



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

No. 14

Senate

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

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Mendy Deitsch, the Director of Chabad of the East Valley from Chandler, AZ, will open the Senate in prayer.

The guest chaplain offered the following prayer:

God of Heaven, Master of the world, please grace this distinguished, exalted United States Senate. Give blessings upon these distinguished individuals, chosen by so many who have entrusted them with the responsibility of legislating for the well-being of their constituents and families.

While each of us may come from different backgrounds, we stand here united with a shared vision and purpose, with conviction and determination, with love and strength, to ensure that each day is better than the day before.

As my revered teacher, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, said: Though humanity's origin began in a perfect world, human shortcomings led to its failings. Yet it is through human goodness and kindness that we can reveal G-d in this beautiful world, his dwelling place on Earth with the redemptive time of the coming of Moshiach.

Almighty God, may those gathered here remain mindful of Your presence as they work to enact just laws, the process of which itself is one of the seven Noahide Laws given to You and all mankind, and align it with Your will to foster a peaceful and harmonious world.

Please let us see more peaceful days soon, with the safe return of those being held hostage as well as the dedicated men and women of our Armed Forces battling evil at this time. Bestow upon them wisdom, justice, grace, and empathy.

Bless our leaders with good health, compassion and joy, enabling them to bring honor to the United States and to Your Name the blessings to mankind as they fulfill Your divine will. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 25, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gretchen S. Lund, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Constitution of the United States, the consensus of our Nation's Founders, and the weight of exhaustive historical precedent give the President the clear authority to use military force when American lives and interests are under attack. The Commander in Chief does not lack authority; rather, he is failing to sufficiently exercise the authority that he has.

Right now, every day, enemies of the United States are engaged in a campaign of brazen aggression that threatens American servicemembers, our interests, and our allies in the Middle East. This campaign is hardly new. Year after year, the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism trains, equips, finances, and coordinates efforts to drive America—the “Great Satan”—from the Middle East and to wipe Israel—the “Little Satan”—off the map.

When President Biden took office, Senate Republicans warned him not to go soft on Iran. We urged him not to abandon maximum pressure, not to obsess over restoring a failed nuclear deal, and not to ignore Iran's relentless—relentless—campaign of terror.

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



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But the President failed to heed this advice. He ignored the 80-some attacks on U.S. troops over his first 2 years in office. He failed to recognize the killing of an American in an Iran-backed drone attack in Syria last March as a wake-up call. Instead, his administration slept through glaring indications that Iran-backed terror was actually reaching a tipping point.

So, today, America and our allies face an adversary profoundly undeterred. Iran's proxies are responsible for more than 150 lethal attacks—and counting—against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria since October 7 and for persistent strikes against U.S. warships and civilian vessels in the Red Sea, including just yesterday.

But we have yet to see signs that the administration understands how to compel Iran and its proxies to stop. Even with the world's strongest military at the ready, the Commander in Chief has failed to deter Iran and its proxies. Instead, a fear of escalation has only invited more aggression from Tehran to Moscow to Beijing.

For nearly 2 weeks, the President has hesitantly and intermittently directed strikes against low-value Houthi terrorist targets. He has played Whack-A-Mole against warehouses and launch sites but has left the terrorists' air defenses and command-and-control facilities intact. The same is true over in Iraq and Syria, where the U.S. response to Iran-backed terrorist attacks has been to impose limited damage on proxy storage and training facilities. Yet the administration has refused to impose meaningful costs on Tehran itself—on the architects of this entire regional conflict.

Tehran is happy to fight until the last Houthi, Hamas, or Hezbollah terrorist. That is literally why they use proxies—they are expendable. Until Iran feels that its own interests and its own IRGC officers across the region are threatened, attacks on U.S. forces will continue.

Now, while the President hesitates to use his constitutional authority, some of our colleagues seem to argue he shouldn't have this authority to begin with. They are profoundly mistaken. Exercising the right to defend against imminent threats to our Nation and servicemembers is a central responsibility of the Commander in Chief. His authority is enshrined in the Constitution, and its application dates back more than 200 years.

President Thomas Jefferson was hardly an enthusiastic proponent of a muscular executive, but his recognition of the threats to core national interests posed by the Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean forged consensus around the appropriate roles of the article I and article II branches in the conduct of war.

Freedom of navigation has been a core national interest of the United States from the very, very beginning. If we aren't prepared to defend the vital sealanes on which our economy

rests, there is really not much point in having a military.

If there is something our colleagues ought to be questioning, it is not our history or our Constitution; it is our President's judgment and understanding of deterrence as well as their own. If they oppose U.S. and coalition efforts to defend the freedom of navigation against Iran-backed terrorists, our colleagues simply should say so.

Just last month, the Senate voted on a resolution to compel the President to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria. That resolution failed 84 to 13. I suspect that even fewer of our colleagues would support a resolution to withdraw the Navy from the coalition we have built in the Red Sea. This is no time for 535 commanders in chief to dictate battlefield tactics from halfway around the world.

Congress can and should exercise the oversight of military operations through our own robust authorities. We can and must keep a firm grip on the power of the purse. But the President does not need additional authorities to deal with this threat.

I will oppose any effort to tie the hands of our military commanders or to limit the scope of their ability to go after terrorists who threaten our servicemembers as well as our interests. As General Mattis counseled a decade ago in the debate over modifying the 2001 AUMF, we must not "reassure our adversary in advance about what we will not do." Instead, it is time for President Biden to reassure America and our allies that he intends to lead with strength.

BIDENOMICS

Mr. President, on another matter, yesterday, President Biden offered an eerily honest assessment of the state of the Union:

We're fundamentally changing the economy in this country, and everyone's getting a little worried about it.

I don't say this very often, but the President is right about that.

The historic inflation brought on by Washington Democrats' reckless spending sent the prices of everyday essentials—from groceries to home heating—literally through the roof. As working families grapple with shrinking dollars, credit card spending and unpaid balances rose last year.

Of course, lower-income households with less of a cushion are the ones most affected by Democrats' inflation. As one analyst put it:

The further you go down in income levels or the further you go down in wealth levels, the cumulative impact of inflation has really taken a toll.

If the high prices on fuel and groceries weren't enough, cities are also facing staggering surges in violent crime. Here in Washington, homicides, carjackings, and robberies surged last year. More people were murdered in our Nation's Capital last year than in any year since 1997.

Just last Thursday, a 23-year-old was shot and killed while he was walking home from an event at a local church.

The young man had moved to Washington to spend a year volunteering with at-risk youth in the community. His friends described him as "a deeply caring guy who always worked hard to understand what people were saying." Now in a city that has lost its grip on law and order, this young man joins the growing list of victims.

Stable prices and safe streets: These are two of the most basic responsibilities of government. But from City Hall to the White House, elected Democrats are literally failing the American people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

AMTRAK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are a few things that are more important to a nation's economy than its infrastructure. Most Americans rely on public transport to get from point A to point B. Passenger rail plays an important role in that responsibility. That is why am pleased that Illinoisans have had a voice in one of the largest rail networks in the country, Amtrak.

Something many people don't realize is that despite being a for-profit company, Amtrak is a government entity. Because of this, with the advice and consent of the Senate, the President has the power to appoint members to Amtrak's board. Just this week, we took action in the Senate.

On Tuesday, the Senate voted to confirm the mayor of Normal, IL, Chris Koos, to serve on the Amtrak board of directors, one of only eight individuals appointed by the President at any one time to serve in such a role.

Chris will take the post when the former Macomb, IL, mayor, Tom Carper, departs. When Chris takes the baton from Tom, he will be taking it from a giant in the history of Amtrak.

Tom Carper—same name as our colleague from Delaware—is the longest serving board member in Amtrak history. That is an amazing accomplishment and shows great personal sacrifice on his part to be part of this public responsibility.

First nominated to the board of directors in 2007 under President Bush, Tom Carper joined the board in 2008 and was elected as board chairman from 2009 until his term officially expired in 2013. Tom was then re-appointed in 2013 under President Obama, and he served under four different Presidents on the board of directors of Amtrak.

During his tenure on the board, Tom championed issues important to Amtrak passengers across the Nation. He prioritized ensuring service to underserved communities, benefiting local

economies, and improving safety and cyber security. While serving as chairman, Tom Carper took on the critical responsibility of coordinating the board and the CEO, making sure that Amtrak was responsive to the needs of its customers: the American public.

Throughout his life, Tom took on many positions that show the kind of leader he really is. He was a small business owner from Macomb, IL, serving as the town's mayor for over 10 years and then as director of a regional economic development plan. From these positions, Tom gleaned firsthand knowledge about economic development in the Midwest—knowledge he brought with him to Amtrak. Prior to that, Tom served our Nation in the U.S. Army in both Thailand and Vietnam.

Tom had an acute understanding of how passenger rail service could improve lives. He used that knowledge to modernize our transportation system.

Tom is a great leader and an even better person. In his role, he faithfully honored his Central Illinois roots and showed what midwestern work ethic really looks like.

I want to thank Tom Carper for his years of dedicated service to America's rail infrastructure. Every American who uses Amtrak owes Tom Carper a debt of gratitude. I wish Tom the best of luck in the next well-earned chapter of his life.

Luckily for Illinois and our Nation, our representation on Amtrak's board will continue with the mayor of Normal, IL, Chris Koos. A committed leader, Chris has the longest running term of any mayor in his city's history. It is only right that he will be replacing Tom's recordbreaking tenure on the Amtrak board.

Chris's confirmation has been long awaited. He was first nominated in 2020. Two years later, at my recommendation, President Biden renominated Chris to the Amtrak board of directors. After more than 3½ years, finally—finally—he was confirmed. Through no fault of his own, he was caught up in some—how should I say?—strategic planning in the future of the Amtrak board, but he finally got the job.

The Midwest will be well represented with Chris Koos on the Amtrak board. He has been a powerful voice in the Illinois transportation sector for years, and he has an intimate understanding of the importance of passenger rail to communities in Illinois, the Midwest, and across the country.

Similar to Tom, Chris is a small business man from a midsized community. He owns a business where he sells running shoes and bicycles. From movement on foot and bike to movement by rail, I think it is safe to say Chris has a passion for supporting people on the go. That passion will allow him to tackle the challenge of serving on Amtrak's board with grace, creativity, and intelligence. Chris will be a great asset when it comes to the future of Amtrak.

I am honored to call him a friend, and I congratulate him on this exciting new journey ahead.

Leaders like Tom Carper and Chris Koos make me feel honored to represent the great State of Illinois.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is anything that keeps my Democrat colleagues up at night, I am pretty sure it is the specter of some aspect of society not being regulated by the Federal Government. How else to explain Democrats' tendency to propose heavyhanded government solutions to address nonexistent problems?

