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No. 10

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who has placed us here and gives us work to do, we pause to thank You for sustaining this Nation from generation to generation in prosperity and in adversity, in peace and in war.

Lord, we praise You for this season of new horizons, fresh challenges, and high duties. Give our Senators the wisdom to exert their best efforts for the security of America and for peace in our world. In the words of the Prophet Micah, may our lawmakers do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Join them in heart, mind, and soul to transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

Lord, guide us all by Your higher wisdom that we may ever seek to know and do Your will.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 18, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AMENDING THE PERMANENT ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2013—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2872, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2872) to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray) amendment No. 1381, in the nature of a substitute.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have good news. Last night, the Senate

reached an agreement to pass a clean extension of government funding to avert a needless shutdown and give appropriators more time to finish their work. We expect to begin voting at 12:30 on two Republican amendments and then to final passage.

Getting here wasn't easy. My colleagues and I worked late into the evening negotiating with the other side on amendments and on timing. But after a lot of hard work and compromise from both sides of the aisle, the Senate will pass the CR today, giving the House enough time to act before Friday's deadline.

Once the Senate acts, I urge the House to move on the CR as soon as possible so we can send it to the President's desk as early as today.

In order to give our House colleagues time to act, I ask that Senators vote quickly once votes are called later this morning. Again, if we can send something to the President's desk today, that will be great.

Once we put the threat of a shutdown behind us, I hope we continue seeing even more bipartisanship as appropriators complete the very important task of fully funding the government in the coming weeks.

I thank my Senate colleagues for working together to ensure the government stays open. Avoiding a shutdown is very good news for the country, for our veterans, for parents and children, and for farmers and small businesses—all of whom would have felt the sting had the government shut down.

And this is what the American people want to see: both sides working together and governing responsibly—no chaos, no spectacle, no shutdown.

But, amazingly, not everyone in Congress feels that way. As we speak, there is still a loud contingent of hard-right rabble-rousers who amazingly believe that causing a shutdown is somehow a good thing if it gets them what they want. The MAGA hard right thinks it is perfectly fine to have VA

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



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offices close or to endanger nutrition programs that help 7 million moms or kids, or to suspend disaster aid for farmers. In the twisted logic of the hard right, the theory is, if enough people feel the pain of a shutdown, the hard right can bully the rest of Congress into enacting their deeply unpopular agenda. Bullying, intimidation, chaos—this is MAGA extremism in a nutshell.

But here is the thing: The fact that we are passing a CR today shows, yet again, that this kind of bullying almost never works. The hard right's bullying didn't work when we avoided default, it didn't work when we avoided shutdown last year, and it didn't work today either.

I thank my colleagues for their good work, and I expect a strong, bipartisan vote later this afternoon.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Now, on the supplemental, Senate and White House negotiators are getting closer to reaching a bipartisan agreement on a national security supplemental. For the first time, I believe the odds are a little better than 50 percent that we can get something done. But, certainly, it is not a done deal yet.

We have a number of disagreements we are still working through. On issues as complex as immigration and national security, what matters is not just what we do but how we do it. The smallest details matter immensely, and it takes time to work through those details.

Nevertheless, talks are trending in the right direction, and I remain optimistic we will get it done soon here in the Senate.

And the good news is that once Congress avoids a shutdown, it is my goal for the Senate to move forward to the national security supplemental as soon as possible.

Now, yesterday, I joined with congressional colleagues for a meeting with President Biden at the White House to talk about the latest on supplemental negotiations. It was a respectful, positive, and constructive meeting, and everyone walked out with a sense that we need to get something done.

While both parties have plenty of disagreements, all sides did agree on a couple of important points. First, congressional leaders understood that we need to pass additional emergency aid for Ukraine. Again, both sides might disagree on a lot of things, but, on Ukraine, everyone agreed that we must act.

I made it very clear in the room that right now the war in Ukraine is beginning to turn against Ukrainians. While Ukrainian fighters have no shortage of courage and resolve, they will soon face a shortage of supplies, of ammunition, and of armaments that America provided to a large extent.

If we don't pass another round of aid, then a mere month from now the situation could become dire for Ukraine,

and, a year from now, America and NATO will be on our back foot, paying a far higher cost to ensure Putin does not sink his tentacles deeper into the European continent.

Second, everyone agreed that we need to do something to fix the situation at the border. The President said over and over again that he is willing to work with Republicans on the border, but it has to be bipartisan, as Republican leadership knows.

You cannot—cannot—do things with one party in a divided Congress. Anyone who says "it is my way or the highway" on border is not serious about reaching an agreement. It must be bipartisan.

So we feel good and remain hopeful about the direction of the talks, but I caution my colleagues that nothing has been finalized yet. There is still more work to do, but we are going to stay the course. Our national security demands nothing less. Our friends in Ukraine demand nothing less. The future of Western democracy demands nothing less.

JUDICIARY MARKUP

Mr. President, now, on the Judiciary Committee markup, today, off the floor, the Senate continues its work on considering more of President Biden's outstanding nominees to the Federal bench. This morning, the Senate Judiciary Committee will be holding its first markup of the year on over a dozen highly qualified individuals for seats on both the district and circuit-level courts. Once they are reported out of Committee, we will look for the best opportunities to bring them to the floor.

The nominees being marked up today will continue adding to the courts' diversity—more women, more people of color, more individuals from unique backgrounds. I hope our Republican colleagues will work with us to move many of these nominees through, and I thank the Judiciary Committee and Chairman DURBIN for their good and hard work.

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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order from yesterday be modified so that the only remaining amendments to H.R. 2872 be the following: Paul No. 1384, Marshall motion to commit; further, that there be up to 6 minutes equally divided prior to each vote; and that upon disposition of the Marshall motion to commit, the Murray substitute amendment No. 1381, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, and all remaining provisions remain in effect.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. As a result of this agreement, Senators should expect three rollcall votes beginning at 12:30 p.m. on the Paul and Marshall amendments and passage of the CR.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the Biden administration added the Houthis to the government's terrorist list in light of the group's sustained terrorist violence against U.S. military and commercial ships in the Red Sea. It might seem like the sensible response of a clear-eyed Commander in Chief, except that Iran-backed Houthi terror isn't new. For years, this group has made no secret of its aims. Here is their motto:

God is great. Death to America. Death to Israel. Curse on the Jews. Victory for Islam.

Why on Earth did President Biden remove the Houthis from the Terror Watchlist in the first place? And why did it take so long to admit that denying a reality of Iran-backed Houthi terror was a mistake?

It is good that the President finally mustered the fortitude to authorize strikes against the terrorists who threaten America. But just like its response to Putin's war against Ukraine, the Biden administration's response to Iran-backed terrorism has been hesitant, half-measured, and openly conflicted over the risk of escalation.

It is Iran that should fear the cost of escalation, not the United States and our allies. Iran must fear that terror against America's interests will result in military responses against its interests; that its complicity in Houthi attacks on global shipping will produce devastating economic pressure from all across the free world; that continued terrorism, whether by proxies or by Iranian personnel themselves, will be met with swift and costly retribution.

It is all well and good for President Biden to authorize yet another round of strikes against Houthi missiles, but having to do so multiple times in the span of a week is a pretty good indication that his initial effort did not exactly send the desired message to Tehran or its proxies. The world's most active state sponsor of terrorism is actually stepping up its violence against U.S. personnel in the Middle East precisely because it doesn't believe we have the resolve to respond with strength and impose serious costs.

And the chronic, compulsive effort to tie our hands only validates this assumption. It only encourages our adversaries to lash out with impunity.

We know exactly what an undeterred Iran looks like. After 3 years of the Biden administration's desperate policy of conciliation, it is what we are experiencing right now.

Regardless of which corners of our politics are willing to acknowledge it, America cannot hope to deter aggression with weakness. We need to start investing seriously in the capabilities and capacity to meet the tasks at hand. We are facing an axis of connected threats that stretch from Moscow to Beijing and Tehran to Pyongyang. Our adversaries speak the language of strength. Americans can't afford not to be fluent.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Now on another matter, this year, like last year, President Biden is still taking to the road trying to sell the American people on the wonders of Bidenomics, but working families still see right through him. On average they are spending more than \$11,000 more than they were when the President took office, just to maintain the same standard of living.

Less take-home pay means less spending, and small businesses are feeling the pinch. Out in Iowa, the owner of a one-of-a-kind manufacturing operation is closing its doors after 125 years in business, and the owner says lower discretionary spending is to blame.

A mother of three in Arizona recently lamented to reporters:

It has probably been one of the worst years. It's been very difficult for us . . . It's been difficult just buying groceries and paying bills.

And across the country, working families sympathize. One poll last month found that just 14 percent of Americans thought that Biden's economic policies were actually—actually—helping them.

So the President can moonlight as a traveling salesman all he wants, but pretty soon he will have to face facts: Bidenomics is a dud.

NOMINATION OF ADEEL A. MANGI

Mr. President, on one final matter: Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee will decide whether to recommend a lifetime appointment for Adeel Mangi on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Mangi's nomination is just the latest example of the Biden administration's practice of rewarding bad behavior in the personnel business.

As I explained last month, this nominee served on the board of a law school organization with an international reputation for amplifying the voices of anti-Semites and terrorist sympathizers.

As a letter from the Coalition for Jewish Values recently noted, Mr. Mangi's affiliation "raises genuine concerns about his judgment and his commitment to American principles." Unfortunately, the nominee's testimony before the Judiciary Committee last

month did nothing to assuage these concerns. In fact, even after claiming ignorance of this disgusting and well-documented history of the organization with which he chose to affiliate, he declined repeatedly—repeatedly—to disavow it.

