that has guided my office on important public policy questions. His colleagues have been consistently grateful for his attention to detail, willingness to diligently analyze problems, and ability to translate complex military concepts into digestible language. His passion and dedication to making this great Nation safer was evident each and every day working in the Senate.

Finally, I cannot honor Major Black without also thanking his family: his wife Kelsey, his daughter Sloane, and his son Nicholas. I am grateful to his family for sharing him with my team.

Major Black has had a remarkable career and he has a promising future ahead. He is exactly the kind of man and leader that our military needs. For these reasons and many more, I was honored to have Major Black in my office this year.

Sig, thank you for your service to Arkansas and to the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD HEPPER

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I want to honor a very special North Dakota resident who is turning 100 years old on December 15. Harold Hepper was a longtime resident of McClusky and most recently has lived in Bismarck, where he will celebrate this landmark birthday.

Harold embodies the very best of the Greatest Generation. A year after graduating from McClusky High School in 1942, he and five buddies were drafted into the Army and traveled to Fort Snelling, MN. Initially rejected because of his poor eyesight, Harold returned home and begged the Selective Service Board for another chance to serve. After obtaining plastic glasses, he was able to train at Camp Barkeley, TX, to be an Army medical aidman.

He shipped out from New Jersey for England and was on the frontlines in France the summer of 1944, where he was wounded in the shoulder during the Battle of Brest. Following his participation in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, that December found him in the Battle of the Bulge. There, thousands of Americans died in what was the largest and bloodiest U.S. battle of World War II. The first day of the battle on December 16 brought heavy casualties on both sides. Harold and other medics worked on the front lines for 10 days, providing nonstop medical aid before they were relieved.

Harold was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and other campaign medals. Honorably discharged in November 1945, he has remained active in veterans organizations the rest of his life. This includes 76 years as a member of the McClusky American Legion. Returning home, Harold worked as an insurance agent at the First National Bank of McClusky for 44 years before retiring in 1987. He joined the McClusky Fire Department in 1954 and served there for 33 years, including one year as fire chief. Harold and his wife, Laura, who died in 2015, raised two daughters, Debra and Gail. They will join five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and other family, friends, and veterans groups in honoring Harold on his 100th birthday.

North Dakota is home to more than 200 centenarians, and we consider them among our most treasured residents. Their pioneer spirit, dignity, and hard work have brought them through many challenges and personal achievements. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank Harold Hepper for his service to our country and wish him a happy 100th birthday. I hope you enjoy continued good health and vitality.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. CARL HEILMAN

• Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to thank Dr. Carl Heilman for his many years of service to the free State of Kansas and Barton Community College, as well as honor him for all that he accomplished during his career.

A lifelong educator committed to service, Carl began his journey at the University of Northern Iowa as a student, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in social sciences. After graduating, Carl would continue his education at Northern Iowa, obtaining a master of arts in counseling, later pairing that with a master of arts in public administration from Minnesota State University. Carl completed his formal education with a doctor of philosophy in higher education administration from Iowa State University.

With this knowledge in hand, Carl served in administrative positions at several colleges across the U.S. Beginning at Iowa Lakes Community College in Iowa, Carl was both a chairperson and faculty member. While at Northland Pioneer College in Arizona, Carl served as vice president for student services, and at Lincoln Trail College-Illinois Eastern Community College District, Carl was campus president.

But Carl's service to the State of Kansas began in 2006 when he became the fifth president of Barton Community College. Carl hit the ground running, quickly building rapport with the board of trustees, faculty and staff, local community constituents, and the student body. With this support, Carl set attainable goals for the future of Barton, establishing it as a dynamic institution able to weather

limited access to resources, fluctuating economic conditions, and shifting State demographics. Under Carl's guidance, Barton has expanded its online learning options, generated diverse workforce training opportunities, and expanded services to Kansas military communities. In fact, Carl was integral in keeping the 1st Infantry Division stationed in Kansas, as his testimony to the Kansas Governor Military Council on behalf of Kansas higher education for The Big Red One proved persuasive to the 2015 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

With these accomplishments, it is unsurprising that Carl received exceptional recognition from the State of Kansas. He served an unprecedented 3 years as chairperson for the system council of Kansas Community College Presidents, where he oversaw the statewide implementation of a public higher education course articulation process, the introduction of a public higher education reverse transfer model, and the development of reverse transfer for both community colleges and the private college system. Thanks to Carl, these actions have eased administrative processes for Kansas students and administrators, making life simpler for everyone.

Carl will officially retire from Barton Community College on June 30, 2024, after over 17 years of service to the people of Kansas. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Carl Heilman, as well as thank him for all his work on behalf of the state of Kansas and Barton Community College.●

RECOGNIZING MID KANSAS COOPERATIVE

● Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the Mid Kansas Cooperative and honor them for their reception of the esteemed Retailer of the Year Award, presented by the Agricultural Retailers Associations, ARA.

I am extremely proud that the Mid Kansas Cooperative, a pillar of prosperity in central Kansas since 1965, has received ARA's extremely prestigious award this year. Known locally as MKC, the co-op is headquartered in Moundridge and offers a complete line of products, programs, and services citizens throughout the State of Kansas. With more than 600 employees, 11,000 members, and 8,000 customers through a wholly-owned subsidiary, MKC specializes in grain, agronomy, energy, feed, and risk management. The farm communities that Mid Kansas Co-op serves have a long history of fostering innovations in grain production, and MKC continues that tradition by utilizing technology like drones and autonomous robots for precision agriculture management tactics.

White pickup trucks bearing the MKC logo dot the plains from planting to harvest, and their specialists aid Kansas producers in making agronomic decisions all year long. While many co-

ops provide goods and services as a complement to agriculture producers, MKC goes above and beyond through a robust college internship program and investments back into the very communities that their branches inhabit through scholarships and sponsorships.

In combining the two facets of a productive workforce and expert knowledge, MKC maintains its position as an innovative steward of Kansas farmland, an exceptional provider of customer service, and a leader in local communities across a great portion of the State of Kansas. This commitment to excellence and innovation in the agricultural sector made MKC a more than worthy winner of the Retailer of the Year Award. They truly embody their motto of "Shared growth. Shared success."

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MKC president and CEO Brad Stedman, along with all other MKC member-owners and employees, for being named the Agricultural Retailers Association's 2023 Retailer of the Year.●

RECOGNIZING THE MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor a group of Missouri's finest high school football teams. Last week, there was a lot of memorable football that was played for State trophies. From Lamar High School's dramatic comeback to Marionville High School's dominant display and Archie Whirlwind's victory, each game encapsulated the spirit of determination and excellence. These championships not only showcased remarkable individual and team performances but also underscored the deep-rooted passion for football in Missouri. The stories of these teams—their struggles, their strategies, and their victories—are a testament to the celebrated history of high school football in the State.

On December 2, 2023, the Lamar High School football team achieved a remarkable 35-28 overtime victory against Valle Catholic (12-2) in the Class 2 Show-Me Bowl. The Lamar Tigers, with a season record of 13-1, overcame a challenging 21-0 first-quarter deficit to clinch their ninth State championship. Quarterback Alex Wilkerson, alongside a formidable defense that conceded only one touchdown after the first quarter, played pivotal roles. Wilkerson's 25-yard touchdown kickstarted the overtime, and the Tigers' defense sealed the win by preventing Valle Catholic from gaining any first downs in OT.

On December 1, 2023, Marionville High School's football team won the class 1 state championship, defeating North Platte (12-2) with a decisive 29-0 score. The team's fast, physical playing style was evident right from the start. Their opening drive was 14 plays that led to a touchdown by Hugh Eaton. Head coach Padden Grubbs commended

his team's tough, physical approach and their resilience against challenging weather conditions. For the seniors, this victory marked the culmination of an impressive undefeated 14-0 record this season.

On November 30, 2023, the Archie High School Whirlwinds (14-0), in the eight-man State title game, won 40-26 over the Worth County High School Tigers (12-2). Archie Whirlwinds' quarterback, Briar McIntire, scored an impressive five rushing touchdowns. This strong performance by the team's quarterback was coupled with a dominant offensive and defensive line. Despite Worth County's brief resurgence, Archie maintained control, which was led by McIntire. The game ended with Worth County scoring 12 unanswered points to make it a two-score game; however, their attempt at comeback was thwarted by the Whirlwind's strong defense.

In closing, the Missouri high school football championships of 2023 were an impressive combination of talent, teamwork, and tenacity. Each team, regardless of victory, demonstrated a remarkable blend of skill, strategy, and sportsmanship. These teams have etched their names in the annals of Missouri's sports history. Congratulations to all the teams that competed in these games, and a special congratulations to Lamar, Marionville, and Archie for their outstanding accomplishments in the 2023 State championships.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 542. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home- and community-based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1547. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3848. An act to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1547. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3848. An act to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-3001. A communication from the Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act Final to Congress"; to the Committees on Finance; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3002. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Treasury received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3003. A communication from the Senior Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Program; Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Medicare Providers' and Suppliers' Disclosure of Private Equity Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts" (RIN0938-AU90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3004. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updated Lists of Jurisdiction Under Deposit Interest Rules" (Rev. Proc. 2023-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3005. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice: Revised Timeline Regarding Implementation of Amended Section 6050W(e)" (Notice 2023-74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3006. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3007. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3008. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, the President's Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of locality based comparability payments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3009. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2023-019, New Designated Country-North Macedonia" (RIN9000-AO67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3010. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Introduction" (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3011. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Technical Amendments" (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3012. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3013. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Retirement: Members of Congress and Congressional Employees" (RIN3206-AO42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3014. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FEDVIP: Extension of Eligibility to Certain Employees on Temporary Appointments and Certain Employees on Seasonal and Intermittent Schedules; Enrollment Clarifications and Exceptions for Changes in Enrollment" (RIN3206-AN91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3015. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs" (RIN3206-AO00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3016. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses" (RIN3206-AO57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3017. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3018. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource

Locator (URL) for the Foundation's fiscal year 2023 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3019. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3020. A communication from the Chair, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3021. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3022. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3023. A communication from the Chair of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of the recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 79th Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3024. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3025. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3026. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3027. A communication from the Director of Financial Management, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3028. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Summer K. Mersinger, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2028.

*Basil Ivanhoe Gooden, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2030.

*Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 3412. A bill to redesignate the Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, as the "Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 3413. A bill to reinstate pilots fired or forced to resign because of a COVID-19 vaccine mandate; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3414. A bill to support United States investment opportunities, strengthen bilateral collaboration in addressing criminal elements operating in the Brazilian Amazon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 3415. A bill to establish collective bargaining rights for college athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3416. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3417. A bill to prohibit the importation of seafood and aquaculture products from the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3418. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to modify the authorization of appropriations for the Las Vegas Wash program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 3419. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1765 Camp Hill Bypass in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, as the "John Charles Traub Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3420. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide for a set-aside for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers for grants to support urban agriculture and innovative production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3421. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQI-owned businesses; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3422. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a carbon border adjustment based on carbon intensity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3423. A bill to guarantee the right to vote for all citizens regardless of conviction of a criminal offense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3424. A bill to reauthorize the program for strengthening communities of recovery for individuals with substance use disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3425. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Resilient Communities Program to provide communities impacted by trade with grants for economic development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3426. A bill to reauthorize the YouthBuild program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3427. A bill to extend the authority to provide employees of the United States Secret Service with overtime pay beyond other statutory limitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3428. A bill to terminate the membership by the United States in the United Nations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3429. A bill to provide for just compensation in the event that eminent domain is exercised, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S.J. Res. 52. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency entitled "Finding That Lead Emissions From Aircraft Engines That Operate on Leaded Fuel Cause or Contribute to Air Pollution That May Reasonably Be Anticipated To Endanger Public Health and Welfare"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 487. A resolution commemorating the centennial of the American Battle Monuments Commission; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 488. A resolution recognizing Jobs for America's Graduates for helping young people of truly great promise in the United States succeed in school, on the job, and in postsecondary education, leading to generations of productive and rewarding careers; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 489. A resolution designating December 16, 2023, as "National Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. Res. 490. A resolution remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 342

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

S. 497

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to exclude a basic allowance for housing from income for purposes of eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

S. 656

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 656, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors 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. 1300

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms.

SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1606, a bill to end preventable maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, and maternal health disparities in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

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

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1851, a bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes.

S. 1885

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1885, a bill to eliminate employment-based visa caps on abused, abandoned, and neglected children eligible for humanitarian status, and for other purposes.

S. 2039

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2039, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan (or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) to provide for cost-sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost-sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of

the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2442

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2442, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2606

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2606, a bill to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to render available to certain long-term residents of the United States the benefit under that section.

S. 2669

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2669, a bill to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, and for other purposes.

S. 2767

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2767, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update the resource limit for supplemental security income eligibility.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 2916

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2916, a bill to provide for digital communication of prescribing information for drugs (including biological products), and for other purposes.

S. 2932

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2932, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to State Medicaid agencies,

public housing agencies, Continuums of Care, and housing finance agencies on connecting Medicaid beneficiaries with housing-related services and supports under Medicaid and other housing resources, and for other purposes.

S. 3008

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3008, a bill to provide back pay to Federal contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 3085

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3085, a bill to establish a program for purposes of carrying out programs to prevent adverse childhood experiences and promoting positive childhood experiences, and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct studies, evaluations, and research to address adverse childhood experiences, including through the promotion of positive childhood experiences.

S. 3220

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3220, a bill to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage prevention and treatment of coccidioidomycosis.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3311

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3311, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a demonstration program to test providing preferential treatment under the Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs for certain drugs and biologicals manufactured in the United States.

S. 3323

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3323, a bill to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Immigration Custody, and for other purposes.

S. 3364

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3416. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

S. 3416

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Climate Change Resiliency Fund for America Act of 2023”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sec. 101. Establishment of Climate Change Advisory Commission.

Sec. 102. Duties.

Sec. 103. Commission personnel matters.

Sec. 104. Funding.

Sec. 105. Termination.

TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

Sec. 201. Climate Change Resiliency Fund.

Sec. 202. Compliance with Davis-Bacon Act.

Sec. 203. Funding.

TITLE III—REVENUE

Sec. 301. Climate Change Obligations.

Sec. 302. Promotion.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Climate Change Advisory Commission established by section 101(a).

(2) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term “community of color” means a geographically distinct area in which the population of any of the following categories of individuals is higher than the average populations of that category for the State in which the community is located:

- (A) Black.
- (B) African American.
- (C) Asian.
- (D) Pacific Islander.
- (E) Other non-White race.
- (F) Hispanic.
- (G) Latino.
- (H) Linguistically isolated.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” includes—

- (A) a Federal agency;
- (B) a State or group of States;
- (C) a unit of local government or a group of local governments;
- (D) a utility district;
- (E) a Tribal government or a consortium of Tribal governments;
- (F) a State or regional transit agency or a group of State or regional transit agencies;
- (G) a nonprofit organization;
- (H) a special purpose district or public authority, including a port authority; and
- (I) any other entity, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—The term “environmental justice community” means a community with significant representation of communities of color, low-income communities, or Tribal and indigenous communities that experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects.

(5) FRONTLINE COMMUNITY.—The term “frontline community” means a low-income community, a community of color, or a Tribal community that is disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change or a phenomenon associated with climate change, including such a community that was or is at risk of being disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change or a phenomenon associated with climate change earlier than other such communities.

(6) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Climate Change Resiliency Fund established by section 201(a)(1).

(7) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low-income community” means any census block group in which 30 percent or more of the population are individuals with an annual household income equal to, or less than, the greater of—

(A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the median household income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

(8) PROJECT.—The term “project” means a project for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose performed by an eligible entity under section 201(b).

(9) QUALIFIED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PURPOSE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified climate change adaptation purpose” means an objective with a demonstrated intent to reduce the economic, social, and environmental impact of the adverse effects of climate change.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “qualified climate change adaptation purpose” includes infrastructure resiliency and mitigation, improved disaster response, and ecosystem protection, which may be accomplished through activities or projects with objectives such as—

- (i) reducing risks or enhancing resilience to sea level rise, extreme weather events, fires, drought, flooding, heat island impacts, or worsened indoor or outdoor air quality;
- (ii) protecting farms and the food supply from climate impacts;
- (iii) reducing risks of food insecurity that would otherwise result from climate change;
- (iv) ensuring that disaster and public health plans account for more severe weather;
- (v) reducing risks from geographical change to disease vectors, pathogens, invasive species, and the distribution of pests; and
- (vi) other projects or activities, as determined to be appropriate by the Commission.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(11) STATE.—The term “State” means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a commission to be known as the “Climate Change Advisory Commission”.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members—

(1) who shall be selected from the public and private sectors and institutions of higher education; and

(2) of whom—

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the National Climate Task Force;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(D) 2 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(E) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(c) TERMS.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(d) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(h) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(i) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

SEC. 102. DUTIES.

The Commission shall—

(1) establish recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for a Federal investment program funded by revenue from climate change obligations issued under section 301 for eligible entities that—

(A) improve and adapt energy, transportation, water, and general infrastructure impacted or expected to be impacted due to climate variability; and

(B) integrate best available science, data, standards, models, and trends that improve the resiliency of infrastructure systems described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, identify categories of the most cost-effective investments and projects that emphasize multiple benefits to human health, commerce, and ecosystems while ensuring that the Commission engages in early and meaningful community stakeholder involvement opportunities during the development of the recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 103. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate such personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 104. FUNDING.

The Commission shall use amounts in the Fund to pay for all administrative expenses of the Commission.

SEC. 105. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate on such date as the Commission determines after the Commission carries out the duties of the Commission under section 102.

TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

SEC. 201. CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States the “Climate Change Resiliency Fund”.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not less than 40 percent of the amounts in the Fund to fund projects that benefit communities that experience disproportionate impacts from climate change, including environmental justice communities, frontline communities, and low-income communities.

(B) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—All amounts deposited in the Fund in accordance with section 301(a) shall only be used—

(i) to fund new projects in accordance with this section; and

(ii) for administrative expenses of the Commission authorized under section 104.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall take such action as the Secretary determines necessary to assist in implementing the Fund in accordance with this section.

(b) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, shall carry out a program to provide funds to eligible entities to carry out projects for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring funds under subsection (b) shall, with respect to a project, submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by an eligible entity under this subsection shall include data relating to any benefits the eligible entity expects the project to provide to the community in which the applicable project is performed, such as—

(A) an economic impact; or

(B) improvements to public health.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall offer technical assistance to eligible entities preparing applications under this subsection.

(d) SELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select eligible entities to receive funds to carry out projects under this section based on criteria and guidelines determined and published by the Commission under section 102.

(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities planning to perform projects that will serve areas with the greatest need.

(e) NON-FEDERAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), in order to receive funds under this section, an eligible entity shall provide funds for a project in an amount that is equal to not less than 25 percent of the amount of funds provided under this section.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement under paragraph (1) for an eligible entity, especially an eligible entity performing a project benefitting a low-income community or an environmental justice community, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) there are no reasonable means available through which the eligible entity can meet the matching requirement; or

(B) the probable benefit of the project outweighs the public interest of the matching requirement.

(3) NO-MATCH PROJECTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award not less than 10 percent and not more than 40 percent of the total funds awarded under this section to eligible entities to which the matching requirement under paragraph (1) shall not apply.

(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority for funding under subparagraph (A) to an eligible entity performing a project in a community experiencing a disproportionate impact of climate change, including—

(i) an environmental justice community;

(ii) a low-income community; or

(iii) a community of color.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL LAW.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to waive the requirements of any Federal law or regulation that would otherwise apply to a project that receives funds under this section.

SEC. 202. COMPLIANCE WITH DAVIS-BACON ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by, or assisted in whole or in part by and through, the Fund shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of part A of title 40, United States Code.

(b) LABOR STANDARDS.—With respect to the labor standards described in this section, the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 203. FUNDING.

To carry out the program under section 201(b), the Secretary, in addition to amounts in the Fund, may use amounts that have been made available to the Secretary and are not otherwise obligated.

TITLE III—REVENUE

SEC. 301. CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate (referred to in this title as

the “Secretary”) shall issue obligations under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code (referred to in this title as “climate change obligations”), the proceeds from which shall be deposited in the Fund.

(b) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—Payment of interest and principal with respect to any climate change obligation issued under this section shall be made from the general fund of the Treasury of the United States and shall be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM LOCAL TAXATION.—All climate change obligations issued by the Secretary, and the interest on or credits with respect to such obligations, shall not be subject to taxation by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority.

(d) AMOUNT OF CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the aggregate face amount of the climate change obligations issued annually under this section shall be \$200,000,000.

(2) ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—For any calendar year in which all of the obligations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) have been purchased, the Secretary may issue additional climate change obligations during such calendar year, provided that the aggregate face amount of such additional obligations does not exceed \$800,000,000.

(e) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available to the Secretary and not otherwise obligated to carry out the purposes of this section.

SEC. 302. PROMOTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promote the purchase of climate change obligations through such means as are determined appropriate by the Secretary, with the amount expended for such promotion not to exceed \$10,000,000 for any fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

(b) DONATED ADVERTISING.—In addition to any advertising paid for with funds made available under subsection (c), the Secretary shall solicit and may accept the donation of advertising relating to the sale of climate change obligations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 487—COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

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

S. RES. 487

Whereas the American Battle Monuments Commission, also known as the “ABMC”, was founded by Congress on March 4, 1923, to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces through perpetually maintained cemeteries and memorials;

Whereas the American Battle Monuments Commission, for 100 years, has maintained the vision of General of the Armies John J. Pershing that “time will not dim the glory of their deeds”;

Whereas, in 1927, then-Major Dwight D. Eisenhower, of Abilene, Kansas, was assigned to the American Battle Monuments Commission and helped compose “A Guide to the

American Battle Fields in Europe", which he later helped to revise and expand to "American Armies and Battlefields in Europe: A History, Guide, and Reference Book", a guidebook for Americans traveling overseas to visit battle sites, cemeteries, and memorials of World War I;

Whereas, in 1928 and 1929, during the revision and expansion of that guidebook in Paris, France, then-Major Eisenhower gained critical geographic and cultural knowledge of Europe that would prove crucial during World War II;

Whereas, in 1944, during World War II, the temporary American St. Laurent Cemetery was established as the first American cemetery on European soil, eventually becoming the Normandy American Cemetery, which is the most visited cemetery maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission;

Whereas, in 2023, the American Battle Monuments Commission celebrates 100 years of service to members of our Armed Forces and their families;

Whereas the workforce of the American Battle Monuments Commission is comprised of dedicated civil service professionals and locally engaged staff in countries around the globe;

Whereas the American Battle Monuments Commission administers, operates, and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 32 Federal memorials, monuments, and markers, which are located in 17 foreign countries and territories, primarily commemorating the American war dead from World War I and World War II;

Whereas approximately 124,000 American war dead are buried in cemeteries operated by the American Battle Monuments Commission, and more than 94,000 Americans who were lost, missing in action, or buried at sea during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War are remembered by name on stone tablets at cemeteries and memorials maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission; and

Whereas the American Battle Monuments Commission seeks to educate the public on the history and sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces of the United States honored at cemeteries and memorials around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the century of service by the American Battle Monuments Commission and their personnel who have worked to honor the service and sacrifices of our fallen warriors and those who fought at their side;

(2) commends the work done by the American Battle Monuments Commission to oversee and execute commemorative events at cemeteries and memorials, especially for the benefit of veterans and families who return to those sacred grounds on milestone anniversaries or dates of personal significance;

(3) supports the efforts of the American Battle Monuments Commission to educate the coming generations, young Americans, and young people from around the world on the sacrifices made by those American soldiers, sailors, aviators, Marines, and members of the Coast Guard who died during military service and are buried or memorialized on the sacred grounds they steward;

(4) encourages all people of the United States to visit and pay their respects to those interred in cemeteries maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission overseas who died fighting against tyranny;

(5) lauds the continued mission carried out with excellence by the American Battle Monuments Commission; and

(6) wishes the American Battle Monuments Commission continued success for another 100 years and beyond.