There is no better example of a heavyhanded government solution to a nonexistent problem than the Biden Federal Communications Commission's recent push to impose burdensome net neutrality regulations.

So what is net neutrality, Mr. President? Well, at its core, it is the idea that internet service providers shouldn't prioritize or block certain internet traffic at the expense of other traffic. Understood in that way, it is a concept that has strong bipartisan support, but that is not what we are talking about with the Biden FCC's proposal.

The Biden FCC wants to use the idea of net neutrality as a cover to assert broad, new government powers over the internet using rules that were designed for telephone monopolies back during the Great Depression. The net neutrality regime the Biden FCC is contemplating was actually put in place once before—during the Obama administration—and the results were predictable.

The Obama FCC's measure opened the door to a whole host of new government regulations, including price regulations, and broadband investment declined as a result. That was a problem for Americans generally, who benefit when the United States is at the forefront of internet growth and expansion. It was particularly bad news for Americans in rural States like South Dakota. Getting broadband to rural communities is already more challenging than installing broadband in cities and suburbs, and the possibility of heavier regulations acts as a further disincentive to expanding that access.

Fast-forward to 2017. The FCC, under Chairman Pai, voted to repeal the heavyhanded net neutrality regulations passed by the Obama FCC—a prospect that was greeted with absolute hysteria from Democrats. We were told that the internet as we know it

would disappear, that providers would slow speeds to a crawl, and if you can believe this, that our freedom of speech was threatened.

Well, I don't think I need to tell anyone that none of what Democrats predicted came to pass. As anyone who has been on the internet lately knows, the internet has not just survived but thrived. Innovation has flourished. Competition has increased. The internet remains a vehicle for free and open discourse. And internet speeds have not only not slowed down, they have gotten faster and faster. Despite the explosive growth and internet usage during the pandemic, American networks had no problem keeping up with demand, delivering the reliable service Americans have come to expect.

Let's contrast that with Europe, where internet regulation is much more heavyhanded and Europe struggled to deal with increased internet usage. In fact, European service providers slowed internet speeds to maintain connectivity.

The United States is now a leader in adopting next-generation telecommunications services like 5G and advanced Wi-Fi while Europe struggles to keep pace.

So, as I said, the Biden FCC's net neutrality proposal is a solution—and, I would argue, a heavyhanded government solution—in search of a problem, and it is likely to create problems where none currently exist.

Given the Biden administration's demonstrated willingness to use its regulatory power to advance its far-left economic and social agendas, it is not hard to imagine the Biden administration using its new net neutrality powers to shape Americans' internet experience for its own ends. The FCC's net neutrality proposal could hasten the demise of the free and open internet it is allegedly—allegedly—supposed to protect.

On the practical side, as FCC Commissioner Carr—a Republican appointee who opposes this proposal—has pointed out, there is also good reason to fear that this measure could drive up Americans' internet costs and open the door to new taxes and fees on Americans' internet bills.

Of course, as I said, last time heavyhanded net neutrality regulations were put in place, broadband investment declined in response, and there is good reason to believe that the same thing would happen this time. The United States could quickly lose its place as a leader in internet technology, and Americans could lose out on the benefits of living in a country that is at the forefront of internet innovation.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I have to emphasize again just how much the Biden FCC's proposal is a solution in search of a problem. There is absolutely no reason—no reason—for heavyhanded government interference in a free, open, and thriving sector of our economy. There is every reason to oppose a proposal that would

not only threaten to raise prices and decrease innovation but would give the Federal Government and the Biden administration a dangerous amount of control over Americans' internet experience.

I have led a letter with more than 40 of my colleagues calling for the Biden FCC to abandon this just incredibly ill-advised proposal, and I will continue to urge my colleagues of both parties to oppose this alarming measure because if the Biden FCC has its way, we may soon find ourselves dealing with the very opposite of net neutrality.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

IRAN

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, earlier this week, the American people received the tragic news that two Navy SEALs died during a nighttime raid near Somalia.

Somalia is a world away from here, but what happens in that region has a direct impact on us here at home because one of these Navy SEALs was from the great State of Texas.

These men and their brave comrades were seizing a vessel that was carrying Iranian-made arms intended for Houthi rebels in Yemen.

I know, after 9/11, there was a famous country-western song—I think “Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning)” —and one of the lines was, ‘I don’t know the difference between Iraq and Iran.’

Well, the truth is, the American people have had to learn a lot about world geography, unfortunately, because things that happen far away from our shores have a direct impact on us and on the potential for regional war or worse to break out.

The Houthis, as some may know, are a terrorist group. They occupy Yemen, which is south of Saudi Arabia and right next to Oman. You may have to get out your maps to place it. But this is a terrorist group that has been engaged in a civil war in Yemen for many years now and has attacked Saudi Arabia and has been subject to retaliation by Saudi Arabia and the Emirates for some time now. But, unfortunately, they have proven to be enormously resilient.

They have a disturbing ideology. They are known for their saying “God is great. Death to America. Death to Israel. Curse on the Jews. Victory for Islam.” That is their motto. There is no mystery about their intentions.

In the wake of the invasion by Hamas on Israel on October 7, the Houthis have escalated their attacks in the region—again, supplied by Iran with weapons that they have used not only

to attack Saudi Arabia but also to try to attack Israel and American forces in the region.

They have launched dozens of drone and missile attacks on commercial ships traveling through the Red Sea and bound for the Suez Canal. This is an area of the world where international commerce is so important. Goods that flow between the Red Sea and the Suez Canal do everything from provide us with the commodities that make our lives better to provide the energy necessary for countries around the world. The U.S. Central Command described these attacks as a direct threat to international commerce and maritime security.

The Houthis only have the resources to carry out these attacks because of the support they receive from Iran. Like Hamas, another Iranian proxy, the Houthis and other terrorist groups in the region are armed, trained, and funded by Iran.

On the evening of January 11, a heroic group of Navy SEALs seized a vessel carrying ballistic missiles and cruise missile components destined for Houthi forces. They prevented the Houthis from receiving even more weapons that could be used to target U.S. forces or commercial ships in the region.

Now, you can imagine that boarding an enemy vessel is a dangerous and difficult mission, but doing so in the dead of night, in rough seas, while loaded with heavy equipment, is even more perilous.

While boarding the ship, Special Warfare Operator 2nd Class Nathan Gage Ingram, a Texan, fell into the Arabian Sea. Following SEAL protocol, Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Christopher Chambers heroically jumped in, trying to save him. Well, unfortunately, the U.S. Navy and our allies have now conducted a thorough search and rescue operation, covering more than 21,000 square miles over 10 days, but sadly their bodies were never recovered.

These men represent the very best of our country. They exemplify the courage and selflessness that generations of American servicemembers have embodied. Our hearts go out to the families of these brave Navy SEALs who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

But this is a reminder of the immense risks our servicemembers face every single day. They sacrifice time away from their loved ones and place their lives on the line to keep our country safe. Given the chaos unfolding around the world, which seems to be getting worse and worse, the threats they face continue to grow.

As we all know, in recent months, the tensions in the Middle East have escalated dramatically. As I mentioned, Hamas carried out an attack on Israel on October 7. In Israel, they call this their 9/11—like the attack on September 11, 2001, that killed 3,000 Americans. The Houthis are disrupting, as I said, global commerce and freedom of

navigation. Iranian-supported proxies in Iraq and Syria are attacking U.S. forces. Hezbollah, in Lebanon, is launching constant attacks on northern Israel.

Terrorist threats are intensifying throughout the Middle East, and the common thread uniting all of these attacks is Iran. Iran is the head of the octopus, and its tentacles of terror extend throughout the region. There is Hamas in Gaza, the Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza and the West Bank, and Shiite militias in Syria and Iran. Iran provides its terrorist proxies with funding, weapons, and training to enable the types of attacks we have seen in recent weeks. This chaos threatens to destabilize the Middle East even further and possibly start a much wider conflict.

Given the growing tensions in the Middle East, one of America's top priorities must be to reestablish deterrence. Iran needs to pay a price for using its proxies to attack the United States and U.S. interests.

This is absolutely vital to the future of Israel. Iran is a country driven by a dangerous ideology that calls for the destruction of Israel, and it will bleed the Iranian people dry in order to sustain that fight.

But, as we know, Iran's ambitions do not end with Israel. The Supreme Leader once labeled the United States as Iran's “number one enemy.” Until recently, Iran felt intense pressure from the United States. The Trump administration withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and placed sanctions on hundreds of businesses and individuals who helped finance Iran's illicit activities. It also brokered the historic Abraham Accords, which served as a major blow to Iran as like-minded nations in the region normalized their relationship in order to counter their common adversary: Iran.

The maximum pressure strategy dissolved as soon as President Biden took office. It seems to be the guiding philosophy of President Biden that if President Trump did it, President Biden will undo it, and that is what happened here.

Less than a month into his Presidency, President Biden made the foolish decision to remove the government designation of the Houthis as a terrorist group. Given the brazen attacks that I have mentioned, President Biden has now reversed that decision last week but only partially. The President has only redesignated the Houthis as a “Specially Designated Global Terrorist.” He also failed to reclassify them as a “Foreign Terrorist Organization,” as they were before President Biden took office. The truth is, I doubt this will have any impact on the Houthis. Unfortunately, it is just one of many examples where President Biden's weakness toward Iran has not provided greater peace and stability but more dangerous circumstances. It actually has emboldened our adversaries.

President Biden has made no secret of his intent to revive the Iran nuclear deal while Iran continues to enrich uranium. If Iran gets a nuclear weapon, Saudi Arabia won't be far behind and other countries in the region will try to figure out how they can defend themselves against the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism that now, instead of just missiles and drones, has a nuclear weapon. You can imagine what might come from that set of circumstances, and it is frightening.

Then the administration has loosened sanctions on Iran's oil sales. Iran's economy, not surprisingly, has rebounded. China—that imports about 70 percent of their energy needs—has now entered into a strategic partnership with Iran because they need the oil that Iran produces along with the oil and gas produced by the Russian Federation.

Of course, we all know President Biden carried out the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan without even consulting our friends and allies, which created a power vacuum in the region that is now being filled by—you guessed it—Iran.

The administration unfroze billions of dollars in Iranian assets, giving Tehran even more money to pour into its terrorist proxies. It failed to take quick and decisive action to respond to Iran's attacks on U.S. forces in Syria. In other words, it is not enough for us or Israel to attack proxies. We need to go after the head of the octopus, not the tentacles. President Biden has consistently projected weakness when it comes to Iran. They understand weakness, but they also understand strength. This administration has steadily loosened the pressure valve, and now we are seeing the consequences with an emboldened Iran.

Appeasement is not a viable strategy. It never has been and never will be, particularly when these countries understand nothing but strength. If they experience mush, it is, in fact, an incentive or provocation for them to keep doing what they are doing.