It would be hard to sum up Mr. Mangi's record more succinctly than the joint statement of several other American Jewish organizations:

[He] "repeatedly donated to [an] extreme anti-Semitic, anti-Israel, anti-American terrorist-affiliated organization; evaded vital questions; made improbable claims of ignorance; [and] has no judicial record."

At some point, the Senate has to decide that this is unbecoming of a nominee to a lifetime tenure on the Federal Bench. I would urge my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to reject this nomination.

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. PAUL. 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1384 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1381

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1384, and I ask that it be reported by number.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 1384 to amendment No. 1381.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To limit foreign assistance to the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OR ANY OTHER PALESTINIAN GOVERNING ENTITY IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On October 7, 2023, the terrorist organization Hamas conducted a brutal attack against Israel, killing some 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, and taking approximately 250 people hostage.

(2) At least 33 United States citizens lost their lives in the October 7, 2023, attack.

(3) At least 6 United States citizens remain unaccounted for and presumed taken captive by Hamas.

(4) Hamas continues to fire rockets indiscriminately toward Israel.

(5) Hamas was designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States in October 1997.

(6) On November 26, 2023, a spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces said that 770 "terrorism events" were carried out by Palestinians in the West Bank since October 7, 2023, including shootings and hurling stones and Molotov cocktails.

(7) The United States provided more than \$7,600,000,000 in bilateral assistance to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza since 1993.

(8) The United States obligated more than \$280,000,000 to the West Bank and Gaza in 2023.

(9) The Department of State's West Bank and Gaza 2022 Human Rights Report identified significant human rights issues with respect to the Palestinian Authority, including credible reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings by Palestinian Authority officials, torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishments by Palestinian Authority officials, arbitrary arrest or detention of political prisoners and detainees, and significant problems with the independence of the judiciary.

(10) The report identified the Palestinian Authority committing arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media, including violence, threats of violence, unjustified detentions and prosecutions of journalists, and censorship; and serious restrictions on internet freedom.

(11) The report identified the Palestinian Authority committing substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, including harassment of nongovernmental organizations, serious and unreasonable restrictions on political participation, including no national elections since 2006, and serious government corruption.

(12) The report found that the Palestinian Authority did not adequately investigate or hold accountable gender-based violence, and crimes, violence, and threats of violence motivated by anti-Semitism.

(b) PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND OTHER GOVERNING ENTITIES IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts may be obligated or expended to provide any direct United States assistance, loan guarantee, or debt relief to the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall have no effect for a fiscal year if the President certifies to Congress during that fiscal year that—

(A) the Palestinian Authority, or other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza, has—

(i) formally recognized the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state;

(ii) publicly recognized the state of Israel;

(iii) renounced terrorism;

(iv) purged all individuals with terrorist ties from security services;

(v) terminated funding of anti-American and anti-Israel incitement;

(vi) publicly renounced Hamas and the October 7, 2023, attacks perpetrated by Hamas on Israel; and

(vii) honored previous diplomatic agreements; and

(B) all hostages abducted on October 7, 2023, and held in territory governed by the Palestinian Authority or other Palestinian governing authority have been released.

(c) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES BY THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OR ANY OTHER PALESTINIAN GOVERNING ENTITY IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Office of the Legal Adviser, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the human rights practices of the

Palestinian Authority, or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) all available credible information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza, including—

(i) the denial of the right to life to Israeli citizens, Jewish individuals, women and girls, or any other minority group; and

(ii) the use of torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges and trial, causing the disappearance of persons by the abduction and clandestine detention of those persons, and other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of person;

(B) a description of the steps that the United States Government has taken to—

(i) promote respect for and observance of human rights as part of the activities of the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza;

(ii) discourage any practices that are inimical to internationally recognized human rights; and

(iii) publicly or privately call attention to, and disassociate the United States and any foreign assistance provided for the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza from, any practices described in clause (ii);

(C) a description of the intended uses of all foreign assistance provided by the United States to the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza; and

(D) a list of international organizations that—

(i) accept financial contributions from the United States Government; and

(ii) provide assistance of any kind to the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, today, we are gathered once again to kick the can down the road. We are gathered to continue spending money, not individually in appropriations bills and not with any real accountability for the money that is being spent but just to keep spending. But at the rate we are spending the money, we have accumulated a \$34 trillion debt. We are accumulating debt at about \$1 trillion every 3 months.

If you look at how we spend the money, about two-thirds of the money is spent on mandatory programs, and there are no votes on mandatory programs. They are on autopilot, growing at about 5 to 6 percent a year, but they consume two-thirds of the spending. So when we come before you and they say, “We are going to vote on a budget; we are going to vote on spending,” we are actually voting on only about 28 percent of the budget. That is called discretionary spending. About half of that is military, and half of it is non-military.

Amongst that, they have this great agreement they came to. In the military, they decided we are going to increase the military by 3 percent. So this big chunk over here that is manda-

tory—we are not going to vote on it—is going up about 5 or 6 percent. Then we are going to vote on discretionary, but half of that is going up at 3 percent.

So, really, we are looking at about 14 percent of the budget and saying: Oh, we are going to try to do something.

You can eliminate the 14 percent of the budget, and it doesn't do anything to the debt. In fact, the debt equals the entire discretionary spending.

So when we vote on whether it is \$1.5 trillion or \$1.6 trillion or \$1.7 trillion, it is all borrowed. The taxes that you pay essentially pay only for the entitlement programs. Everything else is borrowed. Why is that a big deal? Why does it make a big difference to the average American? Because that is why your grocery prices go up. That is why your gas goes up. It is why people can't afford houses and why interest rates are high. Why? Because the Federal Reserve buys your debt, prints money, and your dollars become worth less and less. That is what inflation is.

We are just days into the new year, and the Treasury Department has announced that the debt has surpassed \$34 trillion. The situation is only getting worse. We are spending money and borrowing at about \$1 trillion every 90 days. You know, I can remember before, you know, back in the eighties, when we were in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Now we are adding \$1 trillion in 90 days. If that pace continues, that will amount to a mind-boggling \$4 trillion added to the debt every single year. We are spending ourselves into oblivion.

Since last fall, the United States has been borrowing over \$5 billion every day, over \$220 million an hour, nearly \$4 million every minute, and over \$62,000 a second. This is literally out of control. We are destroying the dollar. We are creating inflation in borrowing \$62,000 a second. Your family's share of the cost of that borrowing amounts to about \$15,000 a year.

Our Nation's greatest threat comes not from abroad but from the Halls of Congress, which at every opportunity look for ways to ignore our spending problem and expedite our economic decline. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts that we will add an average of \$2 trillion a year in debt every year for the next decade. That is another \$20 trillion in debt. Do you see the debt climbing? Thirty-three? Thirty-four? We are going to be up in the fifties in 10 years. Within a decade, we are going to go from \$34 trillion to \$50-some-odd trillion. It is literally out of control.

The real-world consequences are that home prices are doubling, interest rates are rising, grocery prices are rising, and gas prices are rising. It is not a mystery. Prices don't rise; the value of the dollar declines. The value of the dollar declines because the Federal Reserve prints up the money to buy the debt.

This isn't rocket science, but you will often watch the evening news, and

they will go “Oh my goodness, the mystery of inflation” or “It is going to be transitory.” Nobody is addressing the root cause. The root cause is Congress. Congress creates the inflation by running massive deficits.

This reckless level of borrowing and spending is unsustainable. The ever-increasing heights of our debt mean a weak economy, high inflation, and confiscatory tax rates. In other words, today's spending threatens tomorrow's prosperity.

It should come as no surprise that our financial institutions are beginning to sound the alarm. JPMorgan described our \$34 trillion debt as a “boiling frog” phenomenon for the economy and expects a debt-related recession in the next year or two. Moody's recently slashed its rating outlook on the United States' sovereign debt. There will come a time when other countries will refuse to buy our debt. There will come a time when the Federal Reserve buys all of the debt, and the destruction of the currency will become pervasive.

It seems that the whole world can see this coming, the warning signs. Everyone can see it except for those Members of Congress who are so deluded by always giving everybody everything they want—free money for all. It is only a matter of time before the world wakes up and refuses to buy our debt.

We are approaching the most predictable economic crisis the United States has ever faced. That is why I am back on the floor today and drawing attention to our out-of-control spending. Americans are starved for a voice of fiscal sanity. Americans understand better than our Nation's elite that time is running out. Americans will pay dearly for Congress's inability to say no to every cause, every line item, and every pinstriped lobbyist. We will pay more to Uncle Sam in the form of taxes. We will pay more for our groceries. We will pay more for our homes. We will suffer higher interest rates. And we will find a generation of kids who won't be able to leave their parents' homes because businesses can't afford to hire them.

But it doesn't have to be this way. America can once again be a rising nation. We can take that first step to a bright future today. I filed an amendment to this bill that would make across-the-board spending reductions, not just rightwing spending reductions or leftwing spending reductions—everything.

You know, if we were to spend money at about 95 percent of what we spent last year, we could balance the budget within 5 years. It would still take 5 years. You would tell people at home that that is what we ought to do—just spend 95 percent of what we spent before. Even if it is for good causes, we just can't do it forever. Most people would say: Well, yes, that sounds reasonable. We are not going to eliminate government; we are just going to spend 95 percent of what we spent last year.