SENATE RESOLUTION 488—RECOGNIZING JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES FOR HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE OF TRULY GREAT PROMISE IN THE UNITED STATES SUCCEED IN SCHOOL, ON THE JOB, AND IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, LEADING TO GENERATIONS OF PRODUCTIVE AND REWARDING CAREERS

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 488

Whereas Jobs for America's Graduates (referred to in this preamble as "JAG") is a State-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to serving youth who face significant challenges and helping them reach economic and academic success;

Whereas Jobs for Delaware Graduates was founded and tested in 1979 in the State of Delaware with the bipartisan leadership of Governor Pete du Pont and members of the General Assembly of the State of Delaware, and became the model for the creation of JAG;

Whereas JAG has served over 1,600,000 young people since its inception in 1980;

Whereas JAG has affiliates across 39 States and territories, including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, the United States Virgin Islands, West Virginia, and Wisconsin;

Whereas the Board of Directors of JAG is made up of leading Governors, executives of Fortune 500 companies, and national community leaders;

Whereas the JAG model consists of a comprehensive set of services designed to keep young people in school through graduation and improves their success rates in education and career by—

- (1) providing classroom instruction;
- (2) delivering competency-based instruction that seeks to equip students with not less than 37 JAG Employability Skills competencies;
- (3) providing project-based learning;
- (4) using trauma-informed care;
- (5) advising students as they make significant career and life decisions during the school year and beyond;
- (6) exposing students to job opportunities and career pathways in their own communities;
- (7) developing student civic engagement, public service, leadership development, career preparation, and social awareness;
- (8) helping graduates identify job opportunities and post-secondary education; and
- (9) helping to ensure that young people achieve success at work and in postsecondary education during the year following graduation;

Whereas JAG participants have regularly achieved higher than 90 percent graduation rates since the establishment of JAG, and a 95 percent graduation rate since 2019;

Whereas, every year, JAG meets the goals of employers in having well-prepared young people enter the workforce; and

Whereas the JAG National Student Leadership Academy will take place from November 30, 2023, to December 2, 2023, with more than 250 elected student officers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of the members, volunteers, alumni, and community partners of Jobs for America's Graduates in helping at-risk youth reach economic and academic success; and

(2) congratulates the young people enrolled in 2023 across 39 States in Jobs for America's Graduates.

SENATE RESOLUTION 489—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 16, 2023, AS "NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 489

Whereas 32 years before the date of adoption, the Wreaths Across America project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir veterans' remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the past 32 years, more than 17,100,000 wreaths have been sent to various locations, including national cemeteries and veterans' memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to "Remember, Honor, and Teach", is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

- (1) Arlington National Cemetery;
- (2) veterans' cemeteries; and
- (3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans' parade between Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

- (1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;
- (2) honoring those who serve; and
- (3) teaching the next generation of children about the service and sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by all in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, approximately 2,700,000 veterans' remembrance wreaths were delivered to over 3,700 locations across the United States;

Whereas, in December 2023, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery, will be continued by—

- (1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and
- (2) other patriotic escort units, including—
 - (A) motorcycle units;
 - (B) law enforcement units; and
 - (C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans' wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 4,000 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 17, 2022, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas, on December 16, 2023, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans' wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 16, 2023, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”;

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including—

(i) motorcycle units;

(ii) law enforcement units; and

(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the millions of volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, their family members, and members of the Armed Forces have made, and continue to make, for this great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 490—REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA AND COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 490

Whereas December 6, 2023, the 4-year anniversary of the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this preamble as the “terrorist attack”), is a day of commemoration for those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, during the terrorist attack, including—

(1) Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, Alabama;

(2) Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham of St. Petersburg, Florida; and

(3) Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters of Richmond Hill, Georgia;

Whereas the 3 servicemembers who died in the terrorist attack were posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Purple Heart;

Whereas the terrorist who committed the terrorist attack was a Saudi Arabian foreign military student who had been radicalized and established contacts with Al Qaeda operatives prior to attending flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola;

Whereas Naval Air Station Pensacola security forces and Escambia County, Florida, law enforcement officers took decisive action to end the terrorist attack and have rightly earned the praises and awards bestowed upon them;

Whereas 2 civilians were awarded the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Medal for Valor for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 individuals were awarded the Purple Heart, or the law enforcement equivalent, for injuries sustained during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 9 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 law enforcement officers were awarded the Medal of Valor for their actions taken during the terrorist attack; and

Whereas December 6, 2023, marks 4 years since the lives of 3 military personnel were

tragically cut short by the egregious act of terrorism at Naval Air Station Pensacola; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this resolution as the “terrorist attack”);

(2) commemorates in sorrow the servicemembers and civilians who lost their lives, or who were injured, and the harm caused to the surrounding community, as a result of the terrorist attack;

(3) remembers Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham, and Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters, who were killed in the terrorist attack;

(4) expresses gratitude for the heroic actions that the civilians, uniformed personnel, and law enforcement performed during and in the aftermath of the terrorist attack;

(5) lauds the decision to give medals and awards to the law enforcement officers, uniformed servicemembers, and civilians who responded heroically on the morning of December 6, 2019; and

(6) commends the efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense to enhance security at military installations to ensure that the tragedy represented by the terrorist attack is never repeated.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1371. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1372. Mr. SCHATZ (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3250, to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1371. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Security and Border Act, 2024”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Sec. 2. Table of Contents.

Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

DIVISION B—BORDER SECURITY AND COMBATTING FENTANYL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

DIVISION C—OTHER MATTERS

Title I—Amending Compacts of Free Associations

Title II—FEND Off Fentanyl Act

Title III—Budgetary Effects

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Army”, \$207,158,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$3,538,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Air Force”, \$23,302,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Space Force”, \$4,192,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, \$5,191,468,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, \$1,610,244,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to

respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$1,052,486,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$557,758,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, \$69,045,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, \$898,149,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Space Force”, \$8,443,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, \$32,058,320,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$13,500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative shall be available to the Secretary of Defense under the same terms and conditions as are provided for under this heading in the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328), and shall be available notwithstanding section 8135 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023 (division C of Public Law 117–328) or any similar provision in any other Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, up to \$4,400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings “Operation and Maintenance”, “Procurement”, and “Revolving and Management Funds” for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense

and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the government of Israel or to foreign countries that have provided support to Israel at the request of the United States: *Provided further*, That up to \$13,414,432,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings “Operation and Maintenance”, “Procurement”, and “Revolving and Management Funds” for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the government of Ukraine or to foreign countries that have provided support to Ukraine at the request of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds transferred pursuant to the preceding two provisos shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of such transfers not less than 15 days before any such transfer: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back and merged with this appropriation: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Army”, \$2,742,757,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Army”, \$6,414,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$801,400,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Israel and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$5,612,900,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Army”, \$308,991,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Weapons Procurement, Navy”, \$706,976,000, to remain

available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, \$2,155,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base for the Columbia Class submarine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Navy”, \$319,570,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$26,000,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$293,570,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Marine Corps”, \$212,443,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Air Force”, \$366,001,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Air Force”, \$2,648,678,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for other expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Defense-Wide”, \$4,046,780,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$4,000,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David’s Sling defense systems to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided further*, That funds in the preceding proviso shall be transferred pursuant to an exchange of letters and are in addition to funds provided pursuant to the U.S.-Israel

Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading in this Act shall be construed to apply to amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$46,780,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES

For an additional amount for "Defense Production Act Purchases", \$198,600,000, to remain available until expended, for activities by the Department of Defense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4518, 4531, 4532, and 4533): *Provided*, That such amounts shall be obligated and expended by the Secretary of Defense as if delegated the necessary authorities conferred by the Defense Production Act of 1950: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army", \$18,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy", \$20,825,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$13,825,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$7,000,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force", \$406,834,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide", \$1,394,125,000, to remain available

until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$1,200,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the government of Israel for the development of the Iron Beam defense system to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided further*, That funds in the preceding proviso shall be transferred pursuant to an exchange of letters: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading in this Act shall be construed to apply to amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for the development of the Iron Beam defense system: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$194,125,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for "Office of the Inspector General", \$8,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, which shall be for operation and maintenance, to carry out reviews of the activities of the Department of Defense to execute funds appropriated in this Act, including assistance provided to Ukraine: *Provided*, That the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RELATED AGENCIES

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for "Intelligence Community Management Account", \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) Upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer up to \$1,000,000,000 of the funds made available in this title to the Department of Defense to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this subsection: *Provided further*, That such authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise provided by law and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023, or any similar provision in any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024, except for monetary limitations concerning the amount of authority available.

(b) Upon the determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of the Office of

Management and Budget, transfer up to \$250,000,000 of the funds made available in this title for the National Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That the Director of National Intelligence shall notify the Congress promptly of all transfers made pursuant to the authority in this subsection: *Provided further*, That such authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise provided by law and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8093 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023, or any similar provision in any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024, except for monetary limitations concerning the amount of authority available.

SEC. 102. Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate on measures being taken to account for United States defense articles designated for Ukraine since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion of Ukraine, particularly measures with regard to such articles that require enhanced end-use monitoring; measures to ensure that such articles reach their intended recipients and are used for their intended purposes; and any other measures to promote accountability for the use of such articles: *Provided*, That such report shall include a description of any occurrences of articles not reaching their intended recipients or used for their intended purposes and a description of any remedies taken: *Provided further*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

SEC. 103. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide a written report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate describing United States security assistance provided to Ukraine since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion of Ukraine, including a comprehensive list of the defense articles and services provided to Ukraine and the associated authority and funding used to provide such articles and services: *Provided*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY PROGRAMS SCIENCE

For an additional amount for "Science", \$98,000,000, to remain available until expended, for acquisition, distribution, and equipment for development and production of medical, stable, and radioactive isotopes: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For an additional amount for "Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation", \$143,915,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to

respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Federal Salaries and Expenses”, \$5,540,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts previously appropriated under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy” in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) that were made available for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, up to \$2,720,000,000 shall be available, in addition to amounts otherwise made available, for expenses necessary for at least two competitive awards for the acquisition and distribution of low-enriched uranium (LEU) and high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) and other related activities pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), and section 2001 of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 16281) to reduce the reliance of the United States and friendly foreign countries on nuclear fuels from the Russian Federation and other insecure sources of LEU and HALEU: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—American Energy Independence Fund”: *Provided further*, That section 3112 of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h–10) shall not apply to the transfer or sale of LEU and HALEU in connection with activities funded in this section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other similar transactions with public agencies and private organizations and persons, as authorized by section 646(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7256(a)), for such periods of time and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate, without regard to section 161(u) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2201(u)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from the sale or transfer of LEU and HALEU or from any other transaction in connection with the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section shall be credited to the “American Energy Independence Fund”, as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That receipts may hereafter be collected from transactions entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(iii) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(iii)) and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from any transaction entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii)) shall hereafter be credited to the “American Energy Independence Fund”, as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for

the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use funds repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section for a commitment only if the full extent of the anticipated costs stemming from that commitment is recorded as an obligation at the time that the commitment is made and only to the extent that up-front obligation is recorded in full at that time: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