President Biden should have known from the beginning. He served in the Senate as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee for many, many years. He is worldly wise, but he seems incredibly naive when it comes to what it takes to deter state sponsors of terrorism like Iran.

The only way to counter the growing threat is by reestablishing deterrence. That can only be achieved through strong and decisive leadership and reciprocal counterstrikes not on the proxies alone, but on the head of the octopus.

Sadly, President Biden has spent the last 3 years projecting this image of weakness and uncertainty. Given the chaos Iran has unleashed in the Middle East, it is time for a swift change in strategy. President Biden needs to work with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to confront threats from Iran and reestablish a credible deter-

rence in the Middle East. Iran needs to understand that attacks against the United States and our allies will not be met with kid gloves. Until that happens, Iran and its proxies will continue to escalate their attacks and threaten the possibility of even a wider war.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous request that I am able to complete my remarks before the beginning of the vote.

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

NOMINATION OF KIRK EDWARD SHERIFF

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, colleagues, today we will have the opportunity to advance the nomination of Kirk Sheriff, President Biden's nominee to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. In doing so, we have a chance to confirm a well-qualified nominee and public servant to fill a vacancy on one of the busiest and most understaffed district courts in the Federal judiciary.

I rise to share a little bit more about what makes him so qualified to serve the Eastern District. Mr. Sheriff actually grew up in the Sacramento region within the district. He was raised for several periods of time by a single mother who worked hard to support her family, an experience he says profoundly shaped his appreciation for the opportunities made available in the United States of America.

Mr. Sheriff went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Columbia University and his law degree from Harvard Law School.

He began his legal career working as an associate of White & Case, focused on arbitration and civil litigation.

He also clerked on the New Jersey Supreme Court for Chief Justice Deborah Poritz. But before long, he returned to California—he came home—to work in the district that would come to define his career.

Mr. Sheriff joined the civil division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California. He spent 5 years litigating forest fire, civil fraud, and tort cases before moving on to the criminal division.

He worked his way up to serve as chief of the Fresno and Bakersfield offices of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District where he oversaw four Fresno unit chiefs, 20 attorneys, and the prosecution of crimes throughout the southern half of the district.

Now, in the course of his career, Mr. Sheriff has developed a reputation in the Fresno legal community for being fair, for being sharp, and incredibly hard-working—all characteristics in high demand at a court with an extraordinarily heavy caseload.

But in addition to that, Mr. Sheriff possesses a deep personal understanding of the needs of the many racially diverse and historically disadvantaged communities throughout the Central Valley. Because, for the last two decades, he has been there, serving the Eastern District and engaging in community outreach.

Colleagues, by confirming Mr. Sheriff's nomination, we will be confirming a nominee with a wealth of legal experience, with a fundamental understanding and respect for human dignity, and with deep roots in the community he serves and will continue to serve, and who will be filling a vacancy in one of the busiest courts in the country.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in advancing and supporting Mr. Sheriff's confirmation.

NOMINATION OF GRETCHEN S. LUND

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Gretchen S. Lund to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Born in Elkhart, IN, Judge Lund earned her B.A., cum laude, from Butler University and her J.D., summa cum laude, from Valparaiso University School of Law. After beginning her legal career as an associate attorney with Ice Miller LLP, Judge Lund clerked for Judge William T. Lawrence on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Following her clerkship, she served as a deputy prosecutor with the Elkhart County Prosecutor's Office, where she handled cases assigned to the child support division. In 2006, she was elected to serve as the sole judge for the Goshen City Court, where she presided over criminal misdemeanors, infractions, and ordinance violations. In 2014, Judge Lund was elected to her current seat as the judge on Elkhart Superior Court 4. She presides over both civil and criminal matters and established the county's first drug court. Since joining the bench, she has presided over 27 jury trials, 489 bench trials, and approximately 28,000 cases that have gone to verdict or judgement.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Lund as "well qualified," and she has the strong support of Senators YOUNG and BRAUN.

Judge Lund's significant courtroom experience and dedication to service make her an excellent nominee to the Northern District of Indiana. I will vote in favor of her confirmation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. PADILLA. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON LUND NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lund nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 22 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Bennet	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hagerty	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Ricketts
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Braun	Hickenlooper	Romney
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Butler	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cantwell	Johnson	Sanders
Capito	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	Kelly	Schumer
Carper	King	Scott (SC)
Casey	Lankford	Shaheen
Collins	Lee	Sinema
Coons	Luján	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Van Hollen
Crapo	Menendez	Vance
Cruz	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Moran	Warnock
Duckworth	Mullin	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—6

Britt	Schmitt	Sullivan
Hawley	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
NOT VOTING—7		
Baldwin	Kennedy	Smith
Barrasso	Klobuchar	
Cassidy	Marshall	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 471, Kirk Edward Sheriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina

Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kirk Edward Sheriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin, (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 23 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—7

Baldwin	Kennedy	Smith
Barrasso	Klobuchar	
Cassidy	Marshall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote the yeas are 51, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kirk Edward Sheriff, of Cali-

fornia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 311.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Karoline Mehulchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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. 311, Karoline Mehulchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Jack Reed, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 142.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 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. 142, Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Peter Welch, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, John W. Hickenlooper.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, January 25, be waived.

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

The Senator from North Carolina.

ISRAEL

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, it has been 111 days since Hamas terrorists attacked Israel. Hamas massacred more than 1,200 civilians and abducted innocent men, women, and children from their homes and took them into Gaza.

The hostages are being deprived of food, water, and medical care. They are being subjected to unbearable violence, sexual abuse, and psychological torture by Hamas terrorists.

We know that six of the remaining hostages are Americans. One is a native of my home State North Carolina, Keith Siegel. Two of the Americans, Hersh Goldberg-Polin and Sagui Dekel-Chen, are critically injured.

Each and every one of them must be released, and all levels of our government remain united in working to get them home.

What Hamas has done is nothing short of evil. In this battle between the forces of good and evil, the United States must not only lead the forces of good, but we need to identify who stands with us and who does not.

The State of Qatar hosts Hamas leaders in their capital of Doha. Now,

Qatari officials have claimed that their hosting of Hamas terrorist leaders is necessary, so they say, because their country can be the conduit to negotiate a successful resolution to the crisis. In fact, subsequent U.S. administrations have endorsed this arrangement.

But after 111 days, the American people are asking: What is taking so long?

Qatar is hosting a brutal terrorist organization with American blood on their hands and American hostages in captivity. One has to consider the potential reality that Qatar might not have the leverage that they are so quick to boast about. And if Qatar is not able to effectuate the release of the hostages, then there is no further reason for these terrorists to remain in their country.

This is personal for us Americans.

I have met with families of the hostages as well as former hostages, like Keith Siegel's wife Aviva. I have heard their stories, and I look at their photos every day on my desk.

Every day that these families have to live with the pain and uncertainty is unacceptable.

To Qatars, I would say this: Our patience has run out. Time is up. Either pressure Hamas leaders to release the hostages now or expel them from your land. It is that simple.

The United States of America will be watching.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, it has now been more than 100 days since scores of innocent people were kidnapped by Hamas. More than 2,500 hours of fear, starvation, and torture; of parents, grandparents, teenagers, children suffering some of the most unimaginable horrors and wondering if they will ever see their loved ones again.

This is my ninth time coming to the Senate floor to tell their stories, to express their pain. But for every day that I have come here, for every hour, for every minute the hostages and their families have lived eternities.

Last week, I met the mother of a woman, a 19-year-old daughter named Daniela. She was kidnapped from the Nahal Oz. She showed me the before and after pictures of her daughter.

On the morning of October 7, Daniela's mother woke up to the sound of sirens. She texted her daughter to ask her what was happening. Daniela responded 'Mom, pray for me' and explained that there was 'lots of shooting everywhere and bombs.'

The last anyone heard from her was 7:45 a.m.

Daniela's mother says her daughter was injured in the leg and taken into Gaza, after she saw 16 of her friends slaughtered. She was wearing pale pink Mickey Mouse pajama bottoms and can be seen in a Hamas video with three other girls. Their hands are tied behind their backs; their clothing and faces smeared with blood and tears; sheer terror in their eyes.

The same Hamas video also shows Liri Albag, another teenage hostage whose parents I met in Israel. Like Daniela, Liri was abducted from Nahal Oz. She is among the youngest female hostages remaining in Gaza.

The last her family heard from her was 6:30 in the morning on October 7. Liri's mother thought her daughter had ended up in one of the hospitals but soon learned from a Hamas video that she was among those kidnapped. Liri's father says that for the families of these hostages, the uncertainty and fear are killing them. Her mother says she cannot breathe because she does not know if her daughter is breathing.

Daniela, Liri, and three other teenaged girls—19-year-old Karina Arie, 19-year-old Agam Berger, and 19-year-old Naama Levy—were last seen by several abductees who have since been released. One woman said some of the girls were badly injured but weren't receiving proper medical care. She said that when the girls were sad or crying, their captors would sexually abuse them. She relayed their accounts of sexual abuse at gunpoint on a regular basis. She said the girls told her they could cope with their disabilities but not with the way they were constantly violated.

One of the earliest images that we saw during the October 7 attack was of Naama Levy being dragged by her hair, her hands tied behind her back, thrown into a truck, blood streaming down her face, streaming down her arms, streaming down her back, her sweatpants covered in blood. No one deserves this kind of torture. No one should have to endure such unimaginable abuse—not for 1 day, not for 100 days, not ever.

According to her loved ones, Daniela is a girl who spreads light wherever she goes. She is a talented musician who writes songs, plays the piano, and dreams of becoming a famous singer. Her mom says she pictures Daniela walking through the door and coming home. She implores parents worldwide to imagine their own children in such peril.

Liri is an optimist who puts others before herself. She has lots of friends and loves to travel, to take pictures of her trips, and sing. Her family says she is such a strong girl who enjoys exploring life but that every minute is like an hour without her.

Nineteen-year-old Karina Arie is a gentle and humble girl. Her loved ones say she often has a wide smile and is always ready to help and support those around her.

Nineteen-year-old Agam Berger—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired. There is an

order for a cloture vote at this time. Perhaps the Senator can resume her remarks at a later time.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 60 more seconds to finish my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, 19-year-old Karina Ariev is a gentle and humble girl. Her loved ones say she often has a wide smile and is always ready to help those around her.

Nineteen-year-old Agam Berger is a gifted violinist who volunteers to help disadvantaged populations. Like Karina, she also enjoys helping others and is an optimist who is always smiling.

Naama Levy is a soft-spoken, athletic, and determined girl. She is compassionate and understanding, with a passion for helping those in need.

As a mom, I cannot fathom the anguish these parents are facing. I know every other Senator here cannot fathom the anguish they are facing. All of us must do everything we can to bring them home.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 459, Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted “nay.”