My amendment would cut spending. My amendment would put us on the right course toward balancing our budget.

Some critics will say: But where could we cut? Where could we possibly cut spending?

Well, every year, we celebrate Festivus in our office. We have an airing of grievances, and we talk about waste. Last year, right before Christmas, we presented \$900 billion worth of waste, and I will give you a couple of the highlights.

This is from USAID. This is State Department spending, foreign aid spending. We spent \$6 million to boost tourism in Egypt. Does anybody think we don't have enough problems here at home that we should spend \$6 million in Egypt in promoting their tourism?

I am sure a lot of people will think this one is really worthwhile. The Defense Department spent \$8,000 in acquiring a lobster tank. I guess some general needed a lobster tank for his office. I have no idea why they would be spending \$8,000 on a lobster tank.

During COVID, we passed out money like there was no tomorrow. They couldn't print it fast enough for the government to send it out during COVID. There was \$200 billion that was found to have been sent to the wrong people or to have been illegally gained through the COVID money.

One of our favorites was a guy showing up, printing out his ID, and the ID was actually a Barbie doll face. He took a picture of a toy, put it on an ID, digitalized it, sent it in for his money, and he got some.

One of the other ones that really, I think, gets my gall, gets me up, is we gave money to a thousand dead people. We gave \$1 billion to a thousand dead people. When I came to the floor to complain about it, there was opposition. We wanted to unanimously pass a bill allowing the COVID money-givers to look at the Social Security death notices, to cross-match with Social Security death notices to make sure we didn't send checks to dead people. There was an objection. A Senator hurried to the floor, and his objection was that it would violate the privacy of the dead people.

I kind of think the dead people's privacy is pretty much over at that point. I also think it is a terrible government policy and makes government look ludicrous at all levels to send a thousand dead people \$1 billion.

I tried to get it fixed in legislation. There was opposition. NANCY PELOSI pulled it out of a bill that passed that I had it in. They finally did pass something. They said: Well, we can't go backward. We can't get the money back from the dead people. But we will try to do better in the future, not giving money to dead people. And what did we discover in the last year? There was still \$38 million—not quite a billion, but there was still \$38 million handed out to dead people.

Throughout all of this COVID waste, both parties got going. They were giv-

ing money to everybody. Every restaurant, every arena, every movie theater was getting money. The money would run out so fast that sometimes they would put up like \$45 billion, and in 2 days the money would be gone: Oh, no, it is gone. We want to extend it. We need to give them another \$45 billion.

Guess what. If you give people free money, they will take it. Even people who say they are conservative and say the government is having problems, free money will be accepted.

But it is not free. The free money that was given out—the supposedly free money—caused the inflation. It is still causing the inflation. Nothing in life is really free. The Fed bought it; the Fed created money to do it; and that is where your inflation comes from. And it is not over because we bought so much stuff. We gave away trillions of dollars.

Throughout my time in the Senate, I have tried, time and again, to offer budget plans that would stem the tide, that would balance our budget. This amendment won't get a vote today, but we will have a vote on whether to continue things, whether or not to kick the can down the road and just keep spending money. But realize for those who vote to keep spending money at this level, they are voting for about a \$1.5 to \$1.6 trillion debt, which may well be approaching \$2 trillion as this goes on. It is unsustainable, and those who vote to continue government spending at this level are responsible for the consequences, responsible for the inflation, responsible for the high home prices, and responsible for the high interest rates.

I will, today, offer an amendment to have more scrutiny on foreign aid.

Earlier this week, there was a vote to have scrutiny on the aid given to one of our allies, and I voted for that because I believe friend or foe, whoever is getting American money, there always should be conditions; there always should be catches. We should always ask: What are you doing with our money? We should ask that it is being used honestly.

I have harangued for over 2 years now that the money sent to Ukraine ought to have an inspector general looking just at that money.

In Afghanistan, we had a special inspector general. I have tried several times on the floor, and we haven't been able to get a special inspector general for Ukraine, one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

It is often said, though, that American foreign aid is to project American power and values. Unfortunately, year after year, decade after decade, the only thing consistent about American foreign aid is that the money continues to flow regardless of the behavior of the recipients.

In 2023 alone, the U.S. Government took over \$43 billion of American tax money and gave it away, sent it as welfare to other nations. Did the government send that money to our friends?

Sometimes. But sometimes your tax dollars go to countries better described as frenemies. And often, U.S. foreign aid actually goes to countries best described as authoritarian dictatorships.

The idea that we are actually looking to see if our values are being embedded or allowed or exemplified or made to show up in the countries that receive this just doesn't exist.

In 2022, the United States sent \$1½ billion to Egypt, but Egypt is a tyrannical nightmare. The State Department acknowledges that President Elsi—*and I use the word "President" loosely because he took over in a military coup—that he effectively has turned the country into a prison where security forces routinely engage in extrajudicial killings, torture, as well as harsh crackdowns on anyone who wishes to practice the right to freedom of speech.*

This is a regime that detains journalists for the crime of reporting, has tortured 14-year-olds for the crime of participating in public demonstration. Is this what America stands for? Are these the American values that we are pushing out on the world by sending over \$1 billion to Egypt?

Over the last 30 years, I think we have sent close to \$60 billion to Egypt. It is just a coincidence maybe, but the Mubarak family who ran Egypt for more than 15 years ended up being worth personally somewhere between \$15 and \$20 billion. That is called the big skim. Your tax dollars are sent to foreign countries. They are sent to dictatorships. And guess what, the tin-pot dictator takes their skim off the top. It always happens—I could give you a thousand examples—and we never change.

People freak out and say: Are you going to put conditions on foreign aid? They would have to behave or have elections or not persecute their people or not hoist up a 14-year-old by his arms and electrocute him.

That is the kind of stuff that is happening in Egypt. Yet our money goes on and on. If I propose that there are conditions—oh, we can't have conditions. America just must be generous. We don't care what they do with the money. And if we don't do it, somebody else will. The Russians will or the Chinese will. We have to give away our money or somebody else will give them money.

Our values be damned. We don't care. We look the other way, and the majority here—not me but the majority here—votes to continue foreign aid everywhere all the time without conditions.

Today, I offer an amendment where there will be conditions. Today's amendment will have conditions on aid to the Palestinians.

You would think with the massacre and everything else, why would we be giving any money to the Palestinians? But it will be interesting because I think probably the vast majority here will invoke today to continue to give

money to the Palestinians. But really shouldn't they have to do something to earn the money? Shouldn't they have to at least say we believe Israel has a right to exist or that the massacre on October 7 was a bad thing? If they can't say that, should they get any of our money?

We need to know what America stands for. Why should we reward governments that have terrible human rights records?

If foreign aid is to project American values, then we should write those values into the law. Let's say you only get the foreign aid if you actually are exemplifying American values.

We have made such attempts in the past. For example, we have laws on the books named after Senator Patrick Leahy that prohibit U.S. assistance to countries where there is credible information that gross violations of human rights have been committed.

But if our government strictly adhered to the Leahy law, it would insist that recipients abandon their despotic ways before they can receive American money. If our government actually enforced the Leahy law, which is well-intended and I support, foreign aid to Egypt would have ended years ago.

There is always a loophole. There is always a Presidential waiver, and they always use it. The only thing for certain that never changes is your money will be sent to these foreign countries; there will be no accountability; the deficit will rise; but, by golly, the money gets shoveled out the door every year. There doesn't seem to be a concern for what it is doing to Americans, what it is doing to our dollar and to our economy.

Unfortunately, the government always has a way around the rules. They are incredibly effective at circumventing the Leahy laws, and so your money still flows around the globe regardless of the behavior of the recipients.

It may surprise many Americans to learn that we have provided hundreds of millions of dollars to the Palestinian Authority over the years. In 2023 alone, we spent over \$280 million in the West Bank and Gaza. Since 1993, the United States has provided more than \$7.6 billion in assistance to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. I say not one penny more—not one penny more—of foreign aid to countries unwilling to renounce violence.

All American aid should be conditioned on recipients' practice of protecting basic human rights. I voted this way recently for one of our best allies, Israel. Their aid should be conditioned as well, not because I dislike Israel but because all foreign aid should be conditioned on how it is spent. It is our money. It should be conditioned on human rights.

It should not be too much to ask that the recipients of American aid renounce terrorism and cease trying to destroy Israel. Is that too much to ask? Are you willing to keep giving money

to the Palestinian Authority that will not and has not renounced and condemned the massacre of October 7?

After these attacks, this principle is even more relevant. The atrocities committed just over 100 days ago resulted in the killing of over 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, 250 people taken hostage. At least 33 Americans were killed, and at least 6 remain unaccounted for and are presumed taken captive by Hamas. That kind of barbarism cannot and should not be rewarded with American dollars.

How can we continue to allow the flow of money to groups that call for the destruction of Israel? How can we continue to allow taxpayer dollars to go to the very entities that lob rockets toward civilians in Israel? How can we reward the slaughter of innocent people?

The old ways of doing business have not brought peace to the region. We have not bought peace. We don't buy off and somehow create peace, and there is, all of a sudden, peace because of the \$7.6 billion we have given to the Palestinians.

They won't recognize Israel. They won't condemn the violence. They won't even condemn the massacre where 1,200 were killed October 7.

The time has come for the United States to mean what it says in the defense of human rights. This is why I offer an amendment to the spending bill today. That should be something every Senator can support.

The amendment would end American aid to governing entities in Gaza and the West Bank unless they, among other things, recognize Israel's right to exist, pledge to renounce terrorism and the October 7 massacre, terminate funding to anti-American and anti-Israeli enticement, as well as release all of the hostages abducted on October 7.