(b) Amounts may not be repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section until a law is enacted or administrative action is taken to prohibit or limit importation of LEU and HALEU from the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity into the United States.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Operations and Support”, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the administration of nonprofit security grants: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, \$980,000,000, of which \$200,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2024, and \$780,000,000 shall remain available until expended, for Nonprofit Security Grant Program under section 2009 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609a) for eligible nonprofit organizations to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism or other threats: *Provided*, That the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall make programmatic adjustments as necessary to expedite the disbursement of, and provide flexibility in the use of, amounts made available under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any provision of 6 U.S.C. 609a, and in addition to amounts available under 6 U.S.C. 609a(c)(2), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may permit a State to use up to two percent of a grant awarded under this heading in this Act to provide outreach and technical assistance to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist them with applying for Nonprofit Security Grant Program awards under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such outreach and technical assistance should prioritize underserved communities and nonprofit organizations that are traditionally underrepresented in the Program: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE IV

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Refugee and Entrant Assistance”, \$2,334,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for refugee and entrant assistance activities authorized by section 414 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used for grants or contracts with qualified organizations, including nonprofit entities, to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including wraparound services, housing assistance, medical assistance, legal assistance, and case management assistance: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used by the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (Director) to issue awards or supplement awards previously made by the Director: *Provided further*, That the Director, in carrying out section 412(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1552(c)(1)(A)) with amounts made available under this heading in this Act, may allocate such amounts among the States in a manner that accounts for the most current data available: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 401. Section 401(a)(1)(A) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–128) is amended by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE V

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic Programs”, \$210,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and areas and countries impacted by the situations in Israel and Ukraine: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Worldwide Security Protection, including to respond to the situation in Israel and areas impacted by the situation in Israel: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND
CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended, to meet unforeseen emergencies arising in the Diplomatic and Consular Service: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTFUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT
OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses”, \$39,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and areas and countries impacted by the situations in Israel and Ukraine: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “International Disaster Assistance”, \$5,655,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

For an additional amount for “Transition Initiatives”, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended, for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for “Economic Support Fund”, \$11,850,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$11,775,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine, which may include budget support: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$50,000,000 shall be to prevent and respond to food insecurity: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$25,000,000 shall be for reconciliation programs in the Middle East, including between Israelis and Palestinians: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading in this Act may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries and may be made available as contributions: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ASSISTANCE FOR EUROPE, EURASIA AND
CENTRAL ASIA

For an additional amount for “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia”, \$2,228,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for assistance and related programs for Ukraine and other countries identified in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801) and section 3(c) of the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5402(c)): *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries and may be made available as contributions: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Migration and Refugee Assistance”, \$4,345,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, \$435,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$360,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the preceding proviso may be made available to support the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and National Police of Ukraine, including units supporting or under the command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$75,000,000 shall be for assistance for countries in the Middle East, including for assistance for Jordan and Lebanon, including to enhance partner capacity related to border security and the security of United States diplomatic facilities, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for programs to be administered by the Office of the United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (USSC), following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the preceding proviso for programs administered by the USSC shall be the responsibility of the Chief of Mission, in consultation with the USSC: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM,
DEMINEING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the prioritization of demining efforts and how such efforts will be coordi-

nated with the conduct of development activities: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for “Peacekeeping Operations”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for a United States contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai to enhance force protection capabilities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “Foreign Military Financing Program”, \$7,200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$3,500,000,000 shall be for assistance for Israel and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That to the extent that the government of Israel requests that funds be used for such purposes, grants made available for Israel under this heading in this Act shall, as agreed by the United States and Israel, be available for advanced weapons systems, of which up to \$3,500,000,000 may be available for the procurement in Israel of defense articles and defense services: *Provided further*, That any congressional notification requirement applicable to funds made available under this heading in this Act for Israel may be waived if the Secretary of State determines that to do so is in the national security interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$1,700,000,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine and related expenses: *Provided further*, That amounts made available in the preceding proviso and unobligated balances of amounts made available in Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for fiscal year 2024 and prior fiscal years shall be available for the cost of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by section 2606 of the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division N of Public Law 117-103), subject to the terms and conditions provided in such section, or as otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That loan guarantees made using amounts described in the preceding proviso for loans financed by the Federal Financing Bank may be provided notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the percentage of loan principal that may be guaranteed: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$2,000,000,000 shall be for assistance for the Indo-Pacific region: *Provided further*, That up to \$5,000,000 of any funds made available under this heading in this Act, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, may be used by the Department of State for necessary expenses for the general costs of administering military assistance and sales, including management and oversight of such programs and activities: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BANK
FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

For an additional amount for “Contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development”, \$1,250,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$494,375,000 shall be available for the cost, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of loan guarantees to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$755,625,000 shall be for a contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development’s Multidonor Trust Fund for Innovative Global Public Goods Solutions: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

For an additional amount for “Contribution to the International Development Association”, \$750,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be made available for a contribution to the International Development Association Special Program to Enhance Crisis Response Window: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. During fiscal year 2024, up to \$250,000,000 of funds deposited in the Consular and Border Security Programs account in any fiscal year that are available for obligation may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by any Act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs under the headings “Diplomatic Programs” (including for Worldwide Security Protection) and “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” for emergency evacuations or to prevent or respond to security situations and requirements: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and any such transfers are subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 502. During fiscal year 2024, section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1)) shall be applied by substituting “\$7,800,000,000” for “\$100,000,000”.

SEC. 503. During fiscal year 2024, section 506(a)(2)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2)(B)) shall be applied by substituting “\$400,000,000” for “\$200,000,000” in the matter preceding clause (i), and by substituting “\$150,000,000” for “\$75,000,000” in clause (i).

SEC. 504. During fiscal year 2024, section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2348a(c)(2)) shall be applied by substituting “\$50,000,000” for “\$25,000,000”.

SEC. 505. Section 12001 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287), as amended by Public Law 115–141, is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (2) of subsection (a), by striking “armor” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and insert-

ing “defense articles that are in the inventory of the Department of Defense as of the date of transfer, are intended for use as reserve stocks for Israel, and are located in a stockpile for Israel as of the date of transfer”.

(2) In subsection (b), by striking “at least equal to the fair market value of the items transferred” and inserting “in an amount to be determined by the Secretary of Defense”.

(3) In subsection (c), by inserting before the comma in the first sentence the following: “, or as far in advance of such transfer as is practicable as determined by the President on a case-by-case basis during extraordinary circumstances impacting the national security of the United States”.

SEC. 506. For fiscal year 2024, section 514(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)) shall not apply to defense articles to be set aside, earmarked, reserved, or intended for use as reserve stocks in stockpiles in the State of Israel.

SEC. 507. Unobligated balances from amounts appropriated in prior Acts under the heading “Multilateral Assistance—International Financial Institutions—Contributions to the International Monetary Fund Facilities and Trust Funds” shall be available to cover the cost, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a), of loans made by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust or to the Resilience and Sustainability Trust of the IMF: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$21,000,000,000 in the aggregate, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to make such loans.

SEC. 508. Section 17(a)(6) of the Bretton Woods Agreements Act (22 U.S.C. 286e–2(a)(6)) is amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2030”.

SEC. 509. (a) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “International Disaster Assistance” and “Migration and Refugee Assistance” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under such headings.

(b) Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “Economic Support Fund” and under the heading “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia” to respond to the situation in Ukraine and in countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine may be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the headings “United States International Development Finance Corporation—Corporate Capital Account”, “United States International Development Finance Corporation—Program Account”, “Export-Import Bank of the United States—Program Account”, and “Trade and Development Agency” for such purpose.

(c) Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement” for assistance for countries in the Middle East to enhance partner capacity may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “Peacekeeping Operations” for such purpose.

(d) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and are subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

(e) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

SEC. 510. Section 1705 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act,

2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328) shall apply to funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “Economic Support Fund” for assistance for Ukraine.

SEC. 511. Prior to the initial obligation of funds made available in this title in this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the USAID Administrator and heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations:

(1) spend plans, as defined in section 7034(s)(4) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2023 (division K of Public Law 117–328), at the country, account, and activity level, for funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Economic Support Fund”, “Transition Initiatives”, “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia”, “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, “Peacekeeping Operations”, “Foreign Military Financing Program”, “Contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development”, and “Contribution to the International Development Association”: *Provided*, That such plans submitted pursuant to this section shall include for each program notified—(A) total funding made available for such program, by account and fiscal year; (B) funding that remains unobligated for such program from prior year base or supplemental appropriations; (C) funding that is obligated but unexpended for such program; and (D) funding committed, but not yet notified for such program; and

(2) operating plans, as defined in section 7062 of division K of Public Law 117–328, for funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Diplomatic Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, and “Operating Expenses”.

TITLE VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 601. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 602. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 603. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 604. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or repurposed or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 605. Any amount appropriated by this Act, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

This Act may be cited as the “National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION B—BORDER SECURITY AND
COMBATING FENTANYL SUPPLE-
MENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

For an additional amount for “Executive Office for Immigration Review”, \$1,420,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, \$1,300,000,000 shall be for new Immigration Judge Teams, including appropriate attorneys, law clerks, paralegals, court administrators, and other support staff; \$20,000,000 shall be for information technology improvements and modernization and other efficiencies, including digitizing records and providing remote capabilities for proceedings; and \$100,000,000 shall be for grants to provide direct legal representation for certain individuals and families in immigration court proceedings: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities”, \$11,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for necessary expenses of the Criminal Division associated with the Joint Task Force Alpha’s efforts in counter-drug activities, including combatting fentanyl, and to combat human trafficking and smuggling in the Western Hemisphere: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses”, \$204,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for expenses related to the analysis of DNA samples, including those samples collected from migrants detained by the United States Border Patrol: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Drug Enforcement Administration—Salaries and Expenses”, \$23,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to enhance laboratory analysis of illicit fentanyl samples to trace illicit fentanyl supplies back to manufacturers, to support Operation Overdrive, and to bolster criminal drug network targeting efforts through data system improvements: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE, SITUATIONAL AWARENESS, AND OVERSIGHT

MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Management Directorate—Operations and Support”, \$61,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for necessary expenses relat-

ing to biometric technology services: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support”, \$4,469,372,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, of which \$1,909,722,000 shall be for operational requirements relating to migration surges along the southwest border, including for soft-sided facilities, consumables, medical care, transportation, overtime and temporary duty costs, and contract support; \$921,000,000 shall be for expanding border security operational capacity; \$238,650,000 shall be for counter-drug activities, including combatting fentanyl; and \$1,400,000,000 shall be transferred to “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance” to support sheltering and related activities provided by non-Federal entities in support of relieving overcrowding in short-term holding facilities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements”, \$849,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for acquisition and deployment of non-intrusive inspection technology: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support”, \$2,320,282,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, of which \$921,000,000 shall be for the necessary expenses of responding to migration surges along the southwest border and related activities; \$78,000,000 shall be for counter-drug activities, including combatting fentanyl; and \$1,321,282,000 shall be for expanding border security and enforcement operational capacity: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements”, \$32,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, for the necessary expenses of construction and facility improvements related to existing owned and leased facilities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—Operations and Support”, \$755,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the necessary expenses of backlog reduction and support of the asylum and work authorization programs: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes, and shall not be construed to require any reduction of any fee describe in section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)): *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For an additional amount for “Science and Technology Directorate—Research and Development”, \$13,846,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the necessary expenses of activities related to counter-drug activities, including combatting fentanyl: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Wage and Hour Division—Salaries and Expenses”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Departmental Management—Salaries and Expenses”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE IV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic Programs”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to address irregular migration within the Western Hemisphere and related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for “Economic Support Fund”, \$400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to address irregular migration within the Western Hemisphere: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be made

available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries and may be made available as contributions: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 501. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 504. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or repurposed or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 505. Any amount appropriated by this Act, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

This Act may be cited as the “Border Security and Combatting Fentanyl Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION C—OTHER MATTERS

TITLE I—AMENDING COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2002. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States (in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United Nations Charter, and the objectives of the international trusteeship system of the United Nations) fulfilled its obligations to promote the development of the people of the Trust Territory toward self-government or independence, as appropriate, to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and the people of the Trust Territory and the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned.