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 24 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Romney
Braun	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Butler	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Capito	Kelly	Schumer
Cardin	Kennedy	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Thune
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Cramer	Mullin	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Ernst	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—29

Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Hagerty	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—5

Baldwin	Klobuchar	Smith
Barrasso	Marshall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.
The Senator from Maryland.

UKRAINE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I come to the floor to advise our colleagues about the urgency for us to take up and pass the supplemental appropriations bill that contains many important provisions, but I am going to start with the most urgent, and that is providing assistance to Ukraine to defend itself from the brutal attack by the Russian Federation.

Vladimir Putin could change the equation in Ukraine in a matter of weeks. His tanks could be rolling through Ukraine. His forces could be arresting Zelenskyy and his Cabinet. The Russian flag could be flying over Ukraine’s capital. This could happen in a matter of weeks if the United States does not act.

A few days ago, I was in the White House for a meeting about this. President Biden could not have been clearer: We are out of money to support Ukraine in this fight. Think about how that sounds to the Ukrainians fighting on the frontlines.

One Ukrainian soldier said:

The guys are tired, very tired. They are still motivated, many people understand that they have no other choice. But you can’t win a war only on motivation.

Ukrainian soldiers have had to ration artillery shells. One unit had to go from firing as many as 90 shells a day to just 10 to 20 shells a day.

Mr. Putin has made it clear. He is investing in a long war. The New York Times reported:

Nearly a third of the country’s spending next year—roughly \$109 billion—will be devoted to “national defense,” according to a budget he signed into law.

Russian TV commentators are celebrating our gridlock. As one European Ambassador reportedly said, he can “hear those champagne bottle corks popping in Moscow.”

President Putin knows that if Congress does not act, he will be able to break Ukraine. If he succeeds, he will be signaling to the world that he can invade his neighbors whenever he wants to, erase the nation of Ukraine and our allies in Europe, in the Middle East, in Africa, and in Asia, and we are ourselves, the United States, will be in greater danger.

A group of NATO parliamentarians was in Washington last week, concerned about Congress’s inability to pass the supplemental funding.

One of my counterparts, the chair of the Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Committee, asked:

Who is next? Balkans, Taiwan, Korea, the Baltics. . . . It takes years to wake up Washington, so please guys, wake up.

He is right. We need to wake up.

If Putin wins in Ukraine, he will not stop there. That is why this isn’t a choice between sending funding to Ukraine or not sending funding to Ukraine. The choice is between sending American dollars to fight Putin now or sending American soldiers to fight him later.

If we want to preserve America’s credibility with our allies, it is up to us. If we want to show our partners we will be there to help when times are tough, it is up to us. If we want to make sure the United States stands on the right side of history, it is up to us.

Russia is one of our most dangerous adversaries and an enemy of democracy everywhere. This is money that will strengthen the United States’ security.

Ukraine needs money for air defenses, money for drones, money for arming the brave Ukrainians on the frontlines and, of course, direct budgetary support and humanitarian assistance.

People around the world are depending on the United States for the humanitarian assistance in the supplemental funding request. Without money for food, children and mothers, from Africa to the Middle East to Eastern Europe, will go hungry.

It is up to us. It is up to us.

Finally, I want to underline that there is strong bipartisan agreement on the need to support Ukraine.

We must not let this be the end of Ukraine. We must not give in to Russian aggression. We must not stand idly by as this dictator does what he likes to his neighbors. We must vote

for the supplemental funding that supports Ukrainians' struggle for freedom. Time is running out. We need to act now.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MARIA DOWNEY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, it is Thursday afternoon, and, as you know from presiding at this time frequently, it is my favorite time of the week because I get to come down to the Senate floor and talk about our Alaskan of the Week. This is somebody who is doing something great for our local communities, our State, maybe the country, maybe the world.

I have been doing this for several years now, and it really helps highlight what makes Alaska, in my view, the greatest State in the greatest country in the world.

I would like to talk about, at the beginning of this speech, a little about what is going on in Alaska. We have seen all the snowstorms across the country this week. Trust me, that is just another day in our State. I think by Christmas Eve this year in Anchorage, my hometown, we had close to 100 inches already of snow, so no worry about a white Christmas back home.

It is actually a really beautiful time of the year—great to get outdoors. I have done some skiing already. People are out snow machining. If you are watching on TV or in the Gallery, come up to Alaska any time of the year. In winter, you can see the northern lights. In summer, you will have a great time fishing, hunting—whatever you want to do. It is truly an incredible State. Year-round, we want people to visit—our great fellow Americans to come up. You will have a fantastic time.

Now, it is not always the easiest place to live. It is far from the lower 48 here. The weather can be extreme. It can be pretty harsh. As a result, the people in the communities bond a lot. They have to. They work together, particularly in some of our most remote communities.

Every community in Alaska—in America—needs to be able to share reliable, credible information. Local journalism across this great Nation of ours is vital—more vital, probably, in Alaska than any other State, I would say. It isn't talked about nearly enough how vital that local journalism is. We all benefit all across the country from thousands of local reporters who are working on stories day in and day out. That is certainly the case in Alaska. I believe that we should be saluting these frontline journalists—local journalists—for doing this important work a lot more here.

What we are trying to do is do that today for one of the alltime best. Our local reporters in Alaska are so important. So what I would like to do today is introduce to the U.S. Senate and the American people a great Alaskan of the Week, Maria Downey—longtime Anchorage journalist, news anchor—who for more than 40 years has brought Alaska's news directly to our homes and kept us informed about our State, our communities, our country—with professionalism, sincerity, kindness, and grace.

Let's talk about Maria Downey—Alaskan of the Week, Maria Downey. She moved to Alaska from Florida with her husband Ron in 1981. In 1981, a lot was going on in Alaska. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline—which, by the way, this body approved—was flowing. Our country needed energy. We just had the Arab oil embargo. So Alaska was booming. Almost 2 million barrels a day was flowing through taps, as we call it in Alaska. That is unbelievable. It is great for Alaska, great for America. We need energy.

Maria said about 1981:

It was a great time to be a reporter because it was the boom period. CNN or NBC, whatever the affiliates were at the time, would not hesitate to spend the money to send you places [during that time].

Now, for a little context. Journalism in Alaska looks a little bit different than other parts of the country. There are a lot of things in Alaska that look different from the lower 48. A reporter, for example, may have to take a charter plane hundreds of miles—several hundreds of miles—just to reach some of our State's most rural communities. Of course, they are usually faced with weather challenges. They are getting into the nitty-gritty of small-town politics. You might encounter some hungry wildlife even.

But because of these challenges, some of the best reporters arise from Alaska. An example of some of the National Public Radio's most famous reporters nationally who have gotten their start in our great State: Peter Kenyon, Elizabeth Arnold, and many others. And the Anchorage Daily News, which has won Pulitzer prizes, had the late, great Howard Weaver. These are big names in reporting.

But I am digressing because the biggest name, in my view, in journalism in Alaska is our Alaskan of the Week, Maria Downey—even bigger than some of the other names I just mentioned.

It is this kind of intrepid reporter that makes Alaska so special in terms of news broadcasts and makes our Alaskan of the Week so special.

Maria started, as I mentioned, her journalistic career in 1981 on Channel 13 before moving to Channel 2 in 1985. At Channel 2, Maria quickly climbed the reporter ranks, going from co-anchoring to a full anchor in just 6 weeks. That is a shooting star in terms of journalism. As an anchor, Maria realized how vital the role local news reporting played in reporting Statewide news:

When we go to a village in rural Alaska, there's people meeting us at the airstrip [when we get off the plane]. So when you go there, and you feel that connection [with your fellow Alaskans throughout the whole State].

While the national media can get a lot of negative attention—some earned, maybe some not earned—local media, especially in Alaska, is often the crucial link to rural communities who need that reporting for information, who need that reporting throughout the State, who need that reporting to bring us all together, especially in a State as big as Alaska.

Maria said:

It's our community [the whole State]. We're invested in it. It would be a disservice to do anything that's not honest and fair to our community.

What a great principle, by the way, for a journalist.

People see that we're out and about [working with them] and this is our home.

If you need evidence for how invested Maria truly has been and was in her job—you won't believe this story—in 1986, while on the air live on Channel 2, she went into labor. She stayed on the air the whole time. Yes, that is a true story. Her longtime coworker, news director John Tracy, said:

She was cool as a cucumber. You'd never know what was happening [that she was in labor]. I timed her contractions in between commercials.

It is amazing. Maria closed out her segment in labor by telling her husband on the air: "Ron, meet me at the hospital."

There you go. If that is not dedication to Alaska journalism, I don't know what is. So along with her own two children, Alaskans across the State have seen and viewed Maria as our "TV mom." Again, that is the kind of personality that she brings to her job, the professionalism and the fact that people love her.

As the Facebook congratulatory posts have flowed in the past week when Maria announced her retirement after more than 40 years, one post in particular stood out, from a child from rural Alaska who every night would pray for all his family members and then say, "God bless Maria Downey."

Children across Alaska associate Maria with the close of the day—the Channel 2 evening news theme signaling dinnertime every night in thousands and thousands of homes across our great State. Channel 2 is the biggest station. It reaches pretty much the whole State.

Madam President, as you are probably gathering here, Maria is about as close to a local celebrity as you can get, and her popularity is really, really well-earned. Her coworkers, some of whom have worked with Maria more than 20 years, never fail to describe her as kind, intrepid, and good-humored. Tracy Sinclair—by the way, another intrepid journalist and producer herself who I know well at Channel 2—remembers Maria bringing her meals when

Tracy was fighting breast cancer. She will tell you—and this is a quote from Tracy:

Maria is absolutely the person you see on TV [the best].

News director John Tracy said:

She could have done many other things for more money. But she just loved what she did. She earned every accolade.

And the accolades are now pouring in.

Maria is eager to pass her reporting expertise on to the next generation of Alaska's journalists—by the way, a true sign of a leader, developing the next generation to take over after you are completing your professional career.

So, of course, Maria is Channel 2's internship coordinator, where she has mentored young journalists, many of whom now hold full-time positions in the newsroom and continue to work alongside their mentor, Maria Downey.

Outside of the newsroom, Maria has devoted herself to serving the community that she reports on. No surprise there. For more than 25 years, Maria has led Channel 2's Muscular Dystrophy Association Labor Day telethon, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for MDA for Alaska.

She was part of the committee that started what we call in Alaska the Pick, Click, and Give. It is an initiative and a program that lets Alaskans easily donate to the charities of their choice when they are applying for their Permanent Fund Dividend. This is a great initiative, and Maria has been critical to that success.