Additionally, my amendment requires that the Secretary of State report on Hamas and the Palestinian Authority's compliance with U.S. foreign assistance laws and any use of funds received from the United States that could have been involved with committing these atrocities.

American resources should always promote American security interests and values, and any recipient of our tax dollars should be more than willing to adopt the principles that recognize the liberty and dignity of the individual. But we cannot expect the recipient of aid to change their behavior if America does not demand it.

We speak of human rights but reward those who violate them. We can no longer afford empty rhetoric. It makes no sense to borrow money from China and turn around and give that money away to foreign countries. It is fiscally irresponsible, and it is weakening our national security.

America must demand a change, a change in behavior from those who do not accept Israel's right to exist, from those who actively seek the destruc-

tion of the State of Israel and murder innocent Israelis. To that end, I ask for a "yes" vote on my amendment that will end aid to Palestinian Authority.

I yield the floor.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 358.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 358, Christopher Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, John W. Hickenlooper, Laphonza Butler, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeff Merkley, Peter Welch, Gary C. Peters.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 357.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. (Reappointment).

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 357, Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Gary C. Peters, John W. Hickenlooper, Edward J. Markey, Mazie Hirono, Laphonza Butler, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeff Merkley, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 356.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joel Matthew Szabat, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 356, Joel Matthew Szabat, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Gary C. Peters, John W. Hickenlooper, Edward J. Markey, Mazie Hirono, Laphonza Butler, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeff Merkley, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, January 18, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AMENDING THE PERMANENT ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2013—Continued

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

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

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

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

H.R. 2872

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, shortly, we are going to be voting on an amendment authored by our colleague from Kentucky, Senator PAUL, that deals with restrictions on U.S. support in regard to the Middle East. I want to urge my colleagues to vote against that amendment.

Our ally Israel is at war to destroy Hamas terrorists, not at war against the Palestinian people, but this amendment by my colleague threatens U.S. efforts that support stability and security efforts and that serve Israeli and U.S. interests. What it would do is put certain restrictions on what funds America can make available in the region, particularly in regard to the Palestinians. It would undermine the United States' ability to work in lock-step with Israel on critical security cooperation and on counterterrorism efforts with the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

Today, we have a partnership in regard to security on the West Bank. The United States is helping in regard to the training of Palestinian security forces.

Mr. President, one of the pleasant surprises, I would say, is during this war between Israel and Hamas, we have seen relative peace in the West Bank. The security forces are doing their job. It is not perfect by any stretch of the imagination. There is too much violence taking place everywhere. But the security forces have been successful in providing more stability in the region. That would be compromised or eliminated under the Paul amendment.

It would prohibit the United States from meeting longstanding commitments to providing lifesaving assistance for hospitals, vaccines for children, and water treatment facilities. This goes beyond Taylor Force in cut-

ting off potential funds to the Palestinians for their lifesaving type of activities, from hospitals to water treatment facility plants.

It would also prohibit future assistance—including humanitarian assistance—to any governing entity for innocent Palestinians the day after Israel has destroyed Hamas, undermining the United States' ability to work toward a political horizon for Palestinians that protects Israel's security needs.

We are all concerned about what happens after the war ends with Hamas, after Hamas is destroyed. We need to have an entity that has the credibility among the Palestinians, and that will require us all to have partnerships to make a lasting peace so we can have lasting peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The Paul amendment compromises that from being able to be done. It would restrict what we can do in partnership to make that a reality.

We know the tragedy of this war with Hamas, but we hope coming out of it will give us a new opportunity for peace in the region, and that will require us to be able to help deal with the crisis that has been created through Hamas's attack, particularly with the Palestinian people, and to work to make sure there is a future with the Palestinian people living in peace with Israel.

So this amendment does not serve our national security interests. It compromises our ability to have a successful conclusion after Hamas has been destroyed. It compromises our current abilities to keep peace in the region, particularly in the West Bank. It compromises what we need to do in regard to the humanitarian needs of the region.

For all those reasons, I would urge my colleagues to reject the amendment.

Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the Paul amendment.

I ask unanimous consent that we begin the vote on the amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1384

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 1384.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Missouri Mr. HAWLEY would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 10 Leg.]

YEAS—44

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

NAYS—50

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

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Grassley	Kennedy
Graham	Hawley	Scott (FL)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote, the yeas are 44, the nays are 50.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1384) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be up to 6 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on the Marshall motion to commit.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I have a motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. MARSHALL] moves to commit the bill, H.R. 2872, to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 1 day, not counting any day on which the Senate is not in session, with changes that provide continuing appropriations for the entire Federal Government through the end of fiscal year 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. I rise in support of my motion to commit this continuing resolution to the Appropriations Committee with instructions for them to return to the floor a new continuing resolution to fund the government through the 2024 fiscal year.

The requested modifications to this continuing resolution are nothing more than date changes and minor anomalies that the Appropriations Committee is more than equipped to handle with the 24-hour turnaround time.

Doing so gives us ample time for the Senate and House to pass this amended legislation and send it to the President's desk before Friday's funding deadline.

Under the bipartisan agreements made as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, a full-year CR through September 30 would result in a spending cut of \$73 billion, bringing our total discretionary spending down to 1.56 trillion, a significant cut from the \$1.66 trillion funding deal that is in the works currently.

This is the fiscally responsible decision that the American people deserve and Congress has an obligation to make. We should agree to this spending cut, roll up our sleeves, and get back to work on an even more responsible funding package for the next fiscal year that will start to address our Nation's massive \$34 trillion dollar debt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the motion to commit the CR with instructions. The Senate has before it a bipartisan, bicameral CR which keeps the government open and gives us time to negotiate and pass full-year funding bills under the Schumer-Johnson top-line agreement.

The junior Senator from Kansas wants us to walk away from the bipartisan compromise on the CR, guarantee a government shutdown, and accept a devastating, year-long CR rather than do our jobs as Senators and write full-year bills.

I spoke at length recently about how a full-year CR would lock us into last year's spending plans and policies as if nothing has changed in over a year, and it would force devastating across-the-board cuts to programs that our country and families rely on, defense and nondefense alike.

It is simply not an option. We need to pass this CR, keep working 24/7 to hammer out the strongest possible funding bills. And for all those reasons, I strongly oppose the motion and urge my colleagues to vote no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I, too, urge our colleagues to reject this motion that calls for the Appropriations Committee to put forward a year-long continuing resolution for fiscal year 2024.

Adopting this motion would wipe out the work of the appropriations committee that led to 12 stand-alone bills being reported last summer with overwhelming bipartisan support. It would also lock in dangerously inadequate funding levels for our national security and lead to cuts in other vital programs serving our veterans, older Americans, low-income families. It would stall biomedical research, harm our farmers, and slow progress that we are making on our infrastructure.

A year-long CR would result in defense funding levels that are nearly \$27

billion less than the President's request in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. According to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, under a year-long CR:

Thousands of [defense] programs will be impacted with the most devastating impacts being to personnel, the nuclear triad modernization, shipbuilding and maintenance, munitions productions and replenishments, and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command priorities.

A year-long CR would result in our military being less ready to respond to the serious security threats around the globe.

I urge my colleagues to reject this motion and support the reasonable approach of completing our work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, a reminder of two dates: a date in June when the Appropriations Committee did their job—they got all their appropriations bills done—and another date in November when we last worked on this on this floor through a minibus.

We asked for more time. We stand at the ready. We are begging to bring these bills to the floor. Let them see the light of day. Let us finish our job. But in the meantime, I believe that this CR is the best path for American citizens.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON MOTION TO COMMIT

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

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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 13, nays 82, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 11 Leg.]

YEAS—13

Budd	Johnson	Risch
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Vance
Daines	Marshall	
Hawley	Paul	

NAYS—82

Baldwin	Coons	Hyde-Smith
Bennet	Cornyn	Kaine
Blackburn	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Blumenthal	Cotton	King
Booker	Cramer	Klobuchar
Boozman	Duckworth	Lankford
Braun	Durbin	Luján
Britt	Ernst	Manchin
Brown	Fetterman	Markey
Butler	Fischer	McConnell
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Menendez
Capito	Hagerty	Merkley
Cardin	Hassan	Moran
Carper	Heinrich	Mullin
Casey	Hickenlooper	Murkowski
Cassidy	Hirono	Murphy
Collins	Hoeven	Murray

Ossoff	Schmitt	Van Hollen
Padilla	Schumer	Warner
Peters	Scott (SC)	Warnock
Reed	Shaheen	Warren
Ricketts	Sinema	Welch
Romney	Smith	Whitehouse
Rosen	Stabenow	Wicker
Rounds	Sullivan	Wyden
Rubio	Tester	Young
Sanders	Thune	
Schatz	Tillis	

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Grassley	Scott (FL)
Graham	Kennedy	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 1381 is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1381) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill, as amended, is considered read a third time.

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

The bill was read the third time.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 6 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on the passage of H.R. 2872, as amended.

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we have good news for America. There will not be a shutdown on Friday. Because both sides have worked together, the government will stay open. Services will not be disrupted. We will avoid a needless disaster.

My colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle worked late into the evening last night to reach this agreement. So I thank everyone for their good work. Keeping the government open wasn't a given. We stayed up, negotiating amendments and timing, but thanks to both sides working together, the Senate is passing the CR with enough time for the House to take it up today and send it to the President's desk well before Friday's deadline.