(2) The United States, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands entered into the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 99-239) and the United States and the Republic of Palau entered into the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note) to create and maintain a close and mutually beneficial relationship.

(3) The “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia”, the “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of

the Republic of the Marshall Islands”, and related agreements were signed by the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and approved, as applicable, by section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108-188).

(4) The “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review”, was signed by the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Palau on September 3, 2010, and amended on September 19, 2018.

(5) On May 22, 2023, the United States signed the “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Resulting From the 2023 Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review”.

(6) On May 23, 2023, the United States signed 3 agreements related to the U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association, including an Agreement to Amend the Compact, as amended, a new fiscal procedures agreement, and a new trust fund agreement and on September 28, 2023, the United States signed a Federal Programs and Services agreement related to the U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association.

(7) On October 16, 2023, the United States signed 3 agreements relating to the U.S.-RMI Compact of Free Association, including an Agreement to Amend the Compact, as amended, a new fiscal procedures agreement, and a new trust fund agreement.

SEC. 2003. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) 1986 COMPACT.—The term “1986 Compact” means the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 99-239).

(2) 2003 AMENDED U.S.-FSM COMPACT.—The term “2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact” means the Compact of Free Association amending the 1986 Compact entitled the “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia” set forth in section 201(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108-188).

(3) 2003 AMENDED U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact” means the Compact of Free Association amending the 1986 Compact entitled “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands” set forth in section 201(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108-188).

(4) 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-FSM COMPACT.—The term “2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to Amend the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(5) 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Amend the Compact of Free Association,

as Amended, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(6) 2023 AMENDED U.S.-FSM COMPACT.—The term “2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact” means the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, as amended by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact.

(7) 2023 AMENDED U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact” means the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, as amended by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

(8) 2023 U.S.-FSM FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement” means the 2023 Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, done at Washington September 28, 2023.

(9) 2023 U.S.-FSM FISCAL PROCEDURES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement” means the Agreement Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of United States Economic Assistance provided in the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(10) 2023 U.S.-FSM TRUST FUND AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia Regarding the Compact Trust Fund, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(11) 2023 U.S.-PALAU COMPACT REVIEW AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Resulting From the 2023 Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review, done at Port Moresby May 22, 2023.

(12) 2023 U.S.-RMI FISCAL PROCEDURES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement” means the Agreement Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(13) 2023 U.S.-RMI TRUST FUND AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Regarding the Compact Trust Fund, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(14) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(15) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term “Freely Associated States” means—

(A) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(C) the Republic of Palau.

(16) SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT.—The term “subsidiary agreement” means any of the following:

(A) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

(B) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(C) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement.

(D) The 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(E) The 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement.

(F) Any Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(G) Any Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of Palau.

(H) Any other agreement that the United States may from time-to-time enter into with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of Palau, or the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in accordance with—

(i) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; or

(iii) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact.

(17) U.S.-PALAU COMPACT.—The term “U.S.-Palau Compact” means the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note).

SEC. 2004. APPROVAL OF 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-FSM COMPACT, 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-RMI COMPACT, 2023 U.S.-PALAU COMPACT REVIEW AGREEMENT, AND SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS.

(a) FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023, are approved and incorporated by reference.

(2) CONSENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress consents to—

(A) the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023; and

(B) the 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

(3) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—Notwithstanding section 101(f) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921(f)), the President is authorized to bring into force and implement the agreements described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact and the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement, as submitted to Congress on October 17, 2023, are approved and incorporated by reference.

(2) CONSENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress consents to the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement, as submitted to Congress on October 17, 2023.

(3) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—Notwithstanding section 101(f) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921(f)), the President is authorized to bring into force and implement the agreements described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) REPUBLIC OF PALAU.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023, is approved.

(2) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—The President is authorized to bring into force and implement the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(d) AMENDMENTS, CHANGES, OR TERMINATION TO COMPACTS AND CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any amendment to, change to, or termination of all or any part of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or the U.S.-Palau Compact, by mutual agreement or unilateral action of the Government of the United States, shall not enter into force

until the date on which Congress has incorporated the applicable amendment, change, or termination into an Act of Congress.

(2) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS.—In addition to the Compacts described in paragraph (1), the requirements of that paragraph shall apply to—

(A) any action of the Government of the United States under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or U.S.-Palau Compact, including an action taken pursuant to section 431, 441, or 442 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or U.S.-Palau Compact;

(B) any amendment to, change to, or termination of—

(i) the agreement described in section 462(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the agreement described in section 462(a)(5) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(iii) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 265 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(iv) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 265 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(v) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 177 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(vi) Articles III and IV of the agreement described in section 462(b)(6) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(vii) Articles III, IV, and X of the agreement described in section 462(b)(6) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(viii) the agreement described in section 462(h) of the U.S.-Palau Compact; and

(ix) Articles VI, XV, and XVII of the agreement described in section 462(b)(7) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and section 462(i) of the U.S.-Palau Compact.

(e) ENTRY INTO FORCE OF FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS.—An agreement between the United States and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Government of the Republic of Palau that would amend, change, or terminate any subsidiary agreement or portion of a subsidiary agreement (other than an amendment to, change to, or termination of an agreement described in subsection (d)) shall not enter into force until the date that is 90 days after the date on which the President has transmitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives—

(1) the agreement to amend, change, or terminate the subsidiary agreement;

(2) an explanation of the amendment, change, or termination;

(3) a description of the reasons for the amendment, change, or termination; and

(4) in the case of an agreement that would amend, change, or terminate any agreement described in section 462(b)(3) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact or the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, a statement by the Secretary of Labor that describes—

(A) the necessity of the amendment, change, or termination; and

(B) any impacts of the amendment, change, or termination.

SEC. 2005. AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

(a) LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to sections 222 and 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the United States shall provide nonreimbursable technical and training assistance, as appropriate, including training and equipment for postal inspection of illicit drugs and other contraband, to enable the

Government of the Federated States of Micronesia—

(A) to develop and adequately enforce laws of the Federated States of Micronesia; and

(B) to cooperate with the United States in the enforcement of criminal laws of the United States.

(2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (j) of section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) (as amended by section 2009(j)) may be used in accordance with section 102(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921a(a)).

(b) UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 3 United States appointees (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Economic Management Committee established under section 213 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall—

(A) be voting members of the Committee; and

(B) continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) TERM; APPOINTMENT.—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Interagency Group on Freely Associated States established under section 2008(d)(1).

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Not fewer than 2 United States members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States member of the Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement prepared by the Secretary of the Interior attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Interagency Group on Freely Associated States established under section

2008(d)(1) on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(c) **UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The 3 United States voting members (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Trust Fund Committee established pursuant to the agreement described in section 462(b)(5) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) **TERM; APPOINTMENT.**—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term not more than 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) **REAPPOINTMENT.**—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Not fewer than 2 members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) **NOTICE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States member to the Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the

member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of the Treasury on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

SEC. 2006. AGREEMENTS WITH AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

(a) **LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Pursuant to sections 222 and 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, the United States shall provide nonreimbursable technical and training assistance, as appropriate, including training and equipment for postal inspection of illicit drugs and other contraband, to enable the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands—

(A) to develop and adequately enforce laws of the Marshall Islands; and

(B) to cooperate with the United States in the enforcement of criminal laws of the United States.

(2) **USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.**—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (j) of section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) (as amended by section 2009(j)) may be used in accordance with section 103(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(a)).

(b) **ESPOUSAL PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Congress reaffirms that—

(A) section 103(g)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(g)(1)) and section 103(e)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(e)(1)) provided that “It is the intention of the Congress of the United States that the provisions of section 177 of the Compact of Free Association and the Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the ‘Section 177 Agreement’) constitute a full and final settlement of all claims described in Articles X and XI of the Section 177 Agreement, and that any such claims be terminated and barred except insofar as provided for in the Section 177 Agreement.”; and

(B) section 103(g)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(g)(2)) and section 103(e)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(e)(2)) provided that “In furtherance of the intention of Congress as stated in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Section 177 Agreement is hereby ratified and approved. It is the explicit understanding and intent of Congress that the jurisdictional limitations set forth in Article XII of such Agreement are enacted solely and exclusively to accomplish the objective of Article X of such Agreement and only as a clarification of the effect of Article X, and are not to

be construed or implemented separately from Article X.”.

(2) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact affects the application of the provisions of law reaffirmed by paragraph (1).

(c) **CERTAIN SECTION 177 AGREEMENT PROVISIONS.**—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) Article IX of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact of Free Association, done at Majuro June 25, 1983, provided that “If loss or damage to property and person of the citizens of the Marshall Islands, resulting from the Nuclear Testing Program, arises or is discovered after the effective date of this Agreement, and such injuries were not and could not reasonably have been identified as of the effective date of this Agreement, and if such injuries render the provisions of this Agreement manifestly inadequate, the Government of the Marshall Islands may request that the Government of the United States provide for such injuries by submitting such a request to the Congress of the United States for its consideration. It is understood that this Article does not commit the Congress of the United States to authorize and appropriate funds.”; and

(2) section 3(a) of Article XIII of the agreement described in paragraph (1) provided that “The Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands shall consult at the request of either of them on matters relating to the provisions of this Agreement.”.

(d) **UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The 2 United States appointees (which are composed of the United States chair and 1 other member from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee established under section 214 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall—

(A) be voting members of the Committee; and

(B) continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) **TERM; APPOINTMENT.**—The 2 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) **REAPPOINTMENT.**—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—At least 1 United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be an individual who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, is especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possesses not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) **NOTICE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United

States member under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A), in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(e) UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 3 United States voting members (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Trust Fund Committee established pursuant to the agreement described in section 462(b)(5) of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) TERM; APPOINTMENT.—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term not more than 5 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Not fewer than 2 members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States Member under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the quali-

fications of the appointee described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of the Treasury on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(f) FOUR ATOLL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) section 103(j)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(1)) and section 103(h)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(1)) provided that services “provided by the United States Public Health Service or any other United States agency pursuant to section 1(a) of Article II of the Agreement for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the ‘Section 177 Agreement’) shall be only for services to the people of the Atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik who were affected by the consequences of the United States nuclear testing program, pursuant to the program described in Public Law 95-134 and Public Law 96-205 and their descendants (and any other persons identified as having been so affected if such identification occurs in the manner described in such public laws). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prejudicial to the views or policies of the Government of the Marshall Islands as to the persons affected by the consequences of the United States nuclear testing program.”;

(2) section 103(j)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(2)) and section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(2)) provided that “at the end of the first year after the effective date of the Compact and at the end of each year thereafter, the providing agency or agencies shall return to the Government of the Marshall Islands any unexpended funds to be returned to the Fund Manager (as described in Article I of the Section 177 Agreement) to be covered into the Fund to be available for future use.”; and

(3) section 103(j)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(3)) and section 103(h)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(3)) provided that “the Fund Manager shall retain the funds returned by the Government of the Marshall Islands pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection,

shall invest and manage such funds, and at the end of 15 years after the effective date of the Compact, shall make from the total amount so retained and the proceeds thereof annual disbursements sufficient to continue to make payments for the provision of health services as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection to such extent as may be provided in contracts between the Government of the Marshall Islands and appropriate United States providers of such health services.”.