For her journalistic career, Maria, as I mentioned, has been rightfully honored with awards throughout the years, throughout the decades, celebrating her exceptional reporting for Alaska. She is a Silver Circle inductee with the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, an honor recognizing individuals with 25 years or more in the industry for exceptional contributions to broadcast and media in the Pacific Northwest. She has also been recognized by Alaska's ATHENA Society, by the YWCA's Women of Achievement Awards, and was inducted into the Alaska Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

When asked how she wants to be remembered from her 40-plus years in journalism, Maria said working to make sure her community is a better place is what she focused on:

Looking at ways to help, donating time, talent, treasure. The old stewardship motto. Hopefully what we've done, and what I have done throughout the years, has helped push people towards doing what's right for their community.

What a great legacy. She is not done. She is retiring, but, fortunately, Maria is going to stay in Anchorage. That is great news for all of us in Alaska. She is going to be spending more time with her husband and their two children. Even though we won't be seeing her in our homes every night and letting us know what is happening in our commu-

nity, in our State, in our country, we all hopefully will be seeing her around town. I am sure we will.

So on January 26, after 38 years of Channel 2, Maria will anchor the Channel 2 News for the last time. So all Alaskans make sure you tune in. Americans, you want to watch one of the greatest newscasters in the country—the whole country should tune in.

So, Maria, thank you for your exceptional service to Alaska, for being that woman behind the news all these many years. Thank you for keeping our communities connected, people informed about what is going on in Alaska, in America, in our communities, and congratulations on maybe one of the biggest awards you have ever received up until this moment, being our Alaskan of The Week.

Great job, Maria. Have a great retirement.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Hawaii.

ABORTION

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, this week is the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Because of the current rightwing Supreme Court's decision almost 2 years ago to dismantle reproductive freedom, women in many parts of the United States today have less control over their bodies than they did 50 years ago—50 years ago.

The Dobbs decision was the crowning achievement of the hard right's decades-long war on a woman's right to choose, but it wasn't the end. They want to go even further. These very same people are now going State by State, trying to pass extreme laws to all but ban abortion access, and it is working. Over half of the women of reproductive age live in States that are hostile to abortion rights, and more than 64,000 women and girls have become pregnant because of rape in States that have implemented abortion bans after *Roe* was overturned—64,000 women and girls pregnant in States where abortion access is limited or not available at all.

The stories they share about the pain and trauma inflicted by this extremist cruelty will break your heart. A woman in Ohio had 1 day—1 single day—to decide whether or not to keep her child because she was right on the verge of the State's ban at 6 weeks. A Florida woman was forced to carry her baby to term even though doctors found fatal abnormalities in an ultrasound at 23 weeks and knew that it had at most a few hours to live after birth. Another woman, whose baby would have been born without a skull—without a skull—traveled 1,400 miles from Baton Rouge to New York City to get an abortion because local doctors were afraid they would lose their license—they would lose their license—or be thrown in prison for providing abortion services.

Horrific as these stories are, they haven't stopped Republicans from trying to destroy every last bit of bodily

autonomy and freedom. Republicans here in Congress are explicit: They are pushing for a national abortion ban. So some of the things you say about what is happening sound like they are partisan talking points, but that is what is happening. They actually do want an abortion ban in Federal statutory law.

The rightwing Supreme Court may well deliver another hammer blow to abortion rights in the coming months if it reverses Federal rules governing access to medication abortion—rules that were shaped in part by a Federal lawsuit where a Hawaii doctor argued correctly that women should be able to access abortion pills, which are safe and effective, when and where they need them. For Hawaii and so many other places around the country that rely on telehealth and medication by mail for access to care, this is vital, but they may not last much longer.

If there is a glimmer of hope in all of this, it is that a majority of Americans reject this extremism on abortion. They see it for what it is: plainly unjust and needlessly cruel—needlessly cruel. They believe in a woman's right to choose, and they support enshrining reproductive rights nationally once and for all.

We live in a democracy, after all, and Senate Democrats will continue to fight until a woman's right to control her own body is the law of the land again.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, the war in Gaza, the war in Ukraine, looming threats in the Indo-Pacific—finding bipartisan consensus about what to do on any one of these issues is very, very hard. To do them all together is extraordinarily difficult. But time is running out, and it is essential that we act—No. 1, because we have a very real security interest in each of these areas, and No. 2, because our allies and partners are counting on our help as they encounter the alarming march of fascism around the globe.

It has been almost a month since the last U.S. arms shipment left for Ukraine. Funding for assistance has run out completely. Let me just repeat that. This is not something we are arguing about in terms of the facts on the ground; it is a fact that Ukraine is slowly but surely running out of ammunition.

Ukraine will have to fight for its survival with a weapons supply that is dwindling by the day. Putin, on the other hand, is intensifying his assault with the help of missiles and artillery rounds provided by North Korea and Iran. That is who Ukraine is up against—Russia, North Korea, and Iran—a band of autocrats that have no respect for democracy or even a passing interest in peace.

Beyond its own survival, Ukraine's fight is for the fate of the free world and nothing less. So we don't have time to play partisan politics here as Putin continues to pummel Ukraine day by day. Time is running out, and they desperately need help.

I understand people say what is useful to them as an argument to get their legislation through, so I don't want you to think this is some sort of overstatement. They are literally running out of ammunition. If you ask anybody in a classified session, in a nonclassified session; if you ask any expert—left, right, and center—the determining factor for Ukraine's future and therefore the future of Europe and the future of the free world is, what do we do about the supplemental appropriations bill? They are running out of ammunition, and Putin is banking on a war of attrition that Ukraine will not be able to win.

Meanwhile, the war between Israel and Hamas since Hamas's barbaric attacks on October 7 continues to devastate millions in the region. Hamas still holds 130 hostages captive, including Americans and even a year-old infant.

As the United States made clear in the immediate aftermath of the Hamas attacks, Israel has an entirely legitimate right and an obligation to defend itself and to rescue the hostages. It should not be lost on anyone that Israel continues to lose scores of young men and women in battle trying to protect their nation in the wake of this unprecedented terror attack.

But just as the United States has a responsibility to Israel, as its closest ally, to help it defend itself, we also have a responsibility as the leader of the free world to call on Israel to wage this war smartly and justly—to prosecute Hamas, not the Palestinian people. More than 25,000 Palestinians have been killed in the last 3 months, most of them women and children. This is in no one's interest strategically or morally.

We also have a responsibility to make sure that humanitarian assistance is allowed to flow to the millions of innocent civilians suffering the horrific conditions under the constant barrage of crossfire.

Even in the face of heightened passions and justifiable anger, we have to make a distinction between people and their governments. These are two peoples suffering agonizing losses, two peoples who want to live their lives just like the rest of us—outside of the constant shadow of violence and bloodshed. They just want to go to school or teach at a school or be a garbage collector or bake bread or eat bread or drink coffee or make coffee or fix roads or drive on a road. Everybody has basic human needs. Everybody has basic human needs. And the idea that we can't see beyond our geopolitical disagreements to understand that this is causing immense suffering for everyone is one of our fundamental challenges.

I talk a lot with the Presiding Officer from New Jersey about this. You know, it is at least partly the internet. It is at least partly the fact that if you say something about the suffering of Palestinians, the first thing out of every-

one's mouth in your replies is "What about October 7?" If you say "Hamas is terrible," people say "What about"—the truth is, there really is suffering on both sides, and I am not trying to make equivalent a terrorist attack with a reaction to that terrorist attack. I am not. But, do you know what, that is all written in the wind. Everyone is suffering. Everyone is suffering.

Whenever and however this war ends, there has to be a path to a just and a lasting peace. It has been the long-standing policy of the U.S. Government on a bipartisan basis to support a two-state solution because a two-state solution is the only way to guarantee distinct, inalienable, and mutually recognized homes for both peoples and empower each to chart their own future.

As we consider a major aid package for the region, it is not insignificant to at the same time reaffirm our commitment to that vision. The amendment I plan to file, along with 48 of my colleagues, should a supplemental aid package come to the floor is about making the American position clear.

Inherent to achieving a two-state future is leadership on both sides that is actually interested in peace and both sides feeling secure enough to pursue it. Israel must feel that Hamas and other militant groups have been degraded so they no longer pose a threat to the people of Israel or the country of Israel, and Palestinians must feel that they have a real seat at the table.

There can't be extremists in the Israeli Government who jump at every chance to inflame and incite divisions, and there can't be a Palestinian Authority rank with corruption and nepotism, deteriorating into a kleptocracy. Palestinians want and need a representative and an effective government, and the PA in its current form is falling short.

So, as we press for diplomacy, we also need to be clear that it will take a reformed P.A. that can deliver on the aspirations of the Palestinian people, in addition to a cooperative, forward-looking Israeli Government, in order for these negotiations to work. Changing a longstanding and deeply broken status quo is hard, but it is incumbent on the United States of America, as a global leader, to do everything that we can to foster the conditions for an enduring peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO THE PAGES

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I appreciate the Presiding Officer, my dear friend, and I think he and I are very aware of this. If you ask the average person who knows about their Federal Government how many people are in the U.S. Senate, their answer is going to be 100, and they would be wrong. There are 100 Senators, but as the Presiding Officer and I both know, there are thousands of people who work in the U.S. Capitol for the U.S. Senate. This is a larger body of people who are

critical to keeping this institution running.

There are amazing folks who work here in the U.S. Senate. If you take the time to talk to them, you will hear stories that make you feel proud to be an American—from literally the people who are keeping the pipes under this place functional, who keep this place and its history and its heritage preserved. There are people on staffs who make sure the floor runs smoothly so Senators can present bills and ideas. This is an extraordinary collection of Americans who takes part in what is a hallowed and civic institution.

But, perhaps, when people look at the floor, there are two Senators here, but there are probably 30 or so people on the floor right now, not to mention those working in the cloakrooms. But often, when people turn on their TVs and happen to catch it on C-SPAN—hi, Mom, who watches a lot—the folks they probably most overlook are the people I think bring an energy, an excitement, and an enthusiasm to this place, and those are the pages.

Now, I can't even get my mind around, when I meet these young people, taking a year—or, excuse me, a semester—off of your normal track—all your extracurricular activities, from all of your friends—traveling from all over the country and coming here, not just to work a full-time job amidst these hallowed halls, but also to hold a full-time schedule of classes.

I look at these teenagers, and I feel this utter sense of just sympathy for them because they are grinding in ways that a lot of Senators don't do. Think about this. They work on the floor of the Senate, which is a demanding job, doing critical work. Then they go home and study. Then they wake up sometimes at 5 o'clock in the morning to take classes in things that I am not sure if every Senator can still pass—calculus, for crying out loud. They do their academic work, and they do their service for their country. So it takes a special breed to do something so irrational with their teenage years.

I get a chance every time—all of us Senators get a chance—to engage with them and meet them, and I just want to take this moment, on the last day that they are here, to just say some things particularly about this class.