Avoiding a shutdown is very good news for every American, especially for our veterans, our parents, our children, our farmers, our small businesses, and so many others who would have felt the sting of a government shutdown.

I thank my colleagues on both sides for their good work. It is precisely what Americans want to see—both sides working together and governing responsibly, with no chaos, no spectacle, no shutdown.

I yield to the chair of the Appropriations Committee, who has done such a good job on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I urge all of our colleagues to join us in voting to pass the CR so we can continue the work of negotiating and passing full-year funding bills without a shutdown, causing needless harm and chaos for folks back home.

We know a shutdown come end of day Friday would be devastating. I will be frank. Just the fact that our Agencies have to continually plan around the

potential of a shutdown nearly constantly is a huge opportunity cost. A shutdown tomorrow would force staff administering our Nation's veterans and nutrition assistance programs and so much else to either work without pay or stop working altogether.

The Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board said a shutdown this week would force the Board to hit pause on investigations it is conducting, including the recent incident when a door plug blew out midflight. This should not be an acceptable option to anyone.

Now, I have been working nonstop with my colleagues in both Chambers to keep this process moving as quickly as we possibly can so we can write and pass the strongest possible funding bills. Passing this measure will allow us the time we need to hammer out those funding bills for fiscal year 2024 after many months of needless delays.

I think we all want this to be a drama-free and reliable process, so I hope House Republicans will work with us to make that possible now, too, which means leaving extreme partisan demands at the door. We are all working as quickly as possible, but we aren't going to lose sight of the millions of Americans who count on the programs we fund whether it is WIC—for so many moms and babies we don't want to go hungry—or lifesaving healthcare research.

We have a lot of work left to do, but it has to happen in a bipartisan way. So let's get this CR passed and then work to make sure it is the last by keeping our focus on finalizing serious appropriations bills, which means no partisan poison pills and understanding that there needs to be a bipartisan agreement when it comes to key investments in our country's future.

I yield the floor.

VOICE ON H.R. 2872

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 12 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Baldwin	Booker	Butler
Bennet	Boozman	Cantwell
Blumenthal	Brown	Capito

Cardin	Kelly	Rounds
Carper	King	Rubio
Casey	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cassidy	Lankford	Schatz
Collins	Lujan	Schumer
Coons	Lummis	Shaheen
Cornyn	Manchin	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Cotton	McConnell	Stabenow
Daines	Menendez	Sullivan
Duckworth	Merkley	Tester
Durbin	Moran	Thune
Ernst	Mullin	Tillis
Fetterman	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Fischer	Murphy	Warner
Gillibrand	Murray	Warnock
Hagerty	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wicker
Hirono	Ricketts	Wyden
Hyde-Smith	Romney	Young
Kaine	Rosen	

NAYS—18

Blackburn	Cruz	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Risch
Britt	Hoeben	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Grassley	Scott (FL)
Graham	Kennedy	

The bill (H.R. 2872), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 18.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed, as amended.

The bill (H.R. 2872), as amended, was passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT KEN LUTTRELL

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Ken Luttrell of St. Louis, a true American hero, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

In the dark days that followed the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Luttrell answered his country's call, enlisting in the Marines and completing boot camp and radio training before shipping out to the Pacific. Sergeant Luttrell saw combat on the Marshall Islands and throughout the Pacific Islands and was part of the initial wave of marines landing on the shores of Iwo Jima. There, shrapnel from a Japanese shell tore through his lower face as he and his detachment set up their radios to coordinate the assault.

After numerous reconstructive surgeries, Mr. Luttrell returned to his home and family in St. Louis, and he has been a pillar of the community

ever since. His story—one of courage, strength, and resilience—is an example for us all, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for his courageous service to our Nation and in celebrating Mr. Luttrell's 100th birthday. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:02 a.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5862. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to consolidate, modify, or reorganize Customs revenue functions.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 12:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 38. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers"

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5862. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to consolidate, modify, or reorganize Customs revenue functions; to the Committee on Finance.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 18, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 38. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers".

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-3329. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to compliance by the United States courts of appeals and district courts with the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3330. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2023 Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Report to the Nation: Helping Crime Survivors Find Their Justice"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3331. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sixteen (16) legislative recommendations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3332. A communication from the Chair, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3333. A communication from the Chair, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Annual Inflation Adjustment" (RIN3147-AA24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3334. A communication from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls, and Targeting and Eliminating Unlawful Text Messages" (FCC 23-107)(CG Docket No. 02-278)(CG Docket No. 17-59)(CG Docket No. 21-402)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorials was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-97. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam requesting for the United States Congress to appropriate monies for Guam non-military residents who were exposed to Agent Orange and who are suffering from ailments caused by exposure to Agent Orange; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION No. 29-37

Whereas, I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that with the passing of the "Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022" (PACT Act), the United States government finally recognized that U.S. military veterans stationed in Guam within the twenty-two (22) year timeframe of 1958 and 1980 were exposed to Agent Orange and consequently suffered ailments. However, the PACT Act was not inclusive of non-veterans who were also exposed to Agent Orange and also suffered ailments at the same time as their military veteran counterparts who are now eligible for Agent Orange Disability Compensation; and

Whereas, Agent Orange belongs to a class of color-coded or rainbow herbicides. The properties of Agent Orange consist of a fifty-fifty (50/50) mixture of two (2) herbicides: 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T, as well as the toxic contaminant, Dioxin, otherwise known as 2, 3, 7, 8-tetrachloro-dibenzo para-dioxin, or TCDD. Other harmful herbicides containing Dioxin include Agents White, Blue, Purple, Pink, and Green. Dioxin buried or leached under the surface or deep in the sediment of rivers

and other bodies of water can have a half-life of more than one hundred (100) years; and

Whereas, on August 10, 2022, for the first time, the U.S. territory of Guam was added to the list of locations eligible for Agent Orange Disability Compensation; and thus ended decades of the U.S. military's persistent denial that Agent Orange was used on the island of Guam. The PACT Act also incorporated the "Lonnie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Relief Act" which was named after the late veteran who led the fight for recognition of Agent Orange use on Guam, which is noted at the 117th Congress, First (1st) Session, in H.R. 3368; and

Whereas, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) submitted the GAO-19-24 report to the U.S. Congress. Published in November of 2018, the detailed report relative to Agent Orange use on Guam indicates that not all shipment records pertaining to the disposal of Agent Orange were complete, including shipment documentation and logbooks that identify ports where vessels made stops enroute to Southeast Asia. The GAO states that of the 13.9 million gallons of Agent Orange obtained by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the GAO collected and examined shipment documents for more than 12.1 million of those gallons. After scrutinizing ninety-six percent (96%) of the logbooks for the aforementioned shipments, they discovered that among the vessels traveling to Southeast Asia, at least one (1) vessel carrying Agent Orange made a stop on Guam; and

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam served as the cornerstone of U.S. airpower in the conflict. To support bombing operations, B-52s were amassed on the base in the fall of 1972. Testimony presented to the U.S. Congress clearly demonstrated that during that time, Agent Orange was sprayed, among other places, at Andersen Air Force Base along the fence line, flight line, sidewalks, and golf course; at Naval Air Station along the fence line and flight line; and along the Cross Island Road oil pipeline that ran between the two (2) military bases, all of which are now the subject of substantial, credible reports of herbicide application by Vietnam-era veterans. This was strongly asserted and confirmed in the "NVLSP (National Veterans Legal Services Program) And VLSC (Veterans Legal Services Clinic) White Paper Confirming That Veterans Who Served in Guam from 1958-1980 Were Likely Exposed to Dioxin-Containing Herbicide Agents including Agent Orange" issued by the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic in May of 2020, and updated in February of 2021; and

Whereas, I Liheslaturan Guåhan recognizes the disparity between the unequal treatment of military personnel and non-military personnel exposed to Agent Orange; and a large number of Guam residents who were civilians and non-military have testified to having similar exposure to Agent Orange resulting in similar ailments as the U.S. military veterans, but are not covered by the PACT Act; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, strongly urge the United States Congress and the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government to treat Guam residents and non-veterans in the manner equal to the treatment now given to military veterans in providing funding and compensation to those who are suffering from ailments as a result of exposure to Agent Orange on Guam; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R.

Biden, Jr., President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States; the Honorable Michael S. Regan, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Tom Carper, Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, I Maga'hagan Guåhan.

POM-98. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of South River, Middlesex County, New Jersey opposing H.R. 3557 "American Broadband Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

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

Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Adeel Abdullah Mangi, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

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

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

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

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

Jacquelyn D. Austin, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Jacqueline Becerra, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Melissa Damian, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

David Seymour Leibowitz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Kirk Edward Sherriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Julie Simone Sneed, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Amy M. Baggio, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Cristal C. Brisco, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Gretchen S. Lund, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for

the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands for a term of ten years.