(g) RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on the request of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the President (through an appropriate department or agency of the United States) shall continue to provide special medical care and logistical support for the remaining members of the population of Rongelap and Utrik who were exposed to radiation resulting from the 1954 United States thermonuclear “Bravo” test, pursuant to Public Law 95-134 (91 Stat. 1159) and Public Law 96-205 (94 Stat. 84).

(h) AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress reaffirms that—

(A) section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(2)) and section 103(f)(2)(A) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(2)(A)) provided that notwithstanding “any other provision of law, upon the request of the Government of the Marshall Islands, for the first fifteen years after the effective date of the Compact, the President (either through an appropriate department or agency of the United States or by contract with a United States firm or by a grant to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands which may further contract only with a United States firm or a Republic of the Marshall Islands firm, the owners, officers and majority of the employees of which are citizens of the United States or the Republic of the Marshall Islands) shall provide technical and other assistance without reimbursement, to continue the planting and agricultural maintenance program on Enewetak; without reimbursement, to continue the food programs of the Bikini, Rongelap, Utrik, and Enewetak people described in section 1(d) of Article II of the Subsidiary Agreement for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact and for continued waterborne transportation of agricultural products to Enewetak including operations and maintenance of the vessel used for such purposes.”;

(B) section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(2)) and section 103(f)(2)(B) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(2)(B)) provided that “The President shall ensure the assistance provided under these programs reflects the changes in the population since the inception of such programs.”; and

(C) section 103(h)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(3)) and section 103(f)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(3)) provided that “payments under this subsection shall be provided to such extent or in such amounts as are necessary for services and other assistance provided pursuant to this subsection. It is the sense of Congress that after the periods of time specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, consideration will be given to such additional funding for these programs as may be necessary.”.

(2) PLANTING AND AGRICULTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.—The Secretary of the Interior may provide grants to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to

carry out a planting and agricultural maintenance program on Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik.

(3) **FOOD PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may provide, without reimbursement, food programs to the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

SEC. 2007. AGREEMENTS WITH AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

(a) **BILATERAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS.**—United States participation in the annual economic consultations referred to in Article 8 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement shall be by officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(b) **ECONOMIC ADVISORY GROUP.**—

(1) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—A member of the Economic Advisory Group described in Article 7 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement (referred to in this subsection as the “Advisory Group”) who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior shall be an individual who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, is especially qualified in private sector business development, economic development, or national development.

(2) **FUNDS.**—With respect to the Advisory Group, the Secretary of the Interior may use available funds for—

(A) the costs of the 2 members of the Advisory Group designated by the United States in accordance with Article 7 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement;

(B) 50 percent of the costs of the 5th member of the Advisory Group designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Article described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) the costs of—

(i) technical and administrative assistance for the Advisory Group; and

(ii) other support necessary for the Advisory Group to accomplish the purpose of the Advisory Group.

(3) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Advisory Group receives or completes any report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(c) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of Palau completes any report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of Palau submits a report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

SEC. 2008. OVERSIGHT PROVISIONS.

(a) **AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States (including any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General of the United States) shall have the authorities necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Comptroller General of the United States under—

(A) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and related subsidiary agreements, including the authorities and privileges described in section 102(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921a(b));

(B) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and related subsidiary agreements, including the authorities and privileges described in section 103(k) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(k)); and

(C) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, related subsidiary agreements, and the authorities described in appendix D of the “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review” signed by the United States and the Republic of Palau on September 3, 2010.

(2) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report with respect to the Freely Associated States, including addressing—

(A) the topics described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 104(h)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(h)(1)), except that for purposes of a report submitted under this paragraph, the report shall address those topics with respect to each of the Freely Associated States; and

(B) the effectiveness of administrative oversight by the United States of the Freely Associated States.

(b) **SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities for monitoring and managing the funds appropriated to the Compact of Free Association account of the Department of the Interior by section 2011(a) to carry out—

(1) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; and

(4) subsidiary agreements.

(c) **POSTMASTER GENERAL OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.**—The Postmaster General shall have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities for monitoring and managing the funds appropriated to the United States Postal Service under paragraph (1) of section 2011(b) and deposited in the Postal Service Fund under paragraph (2)(A) of that section to carry out—

(1) section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) section 221(a)(2) of the U.S.-Palau Compact; and

(4) Article 6(a) of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(d) **INTERAGENCY GROUP ON FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish an Interagency Group on Freely Associated States (referred to in this subsection as the “Interagency Group”).

(2) **PURPOSE.**—The purposes of the Interagency Group are—

(A) to coordinate development and implementation of executive branch policies, programs, services, and other activities in or relating to the Freely Associated States; and

(B) to provide policy guidance, recommendations, and oversight to Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities with respect to the implementation of—

(i) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact; and

(iii) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(3) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Interagency Group shall consist of—

(A) the Secretary of State, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;

(C) the Secretary of Defense;

(D) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(E) the heads of relevant Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities carrying out obligations under—

(i) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(iii) sections 131 and 132 and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 of the U.S.-Palau Compact;

(iv) Article 6 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement;

(v) any applicable subsidiary agreement; and

(vi) section 2009; and

(F) the head of any other Federal agency, department, or instrumentality that the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Interior may designate.

(4) **DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**—The Secretary of State (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of State) and the Secretary of the Interior (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of the Interior) shall—

(A) co-lead and preside at a meeting of the Interagency Group not less frequently than annually;

(B) determine, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the agenda for meetings of the Interagency Group; and

(C) facilitate and coordinate the work of the Interagency Group.

(5) **DUTIES OF THE INTERAGENCY GROUP.**—The Interagency Group shall—

(A) provide advice on the establishment or implementation of policies relating to the Freely Associated States to the President, acting through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, in the form of a written report not less frequently than annually;

(B) obtain information and advice relating to the Freely Associated States from the Presidents, other elected officials, and members of civil society of the Freely Associated States, including through the members of the Interagency Group (including senior official designees of the members) meeting not less frequently than annually with any Presidents of the Freely Associated States who elect to participate;

(C) at the request of the head of any Federal agency (or a senior official designee of the head of a Federal agency) who is a member of the Interagency Group, promptly review and provide advice on a policy or policy implementation action affecting 1 or more of the Freely Associated States proposed by the Federal agency, department, or instrumentality; and

(D) facilitate coordination of relevant policies, programs, initiatives, and activities involving 1 or more of the Freely Associated States, including ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication between programs, initiatives, and activities conducted pursuant to a Compact with a Freely Associated State and non-Compact programs, initiatives, and activities.

(6) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and

each year thereafter in which a Compact of Free Association with a Freely Associated State is in effect, the President shall submit to the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the activities and recommendations of the Interagency Group during the applicable year.

(e) **FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION.**—The head of any Federal agency providing programs and services to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau shall coordinate with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State regarding the provision of the programs and services.

(f) **FOREIGN LOANS OR DEBT.**—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) the foreign loans or debt of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Government of the Republic of Palau shall not constitute an obligation of the United States; and

(2) the full faith and credit of the United States Government shall not be pledged for the payment and performance of any foreign loan or debt referred to in paragraph (1) without specific further authorization.

(g) **COMPACT COMPILATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes a compilation of the Compact of Free Association with the Federated State of Micronesia, the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of Palau, and the Compact of Free Association with Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(h) **PUBLICATION; REVISION BY OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL.**—

(1) **PUBLICATION.**—In publishing this title in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end an appendix setting forth the text of—

(A) the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact; and

(B) the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

(2) **REVISION BY OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL.**—The Office of the Law Revision Counsel is directed to revise—

(A) the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact set forth in the note following section 1921 of title 48, United States Code, to reflect the amendments to the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact made by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact; and

(B) the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact set forth in the note following section 1921 of title 48, United States Code, to reflect the amendments to the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact made by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

SEC. 2009. UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION FOR VETERANS' SERVICES.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—In this subsection, the term “Freely Associated States” means—

(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes” (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).

(2) **HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING HOME CARE ABROAD.**—Section 1724 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting “subsections (b), (c), and (f)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(f)(1) The Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services in the Freely Associated States to a veteran who is otherwise eligible to receive hospital care and medical services.

“(2) In furnishing hospital care and medical services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services through—

“(A) contracts or other agreements;

“(B) reimbursement; or

“(C) the direct provision of care by health care personnel of the Department.

“(3) In furnishing hospital care and medical services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services for any condition regardless of whether the condition is connected to the service of the veteran in the Armed Forces.

“(4)(A) A veteran who has received hospital care or medical services in a country pursuant to this subsection shall remain eligible, to the extent determined advisable and practicable by the Secretary, for hospital care or medical services in that country regardless of whether the country continues to qualify as a Freely Associated State for purposes of this subsection.

“(B) If the Secretary determines it is no longer advisable or practicable to allow veterans described in subparagraph (A) to remain eligible for hospital care or medical services pursuant to such subparagraph, the Secretary shall—

“(i) provide direct notice of that determination to such veterans; and

“(ii) publish that determination and the reasons for that determination in the Federal Register.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘Freely Associated States’ means—

“(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

“(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

“(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes” (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”.

(3) **BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.**—Section 111 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may make payments to or for any person traveling in, to, or from the Freely Associated States for receipt of care or services authorized under section 1724(f) of this title.

“(2) A person who has received payment for travel in a country pursuant to this subsection shall remain eligible for payment for such travel in that country regardless of whether the country continues to qualify as a Freely Associated State for purposes of this subsection.

“(3) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘Freely Associated States’ means—

“(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

“(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

“(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes” (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”.

(4) **LEGAL ISSUES.**—

(A) **HEALTH SERVICES.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall work with the governments of the Freely Associated States to facilitate the furnishing of health services, including telehealth, under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to veterans in the Freely Associated States, such as by addressing—

(i) licensure, certification, registration, and tort issues relating to health care personnel; and

(ii) matters relating to delivery of pharmaceutical products and medical surgical products, including delivery of such products through the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to the Freely Associated States.

(B) **LICENSURE OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING TREATMENT VIA TELEMEDICINE IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—Section 1730(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “any State” and inserting “any State or any of the Freely Associated States (as defined in section 1724(f) of this title).”.

(C) **PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may pay tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in the Freely Associated States in connection with furnishing hospital care or medical services or providing medical consultation or medical advice to a veteran under the laws administered by the Secretary, including through a remote or telehealth program.

(5) **OUTREACH AND ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS.**—During the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, subject to the availability of appropriations—

(A) conduct robust outreach to, and engage with, each government of the Freely Associated States;

(B) assess options for the delivery of care through the use of authorities provided pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection; and

(C) increase staffing as necessary to conduct outreach under subparagraph (A).

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **ELIGIBILITY.**—For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Government of the United States shall—

(A) continue to make available to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, grants for services to individuals eligible for such services under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) to the extent that those services continue to be available to individuals in the United States;

(B) continue to make available to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and make available to the Republic of Palau, competitive grants under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), and part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1450 et seq.), to the extent that those grants continue to be available to State and local governments in the United States;

(C) continue to make grants available to the Republic of Palau under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.), and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

(D) continue to make available to eligible institutions of higher education in the Republic of Palau and make available to eligible institutions of higher education in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and to students enrolled in those institutions of higher education, and to students who are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau and enrolled in institutions of higher education in the United States and territories of the United States, grants under—

(i) subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.);

(ii) subpart 3 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b et seq.); and

(iii) part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.);

(E) require, as a condition of eligibility for a public institution of higher education in any State (as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003)) that is not a Freely Associated State to participate in or receive funds under any program under title IV of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), that the institution charge students who are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau tuition for attendance at a rate that is not greater than the rate charged for residents of the State in which such public institution of higher education is located; and

(F) continue to make available, to eligible institutions of higher education, secondary schools, and nonprofit organizations in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, competitive grants under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(2) **OTHER FORMULA GRANTS.**—Except as provided in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Education shall not make a grant under any formula grant program administered by the Department of Education to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau.