Mr. President, this class is the most awful group of joke tellers I have ever met.

(Laughter.)

I mean, their jokes are so particularly bad that I have never used it to describe such a page class. They are not just bad; they are painfully pathetic. Their jokes are pugilistic and pugnacious. Their jokes are pukeworthy. Yes, this is the first time in American history that word has ever been used on the Senate floor—"pukeworthy." The truth of the matter is they have a gene in their bodies that prevents them from having good senses of humor, and I make that clear: They need to work on this, or they may not make it in life.

But I will say something about this class that I think that the Presiding Officer may have noticed and definitely a lot of the staff who serves on the floor. I was literally struck, when I came in on the first day and started engaging with them, as I often do, that there was something special about this class, because it is the value I most admire in anybody that I meet. In this class, whether they are pages who serve on that side of the aisle or on this side of the aisle, I found them immediately to have this important superpower for coping in life, and that is that this page class is kind. They really are good people. I have to say that that is how I will remember this class. I will try desperately to forget their bad jokes. I will always, though, remember their kindness.

I want to tell this page class that you brought something special to this floor; that you all contributed more than you probably realize; that you, in your humility, probably underestimate the impact you bring to this place. I know you are going to have special memories here. In fact, it is amazing, as I feel sometimes just as a Senator, that we all had a chance in our service together in the Senate to be on the frontlines of history, to witness some of the greatest debates of humanity right now. You heard one from the Presiding Officer, who just spoke, and who spoke to issues that go to the heart of what this country is about, what this country stands for, what this country will do. That was a privilege that you were a part of.

But, to me, what I think is important about the role that you have played in the short period of time that you have been here is the fact that I think you remind a lot of us who are two and three and four times your age that, when you still come in here, despite how tired you are, and still have that look of wonder about this place, you help us to remember what a privilege it is to be here.

So I just want this class to know that it has been my privilege, as one Senator, who, I believe, probably speaks for most—that it was a privilege to serve with you in the United States of America.

I hope you remember that the highest calling of citizenship is service; that this is not your last time that you answer that call whether it is in your communities, your neighborhoods, whether it is to your States or to this Nation. I hope that you always aspire to show your patriotism not by what you say but by what you do.

And, dear God, don't let a harsh world—a world that can be mean—ever stop you from being as kind as you were on the day that I first met you.

I love that story about the man who goes up to a young person and says: What do you want to be when you grow up?

And the confident young person looked at them and simply said: I want to be kind.

I think you guys already have achieved one of the greatest callings for people, which is to be good to one another. In fact, I look at our political climate in America, and it is often not a good demonstration of that high human virtue. So I want to thank you for your kindness. I forgive you for your bad jokes, but most of all, I hope that you will not change that spirit that resides in your hearts.

Thank you for your service here to the U.S. Senate. What an honor it has been to be with you.

I yield the floor.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for months, I have said that the only way we are going to pass a national security supplemental is if both sides are serious about an agreement.

Democrats are resolute on getting something done. We are committed to keeping our promise to helping our friends in Ukraine in their fight against Putin. We know that if Putin prevails in Ukraine, the consequences for Western democracy and for the American people will be severe and haunt us for years.

Democrats are also resolute on reaching an agreement on securing the southern border. We know how important this is. We are negotiating in good faith and want to get this done in a bipartisan way.

And Democrats are resolute to send more aid to Israel, provide more humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Gaza, and hold the line against the Chinese Communist Party in the Indo-Pacific.

As we have seen over the past day, getting a bipartisan agreement on the supplemental is very difficult. But I am glad that now negotiations are continuing to move forward. Of course, there are still issues that must be settled, but negotiators will work all weekend in an effort to get this done.

TRIBUTE TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of our current pages be printed in the RECORD.

Thank you, Pages, for your good work, and have a good life.

Let me just say to the pages, today is your final day in your class. It has been a very busy session, but you pages have done a great job bringing the Senate to life.

The pages are always here when we need them: early in the mornings and late into the evenings. They have served this institution with grace and dignity, and it is an honor to have you with us.

On behalf of a grateful Senate, we say thank you and wish you all the best as you return home, move on to your next adventures. And again, to repeat, have a good life.

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

2023 FALL PAGES NAMES

Peyton Bolling, Jessie Cai, Jacob Cozze, Sloane Demetriou, Isabella "Bella" Deresziewicz-Hodowany, Miles Erdly-Liang, Oliver Forero, Rishi Gurudevan, Lauren Holland, Graydon Martone, Piper Richardson, Graham Shabino, Isabella Soto, Avery Upeslaci.

Alan Ventura Duran, Theia Wepaloki, Michael Bicksel, Aleyah Carbalal, Chace Durnant-Asbury, Eben Francis, Spencer Headlee, Yosef Herrera, John Honnold, Anna Kardashyan, Victoria Lavinder, Elsa Remington, Arjun Sandil, Ella Stillick, Sophia "Sophie" Wright.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 347 on December 18, 2023. Had I not missed the vote I would have voted yea, to confirm Mr. O'Malley's confirmation.

S. RES. 504

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, the Senator from Vermont last week proposed to discharge the Foreign Relations Committee of S. Res. 504, his resolution to require the production by the Department of State of a report on Israel's human rights practices.

Senator SANDERS' resolution is intended to serve the important purpose of ensuring robust Senate oversight of how U.S. security assistance has been deployed by the State of Israel in Gaza, where humanitarian conditions are catastrophic. However, Senator SANDERS' measure as drafted is overbroad, with potentially significant unintended consequences.

Beyond its reporting requirements with respect to ongoing Israeli operations in Gaza, Senator SANDERS' resolution requires within 30 days the affirmative certification by the Secretary of State that no individual unit of the Israel Defense Forces receiving U.S. security assistance over the past 5 years has committed any gross violations of human rights. The Department of State cannot feasibly undertake within 30 days the far-reaching analysis of IDF operations over half a decade that would be required to make such a certification.

The Department of State would therefore, in my view, be unable to comply with the reporting requirements in Senator SANDERS' resolution, potentially triggering a mandatory cessation of U.S. security assistance to Israel before the Senate even had the opportunity to review its report.

Accordingly, I voted to table S. Res. 504.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MADISON MARSH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate 2nd Lieutenant Madison Marsh on being selected as Miss America 2024. Lieutenant Marsh is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, currently pursuing a master's in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, and represented the State of Colorado in the national pageant. Although she is now famous across the country, she is best known in Arkansas as a native of Fort Smith, and our State is proud of her achievements.

Marsh is the first Active-Duty member of the military to win the Miss America crown, and she is already setting a tremendous example for young women nationwide with a desire to make a difference. Her aptitude in the field of aerospace and her commitment to military and civic service is an example for us all. Marsh grew up in Fort Smith as a hard-working student, athlete, and community leader. She excelled in the classroom while participating in numerous extracurricular activities including cheering at Southside High School, pursuing her private pilot's license, and working toward her black belt in Taekwondo. She has been an inspiration to her friends, family and residents of her hometown for many years.

Her life was altered forever when her mother passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2018. Despite the tragedy she and her family experienced, Marsh persevered in her goals, honoring her mother along the way. Marsh turned her grief into action with the creation of the Whitney Marsh Foundation. As president and founder, Marsh has already raised more than a quarter-million dollars for research with her leadership team at the foundation and brought her voice to this cause in the Halls of Congress. In addition to her public policy studies, she is also a graduate intern at the Harvard Medical School, contributing to efforts to use artificial intelligence to detect pancreatic cancer.

Having graduated from the Air Force Academy in 2023 with a degree in physics, she was selected for pilot training, which is scheduled to begin after completion of her master's program, with the goal of becoming an Air Force fighter pilot. She has commented in recent interviews that she became interested in aeronautics at a young age and set about doing what was necessary to become a pilot. Her hard work and a passion for aeronautics and space led her to the U.S. Air Force Academy, where she shined. During her time at USAFA, Lieutenant Marsh was honored as a two-time National Astronaut Scholar, eight-time Dean's List honoree, named to the Superintendent's

List three times, and interned with NASA for gamma-ray burst research.

As a native of Fort Smith and the chair of the U.S. Senate Air Force Caucus, I am proud that Madison Marsh is representing her community, her State, and our Nation's armed forces with dignity and excellence. I wish her the best of luck during her reign as Miss America and continued success in her career of service with the U.S. Air Force.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

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-3409. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers Act Medicare Secondary Payer Non-Group Health Plan Threshold Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3410. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 45W Commercial Clean Vehicles and Incremental Cost of 2024" (Notice 2024-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3411. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes for Medicare Advantage Organizations, Medicaid Managed Care Plans, State Medicaid Agencies, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Agencies and CHIP Managed Care Entities, Issuers of Qualified Health Plans on the Federally-Facilitated Exchanges, Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Eligible Clinicians, and Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program" (RIN0938-AU87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3412. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant

to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13936 with respect to Hong Kong; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3413. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Participation by Religious Organizations in USAID Programs" (RIN0412-AA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3414. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Various Administrative Changes and Clauses to the USAID Acquisition Regulation" (RIN0412-AA78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3415. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic" (RIN0412-AB09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3416. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agency for International Development Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR): Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels" (RIN0412-AA82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3417. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act" (RIN0412-AA89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3418. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Awards for Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3419. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age" (29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3420. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation" (RIN1212-AB45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1863. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2781. A bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 3412. A bill to redesignate the Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, as the “Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building”, and for other purposes.

S. 3570. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 500 West Pike Street in Clarksburg, West Virginia, as the “Irene M. Keeley United States Courthouse”, and for other purposes.

S. 3577. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the “Virginia Smith Federal Building”, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Jason E. Kelly, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Erica R. Austin, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Korey E. Amundson and ending with Col. Christopher M. Zidek, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 14, 2023.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Patricia R. Wallace, to be Major General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Douglas K. Clark and ending with Brig. Gen. Sean N. Day, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 14, 2023.

Marine Corps nomination of Col. William T. Wilburn, Jr., to be Brigadier General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Col. Thomas M. Armas and ending with Col. Patrick F. Tiernan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 14, 2023.

*Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Alexus G. Grynkevich, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Gwendolyn A. Foster, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Jason J. Lennen, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Eveline F. Yao, to be Brigadier General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Timothy E. Brennan and ending with Col. John P. Stanley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 8, 2024.

Army nomination of Col. Michael L. Smith, to be Brigadier General.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Todd F. Cimicata and ending with Capt. Melvin R. Smith, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 8, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Brian A. Harding and ending with Capt. Vincent S. Tionquiao, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 8, 2024.