Deborah Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3609. A bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion are informed of the medical risks associated with the abortion procedure and the major developmental characteristics of the unborn child, before giving their informed consent to receive an abortion; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 3610. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for contributions to qualifying pregnancy centers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3611. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to clarify the longstanding authority of States to use funds made available under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to fund life-affirming services to empower pregnant women to choose life for their babies instead of abortion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3612. A bill to prohibit the limitation of access to assisted reproductive technology, and all medical care surrounding such technology; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3613. A bill to require Facility Security Committees to respond to security recommendations issued by the Federal Protective Service relating to facility security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BUTLER:

S. 3614. A bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Vallejo, California, as the "Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3615. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to remove carbon dioxide directly from ambient air or seawater, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3616. A bill to require additional disclosures relating to donations to the Presidential Inaugural Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3617. A bill to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3618. A bill to designate Mauritania under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Mauritania to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3619. A bill to amend chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, to prohibit the use of Coast Guard funds and facilities to perform abortions and to prohibit the provision of travel and transportation allowances to obtain abortions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 3620. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a corporate tax rate increase on companies whose ratio of compensation of the CEO or other highest paid employee to median worker compensation is more than 50 to 1, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3621. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish non-visual accessibility standards for certain devices with digital interfaces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3622. A bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that child support for unborn children is collected and distributed under the child support enforcement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3623. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include as a high-priority research and extension area research on microplastics in land-applied biosolids on farmland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3624. A bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina:

S. 3625. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide small businesses with additional time to file beneficial ownership information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3626. A bill to clarify task and delivery order solicitation and contract requirements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 3627. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to require a certain efficiency level for certain distribution transformers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3628. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve mobility crisis under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3629. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to revise recidivist penalty provisions for child sexual exploitation offenses to uniformly account for prior military convictions, thereby ensuring parity among Federal, State, and military convictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3630. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to establish a pilot program for testing the use of a predictive risk-scoring algorithm to provide oversight of payments for durable medical equipment and clinical diagnostic laboratory tests under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KING, Mr. LANFORD, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 3631. A bill to require reports on critical mineral and rare earth element resources around the world and a strategy for the development of advanced mining, refining, separation, and processing technologies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. Res. 527. A resolution to commend and congratulate the Harding University football team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II national championship; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. BUTLER):

S. Res. 528. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2024 as "National Stalking Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. LANFORD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. Res. 529. A resolution recognizing January 2024 as "National Mentoring Month"; to

the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. Con. Res. 25. A concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2872; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 51

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 51, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 184, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 545

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 715

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 715, a bill to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes.

S. 956

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 956, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve dependent coverage under the TRICARE Young Adult Program.

S. 1085

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1085, a bill to provide author-

ization for nonpecuniary damages in an action resulting from a cruise ship voyage occurring on the high seas.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. LUJAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) 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. 2019

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2019, a bill to prevent States and local jurisdictions from interfering with the production and distribution of agricultural products in interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 2389

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2389, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

S. 2465

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2465, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to furnish doula services to veterans.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2623

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2623, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to harmonize the effective dates of all rules that the Secretary is required to issue under the Corporate Transparency Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2790

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2790, a bill to reform rural housing programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3094

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3094, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a proposed rule with respect to emissions from vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 3118

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3118, a bill to provide for an emergency increase in Federal funding to State Medicaid programs for expenditures on home and community-based services.

S. 3192

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3192, a bill to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes.

S. 3294

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3294, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act with respect to reimbursements under the child and adult care food program, and for other purposes.

S. 3481

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3481, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3490

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3490, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from providing health care to, or engaging in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3502, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 3520

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3520, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for education.

S. 3560

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr.

HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3560, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize pre-enrollment of certain combat service members of the Armed Forces in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3574

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3574, a bill to amend chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, to designate the mastodon as the national fossil of the United States.

S. 3580

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3580, a bill to require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title, and for other purposes.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3607, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses.

S. 3608

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3608, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit treatment of certain distributions and reimbursements for certain abortions as qualified medical expenses.

S. RES. 333

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

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 527—TO COMMEND AND CONGRATULATE THE HARDING UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

S. RES. 527

Whereas, on December 16, 2023, the Harding University Bisons football team (referred to

in this preamble as the “Bisons”) won the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division II national championship;

Whereas the Bisons defeated Colorado School of Mines 38-7 at McKinney Independent School District Stadium in McKinney, Texas;

Whereas this was the first time the Bisons ever competed for an NCAA Division II national championship;

Whereas the Bisons are the first Arkansas college sports team to win an NCAA Division II football national championship, and 1 of only 6 college football programs in Arkansas to win a national championship;

Whereas the Bisons completed a perfect season, winning all 15 games played in the 2023 season;

Whereas the Bisons rushed for a season total of 6,160 yards, becoming the first team at any level of NCAA football to rush for over 6,000 yards in a single season;

Whereas Bisons player Blake Delacruz rushed for 212 yards on 27 carries, breaking the NCAA Division II championship game record for rushing yards;

Whereas Paul Simmons became the Bisons head coach in 2017, was named the 2023 National Coach of the Year by D2Football.com, and under his leadership, the team—

(1) has gained a 65-13 overall record, making Simmons Harding University’s fastest head football coach to obtain 65 career wins;

(2) won the 2021 and 2023 Great American Conference championship and has never finished lower than second in the conference;

(3) has reached the NCAA Division II playoffs 5 times, compiling an 8-4 record and reaching the national semifinals in 2017, the Super Region 3 semifinals in 2021, and winning the NCAA Division II national championship game in 2023, marking Simmons as the only active coach in the Great American Conference to have more than 1 NCAA II playoff win;

Whereas the dedication and hard work of the players, coach Paul Simmons, and his staff, as well as the enthusiastic support of alumni, fans, and the Searcy community, where Harding University resides, were all critical to the Bisons’ success; and

Whereas the Bisons’ coaches, players, and support staff should all be congratulated and celebrated for their accomplishments and commitment to their school, team, and community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends and congratulates the Harding University football team on winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II national championship and completing a perfect season;

(2) recognizes the achievements, excellence, dedication, and teamwork of the Harding University football team; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the head coach of the Harding University football team, Paul Simmons;

(B) the president of Harding University, Dr. Michael D. Williams; and

(C) the athletic director of Harding University, Jeff Morgan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 528—RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING THE PREVENTION OF STALKING BY DESIGNATING JANUARY 2024 AS “NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO,

and Ms. BUTLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 528

Whereas approximately 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men in the United States, at some point during their lifetimes, have experienced stalking victimization, causing them to feel fearful, threatened, or concerned for their own safety or the safety of others;

Whereas it is estimated that, each year, more than 13,400,000 individuals in the United States report that they have been victims of stalking;

Whereas more than 85 percent of victims of stalking report that they have been stalked by someone they know;

Whereas nearly 70 percent of intimate partner stalking victims are threatened with physical harm by stalkers;

Whereas stalking is a risk factor for intimate partner homicide;

Whereas 3 in 4 female victims of intimate partner homicides were stalked during the year preceding the homicide by their killers;

Whereas 11 percent of victims of stalking report having been stalked for 5 or more years;

Whereas two-thirds of stalkers pursue their victims at least once a week;

Whereas many victims of stalking are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, including relocating, changing jobs, or obtaining protection orders;

Whereas the prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among victims of stalking than the general population;

Whereas many victims of stalking do not report stalking to the police or contact a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law, the laws of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

Whereas stalking affects victims of every race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas national organizations, local victim service organizations, campuses, prosecutor's offices, and police departments stand ready to assist victims of stalking and are working diligently to develop effective and innovative responses to stalking, including online stalking;

Whereas there is a need to improve the response of the criminal justice system to stalking through more aggressive investigation and prosecution;

Whereas there is a need for an increase in the availability of victim services across the United States, and those services must include programs tailored to meet the needs of victims of stalking;

Whereas individuals between 18 and 24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking victimization, and a majority of stalking victims report their victimization first occurred before the age of 25;

Whereas among undergraduate college students who experience intimate partner stalking, 40 percent also experience coercive control and 11 percent experience physical assault from the same partner;

Whereas 32 percent of undergraduate college students who experience stalking are also sexually assaulted;

Whereas college students with disabilities are twice as likely as college students without disabilities to experience stalking;

Whereas there is a need for an effective response to stalking on each campus;

Whereas 80 percent of stalking victims report being stalked with technology, such as phone calls, text messages, social media

platforms, internet posts, emails, and electronic tracking;

Whereas victims of technology-facilitated stalking often report as much fear as victims who experience in-person stalking, and are just as concerned for their safety;

Whereas January 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the first "National Stalking Awareness Month"; and

Whereas the Senate finds that "National Stalking Awareness Month" provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 2024 as "National Stalking Awareness Month";

(2) applauds the efforts of service providers, police departments, prosecutor's offices, national and community organizations, colleges and universities, and private sector entities that combat stalking, support victims, and bring awareness to this crime;

(3) encourages policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of stalking and continue to support the availability of services for victims of stalking; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through "National Stalking Awareness Month".