(3) **GRANTS TO THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.**—Section 611(b)(1) of the Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411(b)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) **FUNDS RESERVED.**—From the amount appropriated for any fiscal year under subsection (i), the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent, which shall be used as follows:

“(i) To provide assistance to the outlying areas in accordance with their respective populations of individuals aged 3 through 21.

“(ii)(I) To provide each freely associated State a grant so that no freely associated State receives a lesser share of the total funds reserved for the freely associated State than the freely associated State received of those funds for fiscal year 2023.

“(II) Each freely associated State shall establish its eligibility under this subparagraph consistent with the requirements for a State under section 612.

“(III) The funds provided to each freely associated State under this part may be used to provide, to each infant or toddler with a disability (as defined in section 632), either a free appropriate public education, consistent with section 612, or early intervention services consistent with part C, notwithstanding the application and eligibility requirements of sections 634(2), 635, and 637.”

(4) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**—The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) of section 1121(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 6331(b)(1)(A)) and inserting the following:

“(A) first reserve \$1,000,000 for the Republic of Palau, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may establish, except that Public Law 95–134, permitting the consolidation of grants, shall not apply; and”;

(B) in section 8101 (20 U.S.C. 7801), by amending paragraph (36) to read as follows:

“(36) **OUTLYING AREA.**—The term ‘outlying area’—

“(A) means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands; and

“(B) for the purpose of any discretionary grant program under this Act, includes the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, to the extent that any such grant program continues to be available to State and local governments in the United States.”

(5) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003.**—Section 105(f)(1)(B) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(B)) is amended by striking clause (ix).

(6) **HEAD START PROGRAMS.**—

(A) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832) is amended, in the paragraph defining the term “State”, by striking the second sentence and inserting “The term ‘State’ includes the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”

(B) **ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.**—Section 640(a)(2)(B) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

(i) in clause (iv), by inserting “the Republic of Palau,” before “and the Virgin Islands”; and

(ii) by amending clause (v) to read as follows:

“(v) if a base grant has been established through appropriations for the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to provide an amount for that jurisdiction (for Head Start agencies

(including Early Head Start agencies) in the jurisdiction) that is equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdiction under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each agency described in this clause an amount equal to that agency’s base grant for the prior fiscal year; and”.

(7) **COORDINATION REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate with the 3 United States appointees to the Joint Economic Management Committee described in section 2005(b)(1) and the 2 United States appointees to the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee described in section 2006(d)(1) to avoid duplication of economic assistance for education provided under section 261(a)(1) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact or section 261(a)(1) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact of activities or services provided under—

(A) the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

(B) subpart 3 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b et seq.); or

(C) part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.).

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL FACILITIES.**—The Secretary of Defense shall make available, on a space available and reimbursable basis, the medical facilities of the Department of Defense for use by citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, who are properly referred to the facilities by government authorities responsible for provision of medical services in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the affected jurisdictions (as defined in section 104(e)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(e)(2))).

(2) **PARTICIPATION BY SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY STUDENT TESTING PROGRAM.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense may extend the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Student Testing Program and the ASVAB Career Exploration Program to selected secondary schools in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to the extent such programs are available to Department of Defense dependent secondary schools established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code, and located outside the United States.

(d) **JUDICIAL TRAINING.**—In addition to amounts provided under section 261(a)(4) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and under subsections (a) and (b) of Article 1 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, the Secretary of the Interior shall use the amounts made available to the Secretary of the Interior under section 2011(c) to train judges and officials of the judiciary in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, in cooperation with the Pacific Islands Committee of the judicial council of the ninth judicial circuit of the United States.

(e) **ELIGIBILITY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.**—

(1) **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make the services of the National

Health Service Corps available to the residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to the same extent, and for the same duration, as services are authorized to be provided to persons residing in any other areas within or outside the United States.

(2) **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**—The Republic of Palau shall be eligible for the programs and services made available to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands under section 108(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921g(a)).

(3) **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF CERTAIN AGENCIES.**—In addition to the programs and services set forth in the operative Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau, the programs and services of the following agencies shall be made available to the Republic of Palau:

- (A) The Legal Services Corporation.
- (B) The Public Health Service.
- (C) The Rural Housing Service.
- (f) **COMPACT IMPACT FAIRNESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end the following:

“(N) **EXCEPTION FOR CITIZENS OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—With respect to eligibility for benefits for any specified Federal program, paragraph (1) shall not apply to any individual who lawfully resides in the United States in accordance with section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)(G)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “MEDICAID EXCEPTION FOR” and inserting “EXCEPTION FOR”; and

(ii) by striking “the designated Federal program defined in paragraph (3)(C) (relating to the Medicaid program)” and inserting “any designated Federal program”.

(2) **EXCEPTION TO 5-YEAR WAIT REQUIREMENT.**—Section 403(b)(3) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613(b)(3)) is amended by striking “, but only with respect to the designated Federal program defined in section 402(b)(3)(C)”.

(3) **DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED ALIEN.**—Section 431(b)(8) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(b)(8)) is amended by striking “, but only with respect to the designated Federal program defined in section 402(b)(3)(C) (relating to the Medicaid program)”.

(g) **CONSULTATION WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, shall consult with appropriate officials of the Asian Development Bank and relevant international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c))), as appropriate, with respect to overall economic conditions in, and the activities of other providers of assistance to, the Freely Associated States.

(h) **CHIEF OF MISSION.**—Section 105(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) Pursuant to section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927), all United

States Government executive branch employees in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau fall under the authority of the respective applicable chief of mission, except for employees identified as excepted from the authority under Federal law or by Presidential directive.”.

(i) **ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIT FOR THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES IN THE BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND INCREASING PERSONNEL FOCUSED ON OCEANIA.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary of State shall—

(A) assign additional full-time equivalent personnel to the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State, including to the unit established under subparagraph (B), as the Secretary of State determines to be appropriate, in accordance with paragraph (4)(A); and

(B) establish a unit in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State to carry out the functions described in paragraph (3).

(3) **FUNCTIONS OF UNIT.**—The unit established under paragraph (2)(B) shall be responsible for the following:

(A) Managing the bilateral and regional relations with the Freely Associated States.

(B) Supporting the Secretary of State in leading negotiations relating to the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.

(C) Coordinating, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, and other interagency partners as appropriate, implementation of the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.

(4) **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES.**—The Secretary of State shall—

(A) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, assign to the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, including to the unit established under paragraph (2)(B), not less than 4 additional full-time equivalent staff, who shall not be dual-hatted, including by considering—

(i) the use of existing flexible hiring authorities, including Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas (DETOs); and

(ii) the realignment of existing personnel, including from the United States Mission in Australia, as appropriate;

(B) reduce the number of vacant foreign service positions in the Pacific Island region by establishing an incentive program within the Foreign Service for overseas positions related to the Pacific Island region; and

(C) report to the appropriate congressional committees on progress toward objectives outlined in this subsection beginning 1 year from the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for 5 years.

(j) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Technical assistance may be provided pursuant to section 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, section 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or section 222 of the U.S.-Palau Com-

pact (as those terms are defined in section 2003 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023) by Federal agencies and institutions of the Government of the United States to the extent the assistance shall be provided to States, territories, or units of local government.

“(2) **HISTORIC PRESERVATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any technical assistance authorized under paragraph (1) that is provided by the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States Coast Guard, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Department of the Interior, or any other Federal agency providing assistance under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, may be provided on a nonreimbursable basis.

“(B) **GRANTS.**—During the period in which the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (as so defined) and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (as so defined) are in force, the grant programs under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, shall continue to apply to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the same manner and to the same extent as those programs applied prior to the approval of the U.S.-FSM Compact and U.S.-RMI Compact.

“(3) **ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**—Any funds provided pursuant to this subsection, subsections (c), (g), (h), (i), (k), (l), and (m), section 102(a), and subsections (a), (b), (f), (g), (h), and (j) of section 103 shall be in addition to, and not charged against, any amounts to be paid to the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands pursuant to—

“(A) the U.S.-FSM Compact;

“(B) the U.S.-RMI Compact; or

“(C) any related subsidiary agreement.”.

(k) **CONTINUING TRUST TERRITORY AUTHORIZATION.**—The authorization provided by the Act of June 30, 1954 (68 Stat. 330, chapter 423), shall remain available after the effective date of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact with respect to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands for transition purposes, including—

(1) completion of projects and fulfillment of commitments or obligations;

(2) termination of the Trust Territory Government and termination of the High Court;

(3) health and education as a result of exceptional circumstances;

(4) ex gratia contributions for the populations of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik; and

(5) technical assistance and training in financial management, program administration, and maintenance of infrastructure.

(l) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT DEFINITION.**—Section 2(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201(f)) is amended by striking “and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting “the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau”.

(2) **COMPACT IMPACT AMENDMENTS.**—Section 104(e) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “beginning in fiscal year 2003” and inserting “during the period of fiscal years 2003 through 2023”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “after fiscal year 2003” and inserting “for the period of fiscal years 2004 through 2023”;

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (10) as paragraphs (5) through (9), respectively.

SEC. 2010. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.

(a) AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND INSTRUMENTALITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Appropriations to carry out the obligations, services, and programs described in paragraph (2) shall be made directly to the Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities carrying out the obligations, services and programs.

(2) OBLIGATIONS, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The obligations, services, and programs referred to in paragraphs (1) and (3) are the obligations, services, and programs under—

(A) sections 131 and 132, paragraphs (1) and (3) through (6) of section 221(a), and section 221(b) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(B) sections 131 and 132, paragraphs (1) and (3) through (6) of section 221(a), and section 221(b) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(C) sections 131 and 132 and paragraphs (1), (3), and (4) of section 221(a) of the U.S.-Palau Compact;

(D) Article 6 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; and

(E) section 8.

(3) AUTHORITY.—The heads of the Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities to which appropriations are made available under paragraph (1) as well as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall—

(A) have the authority to carry out any activities that are necessary to fulfill the obligations, services, and programs described in paragraph (2); and

(B) use available funds to carry out the activities under subparagraph (A).

(b) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Any assistance provided pursuant to section 105(j) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(j)) (as amended by section 2009(j)) and sections 2005(a), 2006(a), 2007(b), and 2009 shall be in addition to and not charged against any amounts to be paid to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau pursuant to—

(1) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; or

(4) any related subsidiary agreement.

(c) REMAINING BALANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 109 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921h)—

(1) remaining balances appropriated to carry out sections 211, 212(b), 215, and 217 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, shall be programmed pursuant to Article IX of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement; and

(2) remaining balances appropriated to carry out sections 211, 213(b), 216, and 218 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, shall be programmed pursuant to Article XI of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(d) GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) contributions under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact may be provided as grants for purposes of implementation of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact under the laws of the United States; and

(2) funds appropriated pursuant to section 2011 may be deposited in interest-bearing ac-

counts and any interest earned may be retained in and form part of those accounts for use consistent with the purpose of the deposit.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as specifically provided, nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title amends the following:

(1) Title I of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

(2) Title I of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 et seq.).

(3) Title I of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.).

(4) Section 1259C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note; Public Law 115-91).

(5) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141; 132 Stat. 635).