Space Force nominations beginning with Col. Chandler P. Atwood and ending with Col. Zachary S. Warakomski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 8, 2024.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Carden, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Carter and ending with Brig. Gen. James B. Wellons, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Timothy A. Brown and ending with Capt. Michael York, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary’s desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of Julie A. Griffith, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with La Rita S. Abel and ending with Dara J. Warren, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 19, 2023.

Air Force nominations beginning with Andrew Ray Adamich and ending with John Peter Zimmerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 8, 2024.

Air Force nomination of Zachary M. Nunn, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Thomas P. Parshall, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Regan C. Reynolds, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Ryan L. Veneberg, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Habibatu A. Mojidi, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Lawrence M. Csaszar, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of David A. Delcuadrozimmerman, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jeffrey A. Dovan and ending with Hugo J. Vargas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Bryan M. Baker and ending with William T. Carrier, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Antonio C. Ewings and ending with Adam W. Spiars, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Donald E. Charboneau and ending with Jeffrey A. Tranberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nomination of Aaron Mora, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Rafael B. Martinez and ending with Isaac K. Tibayan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Luis E. Colon and ending with Anthony L.

Galluzzi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jason T. Connolly and ending with Cole A. Sardinta, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Dustin M. Bailey and ending with Xavier Ten, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Matthew D. Daleo and ending with Michael J. Landers, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jason R. Beken and ending with Joshua B. Whitehead, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Bernard J. Coyne, Jr. and ending with Ahbleza Theobald, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Gregory S. Canevari and ending with Antonio G. Marrero, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nomination of Richard L. Raines, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of James M. Rod, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Daniel E. Fuson, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Glenn A. Staley and ending with Corey R. Wainscott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2024.

Navy nomination of Matthew W. Rose, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Mark A. Wess, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Scott H. Williams, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Sonny D. Rowland, to be Commander.

Space Force nomination of Kevin F. Champaigne, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3658. A bill to promote space situational awareness and space traffic coordination and to modify the functions and leadership of the Office of Space Commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LEE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. ROUNDS,

Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BUDD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. VANCE):

S. 3659. A bill to require a citizenship question on the decennial census, to require reporting on certain census statistics, and to modify apportionment of Representatives to be based on United States citizens instead of all persons; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3660. A bill to require electronically prepared tax returns to include scannable code when submitted on paper, and to require the use of optical character recognition technology for paper documents received by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3661. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to periodically assess cybersecurity threats to, and vulnerabilities in, the agriculture and food critical infrastructure sector and to provide recommendations to enhance their security and resilience, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an annual cross-sector simulation exercise relating to a food-related emergency or disruption, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3662. A bill to repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASAN):

S. 3663. A bill to provide funding for programs and activities under the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3664. A bill to require executive branch employees to report certain royalties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3665. A bill to establish a process for waiver of coastwise endorsement requirements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 3666. A bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to establish an additional reporting requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. LUIJÁN):

S. 3667. A bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to strike provisions relating to the maximum civil penalties for violations of product safety standards; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VANCE:

S. 3668. A bill to authorize certain States to erect temporary protective fencing within 25 miles of the southwest border to deter illegal immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3669. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require transportation planners to consider projects and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3670. A bill to require States to establish complete streets programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3671. A bill to provide that an individual who uses marijuana in compliance with State law may not be denied occupancy of federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3672. A bill to support healthy fisheries in dynamic ocean conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3673. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on the purchase of single-family homes by certain large investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3674. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to prohibit the use of cell-cultivated meat under the school lunch program and the school breakfast program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. HASAN, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. Kaine):

S. 3675. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to create an innovation zone initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 3676. A bill to except quotations of fixed-income securities from certain regulatory requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3677. A bill to permanently authorize the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 3678. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the time during which a qualified disaster may have occurred for purposes of the special rules for personal casualty losses; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 532. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH,

Mr. Kaine, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 533. A resolution expressing support for the designation of January 21 through 27, 2024, as “National Board Certified Teachers Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 534. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of January as “Muslim-American Heritage Month” and celebrating the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 161

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 161, a bill to extend the Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 217

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber.

S. 243

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 243, a bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1400

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the delivery of technical assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1527

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1729

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1729, a bill to facilitate nationwide accessibility and coordination of 211 services and 988 services in order to provide information and referral to all residents and visitors in the United States for mental health emergencies, homelessness needs, other social and human services needs, and for other purposes.

S. 1976

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1976, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify congressional intent and preserve patient access to home infusion therapy under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2966

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2966, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to encourage programs to address college athlete mental health.

S. 3192

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) 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. 3323

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3323, a bill to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Immigration Custody, and for other purposes.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as “buy, borrow, die”, to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes.

S. 3549

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3549, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their depend-

ents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers.

S. 3558

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3558, a bill to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, and for other purposes.

S. 3627

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Ms. BALDW

IN):
S. 3673. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on the purchase of single-family homes by certain large investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today, I am introducing the Affordable Housing and Homeownership Protection Act with Senators SMITH, GILLIBRAND, BLUMENTHAL, KLOBUCHAR, FETTERMAN, and BALDWIN. Our bill would provide up to \$50 billion to help build and preserve approximately 3 million units of affordable housing and would be fully paid for through a transfer tax on investors who acquire and hold more than 15 single-family homes.

Driven by a shortage of as many as 6.8 million homes nationwide, home prices have surged 39 percent and rents 31 percent over the last 4 years, according the National Association of Realtors and Zillow. Higher rents and fewer opportunities for home ownership are devastating for millions of families. As housing costs skyrocket, more households are priced out of home ownership, while renters have less to spend on food, clothing, and other everyday necessities.

Low-income Americans are particularly strained. The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that 73 percent of extremely low-income households spend more than half their income on housing. Unsurprisingly, homelessness has risen in line with housing prices and is up 15 percent since 2019.

Unfortunately, Federal investments in low-income housing are insufficient to solve this affordability crisis. Indeed, researchers at Harvard University found that the three largest Federal housing programs serve nearly 300,000 fewer households today than they did 20 years ago, while approximately 25 percent more households are eligible but can't get aid.

At the same time, investors are buying a greater share of single-family homes sold each year—many of which they hold as rentals—preventing more families from reaching home ownership and often driving up rents. Most households cannot compete with the largest investors, who are typically private equity and other institutional investors. That is because large investors can use their financial might to make all-cash offers, waive, contingencies, and provide other concessions that individual buyers simply cannot match. Through last October, more than one out of every four single-family homes sold in 2023 were bought by investors, not hard-working households—a 69-percent increase from investors' prepandemic share of home purchases.

Our Affordable Housing and Homeownership Protection Act would tackle both our affordable housing crisis and institutional investors who crowd out families in the housing market. It would raise \$50 billion by taxing investors who purchase large numbers of single-family homes, with higher tax rates for the largest investors. Revenue would be split between the Housing Trust Fund, HTF, and Capital Magnet Fund, CMF, to help build and rehab over 300,000 rental units for extremely low-income Americans through HTF grants and help finance 2.7 million homes for low-income families via CMF, which leverages private investments.

In other words, our bill would help build and rehabilitate millions of homes for American families and boost households competing to buy homes with deep-pocketed investors, all without raising the deficit. This is a commonsense, fair proposal that tackles perhaps our Nation's biggest challenge.

I thank the bill's endorsers—the National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Housing Law Project, National Consumer Law Center on behalf of its low-income clients, National Housing Resource Center, Americans for Financial Reform, and Consumer Action—and urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 532—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION PROFESSIONALS WEEK

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 532

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of highly trained medicolegal death investigation professionals to ensure that the suspicious, violent, unattended, unexplained, and unexpected deaths that occur throughout the United States are investigated;

Whereas medicolegal death investigation professionals are an indispensable component of the public health and public safety systems in the United States as they speak for those who can no longer speak for themselves;

Whereas medicolegal death investigation professionals partner with—

(1) local and national agencies to build and maintain public health databases relating to injury, illness, disease; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas medicolegal death investigation professionals aim to complete the highest quality medicolegal death investigations through national standards; and

Whereas the week of January 21, 2024, through January 27, 2024, is recognized as “National Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) medicolegal death investigation professionals to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of medicolegal death investigation professionals working throughout the jurisdictions of the United States;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of medicolegal death investigations;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of medicolegal death investigation professionals and the future demands that medicolegal death investigation professionals will face; and

(iv) contact and invite local media outlets to cover events hosted during National Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local medicolegal death investigation professionals to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the week of January 21, 2024, through January 27, 2024, to be “National Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week”;

(iii) visit local medicolegal death investigation professionals in their jurisdictions to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those jurisdictions; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local medicolegal death investigation jurisdictions;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local medicolegal death investigation jurisdictions;

(ii) take tours of local medical examiner and coroner offices; and

(iii) ask local medical examiner and coroner offices about the operational and legislative needs of those jurisdictions;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local medicolegal death investigation professionals in the communities they serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and court officers to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local medicolegal death investigation jurisdictions;

(ii) take tours of local medical examiner and coroner offices;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local medicolegal death investigation jurisdictions; and

(iv) engage with local medicolegal death investigation professionals about working together more effectively.

SENATE RESOLUTION 533—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JANUARY 21 THROUGH 27, 2024, AS ‘NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS WEEK’

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. Kaine, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 533

Whereas National Board Certification is based on rigorous standards developed by teachers for teachers to demonstrate the ability of teachers to advance student learning and achievement;

Whereas research shows that students taught by National Board Certified Teachers learn more, especially in the case of low-income students;

Whereas National Board Certified Teachers often positively amplify their expertise by serving in leadership roles as teacher mentors, principals, administrators, and district leaders;

Whereas National Board Certified Teachers rank National Board Certification as their most important ongoing formal education, above graduate-level coursework and other training programs;

Whereas National Board Certified Teachers are among the thousands of educators around the United States who play a critical role in addressing the learning loss incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas 29 States provide salary incentives for National Board Certified Teachers, including 13 States that prioritize incentives in high-needs schools;

Whereas 44 percent of National Board Certified Teachers serve students in schools receiving support under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.);

Whereas, in 2023, 3,527 teachers earned their National Board Certification for the first time and 6,697 teachers successfully maintained their certification, benefitting thousands of students across the country; and

Whereas, as of January 2024, there are a total of 137,015 teachers who have achieved National Board Certification: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of January 21 through 27, 2024, as “National Board Certified Teacher Week”;

(2) recognizes the importance and contributions of National Board Certified Teachers to student learning and achievement; and

(3) encourages educators, administrators, school districts, and States—

(A) to promote the growth of new National Board Certified Teachers; and

(B) to provide the necessary incentives and support to candidates for National Board Certification.