SENATE RESOLUTION 529—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2024 AS "NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. MULLIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 529

Whereas the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of and celebrate the powerful impact of mentoring relationships, recruit new mentors, and encourage institutions to integrate quality mentoring into their policies, practices, and programs;

Whereas quality mentoring fosters positive life and social skills, promotes self-esteem, bolsters academic achievement and college access, supports career exploration, and nurtures youth leadership development;

Whereas mentoring happens in many settings, including community-based programs, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, government agencies, religious institutions, and the workplace, and in various ways, including formal mentoring matches and informal relationships with teachers, coaches, neighbors, faith leaders, and others;

Whereas effective mentoring of underserved and vulnerable populations helps individuals confront challenges and display improved mental health and social-emotional well-being;

Whereas studies have shown that incorporating culture and heritage into men-

toring programs can improve academic outcomes and increase community engagement, especially for Alaska Native and American Indian youth;

Whereas mentoring encourages positive youth development and smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework and having healthy social interactions, and has a positive impact on the growth and success of a young person;

Whereas mentors help young people set career goals and can help connect mentees to industry professionals to train for and find jobs;

Whereas mentoring programs generally have a significant, positive impact on youth academic achievement, school connectedness and engagement, and educational success, which lead to outcomes such as improved attendance, grades and test scores, and classroom behavior;

Whereas research has found that young people facing risk of not completing high school but who had a mentor were, compared with their peers, more likely to enroll in college, to participate regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, to hold a leadership position in a club or sports team, and to volunteer regularly, and less likely to start using drugs;

Whereas mentoring has long been a staple of juvenile justice and violence prevention efforts and can offer comprehensive support to youth at risk for committing violence or victimization, as mentoring can address many risk factors at once;

Whereas mentoring relationships for youth facing risk, such as foster youth, can have a positive impact on a wide range of factors, including mental health, educational functioning and attainment, peer relationships, employment, and housing stability;

Whereas mentoring programs have been found to have a meaningful positive impact on mental health symptoms across a variety of outcomes, including internalizing and externalizing mental health symptoms, interpersonal relationships, and reducing parental stress;

Whereas mentoring is an innovative, evidence-based practice and, uniquely, is both a prevention and intervention strategy that can support young people of all demographics and backgrounds in all aspects of their lives;

Whereas each of the benefits of mentors described in this preamble serves to link youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening communities in the United States;

Whereas, despite the benefits of mentoring, 1 out of every 3 young persons is growing up without a mentor, which means a third of the youth of the United States are growing up without someone outside of the home to offer real life guidance and support; and

Whereas this "mentoring gap" demonstrates the need for collaboration between the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to increase resources for relationship-centric supports for youth in communities, schools, and workplaces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes January 2024 as "National Mentoring Month";

(2) recognizes the caring adults who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and help the young people of the United States find inner strength and reach their full potential;

(3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial because it supports educational achievement, engagement, and self-confidence, supports young people in setting career goals and expanding social capital, reduces juvenile delinquency, and strengthens communities;

(4) promotes the establishment and expansion of quality mentoring programs across the United States to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and

(5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring gap” that exists for the many young people in the United States who do not have meaningful connections with adults outside the home.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25—PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2872

Mrs. MURRAY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 25

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That, in the enrollment of H.R. 2872, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall amend the title so as to read: “Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I have five 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10 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 Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 1:45 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, after Barack Obama selected Joe Biden

to be his Vice President in 2008, one newspaper columnist labeled him “Tehran’s favorite Senator.” Well, Tehran’s favorite Senator has now become Tehran’s favorite President.

Since taking office, Joe Biden has taken every opportunity to enrich and empower Iran and its terrorist proxies. There is, perhaps, no greater single example of this than his obscene coddling of the Iranian-backed Yemeni terrorists known as the Houthis.

These barbarians with rockets have kidnapped, tortured, and murdered American citizens—along with shooting down American aircraft. They have attacked our allies and slaughtered Yemeni civilians. The Houthi motto isn’t subtle: “God is Great, Death to America, Death to Israel, A curse upon the Jews, Victory to Islam.” And in case anyone missed it, they also put it on their flag. Yet in his first days in office, Joe Biden removed the Houthis from the list of foreign terrorist organizations.

The Houthis quickly rewarded this one-sided, unreciprocated generosity by launching a major military offensive against our friends in Saudi Arabia. At that point, Joe Biden could have simply admitted that he had made a mistake and redesignated the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organization. He refused.

In the 2 years since, the Houthis raked in money, expanded their territorial control, and stockpiled Iranian-supplied weapons. Unencumbered by American terrorist designation, they gathered their strength and waited for an opportunity to live out their creed of, again, “Death to America, Death to Israel, A curse upon the Jews.”

After the October 7 atrocities in Israel, they saw that opportunity. Less than 2 weeks after the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the end of the Holocaust, the Houthis began launching missiles at the Jewish State. In November, the Houthis then began hijacking ships and launching missiles and drones at both civilian and U.S. naval vessels—all in an attempt to put pressure on Israel and protect their terrorist brothers in Hamas.

Since November, the Houthis have attacked American and allied forces and international shipping an estimated 45 times, launching an estimated 31 missiles, 94 drones, and 1 drone ship.

Yet, the President and his team of Iran accomplices, appeasers, and accommodators stood by for a month and a half as these terrorists attacked with impunity.

When the administration finally did take action last week, its weak, pinprick airstrikes only took out a small fraction of the Houthis’s offensive capabilities. Even the New York Times acknowledged in a headline that “Much of Houthis’ Offensive Ability Remains Intact After U.S.-Led Airstrikes.”

The least this administration could do is to redesignate the Houthis as a

foreign terrorist organization. Yet Joe Biden refuses even to fix that mistake.

Americans are dead, but Joe Biden’s pride and his ambition for a grand rapprochement with Iran are, apparently, more important to him and his aides than American lives.

Instead, President Biden has opted to label the Houthis a “specially designated global terrorist group.” Well, that sounds like progress, but unlike the previous foreign terrorist organization designation, this designation includes no prohibition on Houthi travel and no sanctions on entities providing materiel support for these terrorists. How convenient for the ayatollahs in Iran. And this designation won’t even take effect for 30 more days, giving the Houthis time to clear out their bank accounts and to sanction-proof their operations.

And most amazing and most unforgivable of all, the administration also announced waivers for even these weak and limited sanctions. These waivers allow the Yemeni terrorists to keep receiving food, medicine, fuel, personal remittances, telecommunications and mail, and to maintain port and airport operations.

Perhaps it makes sense that those in this administration don’t want to punish groups and individuals providing materiel support for the Houthi terrorists. They would have to turn themselves in after 3 years of appeasement and conciliation.

This administration must reverse course in the Middle East, redesignate the Houthis as a foreign terrorist organization, and put real pressure on Iran and its terrorist proxies, not Swiss cheese-like sanctions designed only for a good 1-day headline. Anything less is a betrayal of the American people, their interests, and our allies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2872

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 25.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 25) providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2872.

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I further ask that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 25) was agreed to.

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

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as they have for 50 years now—in rain, in cold, sunshine and snow—pro-life Americans will take to the streets of Washington, DC, tomorrow to march for life. They come by the tens of thousands from all across the country, in buses, in cars, and on planes. Young people—so many young people—and Americans of every age, from every walk of life, come to Washington, DC, for a simple reason: to testify to the truth enshrined in our declaration, that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among those are the right to life, to liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

And that right to life applies to every person, not just those the pro-abortion movement thinks should be allowed to be born—every person, born and unborn.

At some level, I think everyone knows the truth of what abortion is: the killing of an innocent human being. The pro-abortion movement and the Democratic Party—unfortunately, one and the same these days—have tried to obscure this truth. They do everything they can to avoid talking about the reality of the issue. But I think even they are well aware that when we are talking about abortion, we are talking about the killing of a human being.

I think they are well aware that a 7-pound unborn baby is just as human and just as worthy of life as a 7-pound baby who has already been born. But although I think everyone knows the reality of the issue, it can be easy to ignore or forget the fact that every year in this country, hundreds of thousands of babies are being killed by abortion.

And when I say "hundreds of thousands," I mean hundreds of thousands. The pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute reports that "In the first 10 months of 2023, there were an estimated 878,000 abortions in the formal U.S. healthcare system"—878,000. To put that number in perspective, 878,000 is more than the entire population of some U.S. States. That is a lot of lives lost, a lot of love lost; and we cannot afford to forget that this is happening.

And, every year, the March for Life provides us with the powerful reminder. The March for Life is a vast assembly of Pro-lifers and, as I said, a powerful witness.

But it is just one facet of the pro-life movement. An even bigger work, an even bigger focus, I might add, of the pro-life movement is offering hope and help to moms in need. That goes on every day in every State around the country at pregnancy resource centers, at maternity homes, where moms have

access to the resources they need to care for their babies and to get on their feet—at churches, on college campuses, and in many other places. Supporting moms and babies is what the pro-life movement does, and it is what it will continue to do no matter how many obstacles are placed in its way.

Madam President, I am committed to doing everything I can in Washington to protect babies and to support the work of the pro-life movement, whether that is opposing pro-abortion rules from the administration or working to advance legislation like my Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would require that babies born alive during a botched abortion be granted the same medical care as any other baby would be.

I am grateful to all of my colleagues who stand up for life here in Congress and the countless Americans who spend each day standing up for moms and their babies.

Today, I want to especially thank all of those who will march through the streets of Washington tomorrow to remind us all of the reality of abortion and the importance of defending the right to life.

Given the grim reality of abortion, it would be no surprise if the mood at the March for Life each year were somber. But I am always struck by the hope and enthusiasm that emanates from so many of the marchers, especially the young people. I think it is because the marchers know that no matter how long and how hard the battle, at the end of the day, life will win.

I firmly believe that, and I look forward to the day when we fully live up to our founding principles and ensure that the right to life of every American, born and unborn, is respected.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, it is January. It is cold outside. In fact, it is snowing outside here in Washington, DC, today and tomorrow. It is late January, which means what it has meant for the last five decades: Pro-life Americans will gather by the hundreds of thousands in Washington, DC, and will converge on this city to say: We think every child is valuable.

Now, I have to tell you, every march I have been to—and I have been to a lot—they are all cold. They don't all have snow. This one will, but it won't dampen the spirits for a lot of students, leaders, moms, dads, and little ones who will come just to be able to say: We are in America, and we think life is valuable. We think children are precious. We think this is an important issue.

We haven't always had a March for Life. We had one for 50 years, actually. Interestingly enough, when Nellie Gray and some other pro-life leaders organized the March for Life starting after 1973—after the Roe v. Wade decision—they were recognizing an anomaly in American law.