(f) CLARIFICATION RELATING TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 109 of the Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921h)—

(1) funds appropriated by that section and deposited into the RMI Compact Trust Fund shall be governed by the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement;

(2) funds appropriated by that section and deposited into the FSM Compact Trust Fund shall be governed by the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement;

(3) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 211(b) of the 2003 U.S.-RMI Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement, except as modified in the Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(4) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 221 of the 2003 U.S.-RMI Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement, except as modified in the Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(5) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 221 of the 2003 U.S.-FSM Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement, except as modified in the 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

SEC. 2011. COMPACT APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—For the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, there are appropriated to the Compact of Free Association account of the Department of the Interior, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until expended, the amounts described in and to carry out the purposes of—

(1) sections 261, 265, and 266 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) sections 261, 265, and 266 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact; and

(3) Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(b) FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.—

(1) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to the United States Postal Service, out of

any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, \$31,700,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the costs of the following provisions that are not otherwise funded:

(A) Section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact.

(B) Section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact.

(C) Section 221(a)(2) of the U.S.-Palau Compact.

(D) Article 6(a) of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(2) DEPOSIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts appropriated to the United States Postal Service under paragraph (1) shall be deposited into the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003 of title 39, United States Code, to carry out the provisions described in that paragraph.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—Any amounts deposited into the Postal Service Fund under subparagraph (A) shall be the fiduciary, fiscal, and audit responsibility of the Postal Service.

(c) FUNDING FOR JUDICIAL TRAINING.—There is appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out section 2009(d) out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$550,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, to remain available until expended.

TITLE II—FEND OFF FENTANYL ACT

SEC. 2101. SHORT TITLES.

This title may be cited as the “Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence Off Fentanyl Act” or the “FEND Off Fentanyl Act”.

SEC. 2102. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the proliferation of fentanyl is causing an unprecedented surge in overdose deaths in the United States, fracturing families and communities, and necessitating a comprehensive policy response to combat its lethal flow and to mitigate the drug’s devastating consequences;

(2) the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States is a national security threat that has killed hundreds of thousands of United States citizens;

(3) transnational criminal organizations, including cartels primarily based in Mexico, are the main purveyors of fentanyl into the United States and must be held accountable;

(4) precursor chemicals sourced from the People’s Republic of China are—

(A) shipped from the People’s Republic of China by legitimate and illegitimate means;

(B) transformed through various synthetic processes to produce different forms of fentanyl; and

(C) crucial to the production of illicit fentanyl by transnational criminal organizations, contributing to the ongoing opioid crisis;

(5) the United States Government must remain vigilant to address all new forms of fentanyl precursors and drugs used in combination with fentanyl, such as Xylazine, which attribute to overdose deaths of people in the United States;

(6) to increase the cost of fentanyl trafficking, the United States Government should work collaboratively across agencies and should surge analytic capability to impose sanctions and other remedies with respect to transnational criminal organizations (including cartels), including foreign nationals who facilitate the trade in illicit fentanyl and its precursors from the People’s Republic of China; and

(7) the Department of the Treasury should focus on fentanyl trafficking and its facilitators as one of the top national security priorities for the Department.

SEC. 2103. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person”—

(A) means—

(i) any citizen or national of a foreign country; or

(ii) any entity not organized under the laws of the United States or a jurisdiction within the United States; and

(B) does not include the government of a foreign country.

(3) **KNOWINGLY.**—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(4) **TRAFFICKING.**—The term “trafficking”, with respect to fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids, has the meaning given the term “opioid trafficking” in section 7203 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2302).

(5) **TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “transnational criminal organization” includes—

(A) any organization designated as a significant transnational criminal organization under part 590 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations;

(B) any of the organizations known as—

(i) the Sinaloa Cartel;

(ii) the Jalisco New Generation Cartel;

(iii) the Gulf Cartel;

(iv) the Los Zetas Cartel;

(v) the Juarez Cartel;

(vi) the Tijuana Cartel;

(vii) the Beltran-Leyva Cartel; or

(viii) La Familia Michoacana; or

(C) any successor organization to an organization described in subparagraph (B) or as otherwise determined by the President.

(6) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

Subtitle A—Sanctions Matters

PART I—SANCTIONS IN RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING

SEC. 2111. FINDING; POLICY.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that international trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and is a national emergency.

(b) **POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to apply economic and other financial sanctions to those who engage in the international trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids to protect the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

SEC. 2112. USE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES; REPORTING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this part.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on actions taken by the executive branch pursuant to this part and any national emergency declared with respect to the trafficking of fentanyl and trade in other illicit drugs, including—

(A) the issuance of any new or revised regulations, policies, or guidance;

(B) the imposition of sanctions;

(C) the collection of relevant information from outside parties;

(D) the issuance or closure of general licenses, specific licenses, and statements of licensing policy by the Office of Foreign Assets Control;

(E) a description of any pending enforcement cases; or

(F) the implementation of mitigation procedures.

(2) **FORM OF REPORT.**—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include the matters required by subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) of that paragraph in a classified annex.

SEC. 2113. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING BY TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person the President determines—

(1) is knowingly involved in the significant trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids, including such trafficking by a transnational criminal organization; or

(2) otherwise is knowingly involved in significant activities of a transnational criminal organization relating to the trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids.

(b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The President may, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(c) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on actions taken by the executive branch with respect to the foreign persons identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 2114. PENALTIES; WAIVERS; EXCEPTIONS.

(a) **PENALTIES.**—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this part or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this part shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(b) **NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.**—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this part with respect to a foreign person if the President determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

(c) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.**—This part shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any au-

thorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) **EXCEPTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this part shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity of the United States.

(3) **HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTION.**—The President may not impose sanctions under this part with respect to any person for conducting or facilitating a transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices or for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

SEC. 2115. TREATMENT OF FORFEITED PROPERTY OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) **TRANSFER OF FORFEITED PROPERTY TO FORFEITURE FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any covered forfeited property shall be deposited into the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund established under section 9705 of title 31, United States Code, or the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund established under section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code.

(2) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any deposits made under paragraph (1) during the 180-day period preceding submission of the report.

(3) **COVERED FORFEITED PROPERTY DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “covered forfeited property” means property—

(A) forfeited to the United States under chapter 46 or section 1963 of title 18, United States Code; and

(B) that belonged to or was possessed by an individual affiliated with or connected to a transnational criminal organization subject to sanctions under—

(i) this part;

(ii) the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

(iii) Executive Order 14059 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to imposing sanctions on foreign persons involved in the global illicit drug trade).

(b) **BLOCKED ASSETS UNDER TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT OF 2002.**—Nothing in this part affects the treatment of blocked assets of a terrorist party described in subsection (a) of section 201 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (28 U.S.C. 1610 note).

PART II—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 2121. TEN-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF SANCTIONS.

(a) **INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.**—Section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**—

“(1) **TIME FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An action, suit, or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, under this section shall not be entertained unless commenced within ten years after the latest date of the violation upon which the civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture is based.

“(B) **COMMENCEMENT.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the commencement of an action,

suit, or proceeding includes the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or finding of violation.

“(2) TIME FOR INDICTMENT.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under subsection (c) unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted within ten years after the latest date of the violation upon which the indictment or information is based.”.

(b) TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT.—Section 16 of the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4315) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) TIME FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An action, suit, or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, under this section shall not be entertained unless commenced within ten years after the latest date of the violation upon which the civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture is based.

“(B) COMMENCEMENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the commencement of an action, suit, or proceeding includes the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or finding of violation.

“(2) TIME FOR INDICTMENT.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under subsection (a) unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted within ten years after the latest date of the violation upon which the indictment or information is based.”.

SEC. 2122. CLASSIFIED REPORT AND BRIEFING ON STAFFING OF OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on the staffing of the Office of Foreign Assets Control, disaggregated by staffing dedicated to each sanctions program and each country or issue.

SEC. 2123. REPORT ON DRUG TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND USE OF VESSELS WITH MISLABELED CARGO.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on efforts to target drug transportation routes and modalities, including an assessment of the prevalence of false cargo labeling and shipment of precursor chemicals without accurate tracking of the customers purchasing the chemicals.

SEC. 2124. REPORT ON ACTIONS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS INVOLVED IN FENTANYL SUPPLY CHAIN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on actions taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China with respect to persons involved in the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills.

Subtitle B—Anti-Money Laundering Matters

SEC. 2131. DESIGNATION OF ILLICIT FENTANYL TRANSACTIONS OF SANCTIONED PERSONS AS OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.

Subtitle A of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2311 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 7213 the following:

“SEC. 7213A. DESIGNATION OF TRANSACTIONS OF SANCTIONED PERSONS AS OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Treasury determines that reasonable grounds exist for concluding that one or more financial institutions operating outside of the United States, 1 or more classes of transactions within, or involving, a jurisdiction outside of the United States, or 1 or more types of accounts within, or involving, a jurisdiction outside of the United States, is of primary money laundering concern in connection with illicit opioid trafficking, the Secretary of the Treasury may, by order, regulation, or otherwise as permitted by law—

“(1) require domestic financial institutions and domestic financial agencies to take 1 or more of the special measures provided for in section 9714(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note); or

“(2) prohibit, or impose conditions upon, certain transmittals of funds (to be defined by the Secretary) by any domestic financial institution or domestic financial agency, if such transmittal of funds involves any such institution, class of transaction, or type of accounts.

“(b) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—In any judicial review of a finding of the existence of a primary money laundering concern, or of the requirement for 1 or more special measures with respect to a primary money laundering concern made under this section, if the designation or imposition, or both, were based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)), such information may be submitted by the Secretary to the reviewing court ex parte and in camera. This subsection does not confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding made or any requirement imposed under this section.

“(c) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The exemptions from, and prohibitions on, search and disclosure referred to in section 9714(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note) shall apply to any report or record of report filed pursuant to a requirement imposed under subsection (a). For purposes of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, this subsection shall be considered a statute described in subsection (b)(3)(B) of that section.

“(d) PENALTIES.—The penalties referred to in section 9714(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note) shall apply to violations of any order, regulation, special measure, or other requirement imposed under subsection (a), in the same manner and to the same extent as described in such section 9714(d).

“(e) INJUNCTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may bring a civil action to enjoin a violation of any order, regulation, special measure, or other requirement imposed under subsection (a) in the same manner and to the same extent as described in section 9714(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note).”.

SEC. 2132. TREATMENT OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS REPORTS OF THE FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK.

(a) FILING INSTRUCTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network shall issue guidance or instructions to United States financial institutions for filing reports on sus-

picious transactions required by section 1010.320 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, related to suspected fentanyl trafficking by transnational criminal organizations.

(b) PRIORITIZATION OF REPORTS RELATING TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING OR TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Director shall prioritize research into reports described in subsection (a) that indicate a connection to trafficking of fentanyl or related synthetic opioids or financing of suspected transnational criminal organizations.

SEC. 2133. REPORT ON TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING IN TRADE WITH MEXICO, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND BURMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the first update to the national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance submitted to Congress after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall include a report on trade-based money laundering originating in Mexico or the People's Republic of China and involving Burma.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance” means the national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance required by section 261 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44; 131 Stat. 934), as amended by section 6506 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81; 135 Stat. 2428).

Subtitle C—Exception Relating to Importation of Goods

SEC. 2141. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority or a requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this title shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

TITLE III—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 2201. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SA 1372. Mr. SCHATZ (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the

bill S. 3250, to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland; as follows:

On page 3, lines 11 and 12, strike “that remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case be made available” and inserting “that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 12:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

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 Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 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 Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815; further, that if Senator PAUL makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 51 from the Committee on Foreign Relations, that the Senate vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m.; further, that the cloture motion filed during yesterday’s session ripen at 1:45 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHATZ. 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 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

JAMIE FLY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 6, 2023:

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD

KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM MATTHEWS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

JEFFREY GEDMIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2025.

KENNETH M. JARIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD.

KENNETH M. JARIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

LUIS MANUEL BOTELLO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2025.

MICHELLE MAI SELESKY GIUDA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DANTE QUINTIN ALLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NATHALIE RAYES, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD

JAMIE FLY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.