Our Nation has been a nation almost 250 years, but abortion was only mandated in every State and every place just during that short time period under Roe v. Wade. For the other two centuries of our Nation, this issue about the value of life was decided in every State and among the people.

That is what has occurred again. We still have abortion in America. It is happening all over the country. But individuals are rising up and saying: Our State, our leaders, and even this Congress needs to have a conversation about when is a child a child and when does a child become valuable in our culture and when is a child disposable in our culture, and which child can be disposed of and which child is celebrated.

I love this side-by-side picture here. I don't know if you can really see it. This is an ultrasound that is actually happening in the womb, with this baby in this position with arms up over her head.

And a baby sleeps like that. In fact, both of my daughters often slept like that. We called that the "touchdown position," when their hands were raised over their head. It is funny to be able to see this picture and ultrasound of this child in the womb sleeping just like the same way they would later sleep in the crib.

Do you know why? Because there is no difference between these two babies. That is a baby then, and that is a baby then. The only difference is time. The only difference between myself right now and myself 9 months ago was time—9 months of time. The only difference between this child in the womb and that child lying in a crib is just a little bit of time.

There are literally millions of Americans who have this very simple perspective. We should—as the march says this year—march with every woman, for every child, and we should stand up for those individuals and to be able to honor those families. We march in support of pregnancy resource centers, those folks who are walking with women through very difficult decisions and through very hard moments.

There was a recent study done on pregnancy resource centers in just 2022 that found that \$359 million were donated to individuals through pregnancy resource centers all over the country. Those are diapers and wipes. Those are baby formulas. That is car seats. That is free ultrasounds. That is free pregnancy tests. That is after-abortion support. And, sometimes, it is strollers and clothes.

A vast majority of those individuals who work at these pregnancy resource centers are heroes, volunteers who give their time. They have full-time jobs, tasks with families and in other places, but they value every single child, even the children they don't know and love. They would donate their time and their money and their effort just to be able to say that child is just as valuable as that child; and that, in America, we

shouldn't pick and choose which child is precious and which child is disposable. We should just say we all are.

This administration has been exceptionally aggressive on taking on this issue of life, pushing back from the very beginning. For instance, there is a nurse who was in the process of dealing with her employer because this nurse had informed the hospital that she worked with that she was personally opposed to abortion—morally, personally opposed to abortion. She was told: You won't have to participate in abortion. You have a conscience-right protection under U.S. law that individuals can't be compelled to have an abortion.

She worked at this hospital until one day she had a doctor and a nurse who actually compelled her to participate in an abortion or she would lose her job. She was not allowed to be able to have her conscience without losing her job.

That was in the course of litigation. In the earliest days of the Biden administration, that litigation was just dismissed, saying: We understand. It is Federal law that you should have conscience protections. But we don't agree with your opinion, and so you don't get conscience protections, only people we agree with.

That is wrong.

In my State, funding from this administration was cut off in my State for AIDS testing, for screenings, for breast cancer evaluations. That money was Federal dollars allocated to my State to help in healthcare in rural communities. That money was cut off by this administration. Do you want to know why? Because our State would not promote abortion. And the determination was made that you won't get Federal assistance for AIDS testing or for breast cancer screening or for assistance in your county health departments. We are going to cut your funds off for that if your State chooses not to promote abortion.

Our State stepped up and said: We believe every child is valuable—both of those kids—and we will find a way to do it on our own.

In the meantime, this administration is cutting off funds for AIDS testing because they don't like people in our State, our opinion about the value of life. This administration has just proposed to cut off temporary assistance for needy families to pro-life centers. As I mentioned before, some of these pregnancy resource centers give out food, clothing, and assistance. They have been a part of the TANF Program for years and years and years.

This administration proposed to be able to cut them off to say: If you assist families but also don't promote abortion, you can't actually assist families. You are not one of us.

They are literally telling to those Americans that you don't agree with the administration. So you don't count because you are actually trying to protect life. We won't help you do that.

This administration is currently trying to use the Emergency Medical

Treatment and Labor Act to force doctors to provide abortions, even though that law that they are using specifically and explicitly protects pregnant moms and unborn children. But they are currently trying to be able to twist it the other way.

This administration is currently fighting an issue on chemical abortions—chemical abortions that have been around for years. That is a two-drug cocktail where the first drug actually disconnects the child from the connection in the womb and starves them. The second pill causes that delivery. It causes the contraction of the uterus, and they have an abortion at home. It is a do-it-yourself kit for at home.

For years, that has been a very specific issue. There was only a certain specific time period that you could actually use that drug cocktail, knowing that if the child was just a few weeks older, it causes a real danger to the mom. Or if this was an ectopic pregnancy, it could actually take the life of that mom. Or if the mom has the wrong blood type, it could cause the mom not to be able to have children in the future.

In the past, a physician would have to connect with that mom before they would get this drug cocktail. This administration has continued to fight to say: No, they don't need to see a physician. They can just get it mailed to them.

And in a situation with an ectopic pregnancy, literally, the side effects from having the do-it-yourself abortion at home may look similar to the side effects of an ectopic pregnancy, but there is no way to know unless you get that ultrasound. And they will never know.

Listen, I am fully aware that this administration is aggressive about trying to provide more abortions in the country. Why would they put women's lives at risk to be able to make it more convenient to be able to have an abortion?

It is January. We are talking about this issue of abortion because the March for Life is happening. But there are literally millions of Americans all around the country who are going to continue to be able to talk about this issue of life in every way that they can because they look at these two children—literally, a few weeks apart—and they think both of them are valuable. I don't think that is a radical concept.

We live in a culture in America that is committed to tolerance, acceptance, and diversity, but it seems to be so for every area except for that child. That child doesn't get to have tolerance, acceptance, and be welcomed into a culture. That child is sometimes determined to be disposable.

I want to say to the millions of Americans who see both of these kids and who think both of them are valuable: Continue to be able to love people, to be able to walk alongside those moms, to be able to encourage in every way that you can because, as a culture,

as we keep talking about this issue, more and more people will look at these two pictures and will say: You are right. They both look like children to me. Why don't we treat them equal?

That is what we should be all about as a country, and that is why we march every cold January.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE HARDING UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I beseech you and ask for unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 527, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 527) to commend and congratulate the Harding University football team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II national championship.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 527) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I also ask the incredible Senator presiding for unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Montana be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from January 18, 2024, through January 22, 2024.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024, THROUGH MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, January 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of

proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Koos nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I know that the Senator from Oklahoma is going to speak, so I ask—after the Senator from Oklahoma speaks, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator LANKFORD.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK OSBORN

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, no one reads the boring stuff better than Senator BOOKER from New Jersey, so I want to recognize his capability to be able to go through the details.

I have a staff member who has served with me for 11 years. His name is Derek Osborn. He is a remarkable gentleman. He came onto our team as an intern. He is leaving as an attorney, as a professional, as a patriot, as a friend, as a brother in many ways.

He served in just about every location we have as far as our office space. He started out in Oklahoma City. He served there; he served as an intern. We brought him on here in Washington, DC, to be able to work on Indian affairs issues and immigration—what he affec-

tionately called his forced deployment to Washington, DC. He eventually wore us out that he wanted to be able to return back to Oklahoma, which I don't blame him, and he returned to Tulsa and has led our Tulsa office and has been our deputy State director.

He is a person who is incredibly whip-smart, but he is also so warm in how he interacts with people. People love to be able to spend time with Derek just as a person, and then they ask him the hard policy questions, and he answers them because he is knowledgeable. But he is passionate first, not about issues but about people. He is also exceptionally funny, although please don't tell him so because that would just encourage him to do it even more.

We have a lot of memories and a lot of travel—across several years of traveling and working together because I have given him some of the hardest assignments to be able to work on in our team because he was capable of taking every one of them on each time.

I will never forget, though, a moment that—we were actually under the Trump administration at the time. We were heading out to Camp David for a weekend because he was doing immigration at the time, and we were going to do a working weekend on immigration at Camp David that weekend. So we headed out, headed over, got on an Osprey, and then headed out to Camp David to be able to land there and to be able to head in, and it wasn't until later that he told me he is terrified of helicopters and has been terrified and has never been on one. I got to assure him that an Osprey is actually an airplane, not a helicopter, although I couldn't convince him of that, actually, especially when the back door was open during the whole flight and he was staring right out into the abyss below us. It is a good moment for him to get a little therapy to be able to work on his fear of helicopters.

(Mr. BOOKER assumed the Chair.)

He has been great about mentoring young staff. He is great about being an encourager and somebody who is passionate about his faith and someone who really wants to be able to help our State and help our Nation.

He is the kind of staff member whom every one of us wants to have on our staff all the time, and I have a fantastic team. But in the United States, there is only one Derek. And he has proved exceptionally capable on our team and in our State, and he will be sorely missed in the position he is in.

I will still connect with him in the days ahead because he knows every barbecue place in the State, and he is a great guy just to be able to spend time with and be able to listen to.

I will still continue to be able to push him in his faith, as he pushes me in mine, and I will check in on him. And, hopefully, at some point, I will be able to attend his wedding because the boy needs to get married, and I will be there to be able to celebrate.

In the days ahead, I look forward to maintaining a friendship with someone who has been an employee and a partner in this work in this State.

So I just want to be able to say thank you to a great staff member, Derek Osborn, and I thought you should know a little bit more about him before we end this day.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JANUARY 22, 2024, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:07 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 22, 2024, at 3 p.m.