SENATE RESOLUTION 534—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF JANUARY AS “MUSLIM-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH” AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF MUSLIM AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 534

Whereas the Senate is proud to recognize and commemorate “Muslim-American Heritage Month”, an observance that celebrates the contributions of Muslim Americans;

Whereas, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, the Senate recognizes and pays tribute to those who foster cultural pride and enhance the profile of diverse communities across the United States;

Whereas immigration of Muslims to the American colonies began with the arrival of indentured workers;

Whereas, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves of Muslim heritage were brought to the United States;

Whereas, in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, successive waves of immigration brought additional Muslims to the United States, who sought to pursue economic and social opportunity, as well as freedom of religion, and enriched the fabric of the society of the United States as business owners, entrepreneurs, health care professionals, humanitarians, scientists, and students;

Whereas Muslim Americans contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people from all faiths in the United States and around the world by providing medical assistance, family services, and scholastic supplies, running before- and after-school programs, feeding the hungry, and providing recuperation efforts following natural disasters;

Whereas Muslim Americans have contributed to every part of the society of the United States by making advancements in architecture, arts, business, culture, government, law, medicine, the military, religion, and sports;

Whereas Bangladeshi-American Fazlur Rahman Khan left his mark on the cityscapes of the United States by pioneering a new structural system of frame tubes used to construct iconic buildings like the World Trade Center in New York City, New York, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Willis “Sears” Tower in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas many Muslim Americans pursue the American dream and contribute to the

economy of the United States as business owners and entrepreneurs, including Pakistani-born billionaire Shahid Khan, owner of the auto-parts company Flex-N-Gate and the National Football League's Jacksonville Jaguars;

Whereas Syrian immigrant Ernest Hamwi's invention of the ice cream cone is a practical confection with a near ubiquitous presence in the life of the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2006, Keith Ellison of Minnesota was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Muslim American to serve in Congress;

Whereas, in 2008, Ambassador Sada Cumber was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as the first Special Envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference from the United States, representing the United States to 57 Muslim-majority nations;

Whereas actor Mahershala Ali became the first Muslim American to win an Oscar for his supporting role in "Moonlight" in 2017;

Whereas, in 2018, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota were elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Muslim-American women to serve in Congress;

Whereas, in 2021, Zahid Quraishi was confirmed as the first Muslim American to serve as an article III Federal judge as a district judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey;

Whereas, in 2021, Rashad Hussain was confirmed as the first Muslim American to serve as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom;

Whereas Pakistani-American neurosurgeon Ayub Ommaya's invention of the intraventricular catheter system provides chemotherapy to treat brain tumors;

Whereas Muslim Americans have fought in support of the United States in every major war, from Bampett Muhammed and Yusuf Ben Ali under the command of General George Washington in the American Revolutionary War, to Captain Humayun Khan, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq in 2004;

Whereas Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, the first Muslim American to deliver the invocation for the Senate, and El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, the civil rights activist and reformer also known as Malcolm X, were prominent religious leaders and scholars;

Whereas Muslim-American professional athletes like Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame members Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon, and Shaquille O'Neal and 2-time world heavyweight champion Hasim Shariff Rahman thrilled sports fans across the United States and around the globe during their respective careers;

Whereas Muslim-American Olympians, such as boxer Muhammad Ali, track and field athlete Dalilah Muhammad, and fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad, won medals in international competitions;

Whereas, with roots in at least 77 different countries and identifying racially as White, Black, Arab, and Asian, Muslim Americans are an extremely diverse population;

Whereas the current population of Muslims living in the United States is estimated at over 3,450,000 individuals;

Whereas over 4,500 Muslims serve on active duty, and over 2,300 Muslims serve as selected reserve personnel in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Muslim population has been growing in the United States, and today's Muslim-American population is a tapestry of ethnic, racial, linguistic, social, and economic groups;

Whereas nearly 50 percent of Muslim Americans have reported experiencing religious discrimination, with that number rising to 64 percent for Muslim Americans

whose appearance identifies them as Muslim, such as women who wear the hijab or headscarf;

Whereas there is a need for public education, awareness, and policies that help people be culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts that Muslim Americans have on all aspects of the society of the United States;

Whereas "Muslim-American Heritage Month" will be observed in the month of January; and

Whereas the incredible contributions and heritage of Muslim Americans have helped to build a better United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of "Muslim-American Heritage Month";

(2) honors the contributions and integral role of Muslim Americans in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe "Muslim-American Heritage Month" with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities that celebrate the contributions of Muslim Americans to the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I have three 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 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JANUARY 21 THROUGH 27, 2024, AS "NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS WEEK"

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 533, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 533) expressing support for the designation of January 21 through 27, 2024, as "National Board Certified Teachers Week".

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 533) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024, THROUGH TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned to convene for a pro forma session only, with no business conducted, at 9 a.m. on Friday, January 26; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, January 30; 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 Kolar nomination and that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen on Wednesday, January 31; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:49 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 26, 2024, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

PATRICK JOHN FUCHS, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 14, 2029 (REAPPOINTMENT)

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAMUEL E. LATHEM, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ALBERT DICLEMENTE, TERM EXPIRED.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

PATRICE J. ROBINSON, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2028, VICE WILLIAM B. KILBRIDE, TERM EXPIRED.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

LILIANA AYALDE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 26, 2026, VICE JUAN CARLOS TUTREGUI, TERM EXPIRED.

MARCELA ESCOBARI, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2026, VICE ADOLFO A. FRANCO, TERM EXPIRED.

JULIO GUILTY-GUEVARA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2026, VICE EDUARDO ARRIOLA, TERM EXPIRED.

MARIA FABIANA JORGE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2026, VICE HECTOR E. MORALES, TERM EXPIRED.

BRIAN A. NICHOLS, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2024, VICE J. KELLY RYAN, TERM EXPIRED.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

JOHN W. LESLIE, JR., OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, (REAPPOINTMENT).

MONDE MUANGWA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, VICE LINDA I. ETIM, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TRACEY ANN JACOBSON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

ALMO J. CARTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE J. PATRICK WILSON SMOOTH, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. FRANK L. BRADFIELD III
BRIG. GEN. HOWARD T. CLARK III
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT W. CLAUDE
BRIG. GEN. MELISSA A. COBURN
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM D. MURPHY
BRIG. GEN. DANA N. NELSON
BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. PIFFARERO
BRIG. GEN. REGINA A. SABRIC
BRIG. GEN. MARK V. SLOMINSKI

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

To be colonel

HEIDI L. CLARK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER C. LAZIDIS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

SARA V. TURINSKY

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

To be major

JOSEPH R. COTTON

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

To be major

JUAN C. GONGORA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

ALAN L. ADKISSON
TUMENTUGS D. ARMSTRONG
TARA J. ARNDT
MATTHEW J. BAAK
PATRICK S. BARR
MICHAEL T. BARRETT
KONLEY M. BELL
VICTORIA J. BELL
CHAD M. BIRD
AARON E. BROWN

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10 U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

KEEDAH N. RAY
KATHRYN C. COOMBS
GREGORY W. PECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED AS A PERMANENT COMMISSIONED OFFICER PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2101(A)(2):

To be lieutenant commander

DANIEL J. REILLY

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

JEAN E. AKERS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ELIZABETH HARRIS ALARID, OF UTAH
DAVID C. ALLEN, OF ARIZONA
CHRISTOPHER C. ALLISON, OF MISSOURI
PETER D. ANDREOLI, OF VIRGINIA
JOSHUA CLAY ARCHIBALD, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW C. AUSTIN, OF WASHINGTON
ELIZABETH M. BAILEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHRISTOPHER A. BERGAUST, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID B. BERNIS, OF MARYLAND

KELLY A. BILLINGSLEY, OF VIRGINIA
STEVEN R. BITNER, OF CALIFORNIA

SCOTT ANDREW BLOMQUIST, OF VIRGINIA
MEGAN T. BOULDIN, OF VIRGINIA

DAVID P. BROWNSTEIN, OF VERMONT
LISA A. BUZENAS, OF TEXAS

JOSEPH J. CALLAHAN IV, OF VIRGINIA
APRIL C. COHEN, OF VIRGINIA

WILLIAM M. COLEMAN IV, OF VIRGINIA
ANNE S. COLEMAN-HOON, OF VIRGINIA

CATHERINE E. CONNELL, OF FLORIDA
DAVID CURRAN CONNELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CAROLYN N. COOLEY, OF VIRGINIA
FLEUR S. COWAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

LAURA G. COWAN, OF VIRGINIA
JOSEPH L. CROOK, OF WASHINGTON

JOHN A. DEGORY, OF NEW YORK
AMY W. DIAZ, OF VIRGINIA

SHANNON BEHJAH DOLAN, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH A. DUFFY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MATTHEW M. EUSSEN, OF MARYLAND
DEBORAH J. FAIRMAN, OF FLORIDA

JOHN DAVID GALBRAITH, OF CALIFORNIA
YVONNE M. GONZALES, OF CALIFORNIA

ANTONE C. GREUBEL, OF VIRGINIA
AMY RUSSELL GRIER, OF VIRGINIA

JASON BAIRD GRUBB, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW E. HALUS, OF PENNSYLVANIA

LINDSAY N. HENDERSON, OF MARYLAND
SCOTT C. HIGGINS, OF VIRGINIA

JARAHN D. HILLSMAN, OF CALIFORNIA
ANNY C. HO, OF MARYLAND

HOLLY C. HOLZER, OF CALIFORNIA
AMANDA L. JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA

HEATHER E. KALMBACH, OF MICHIGAN
HORMAZD J. KANGA, OF KENTUCKY

MICHAEL C. KATULA, OF VIRGINIA
GABRIEL KAYPAGHIAN, OF VIRGINIA

DEANNA GENTRY KIM, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL MARGOLIES KONSTANTINO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ERIN E. KOTHEIMER, OF NEW YORK
LOURDES M. LAMELA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MELISSA J. LAN, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL B. LANGENKAMP, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ANDREW L. LEES, OF CALIFORNIA
VLAD LIPSCHUTZ, OF VIRGINIA

ROBERT B. MARCUS, OF ALABAMA
BERENICE MARISCAL, OF TEXAS

MARIEILLE H. MARTIN, OF INDIANA
AMIR P. MASLIYAH, OF CALIFORNIA

JIMMY R. MAULDIN, OF ALABAMA
MARK G. MCCOVERN, OF FLORIDA

MICHAEL J. MCKEOWN, OF TEXAS
JAMES N. MILLER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MATTHEW C. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA
LESLIE A. MOELLER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ANNE MARIE MOORE, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN P. MOPPERT, OF VIRGINIA

GREGORY L. NAARDEN, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH AUDREY NELSON, OF VIRGINIA

CHRISTOPHER M. NEWTON, OF VIRGINIA
JESSICA E. NORRIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AARON C. OLSA, OF VIRGINIA
SUE ELLEN KRISTINE OSTREM, OF VIRGINIA

RONALD S. PACKOWITZ, OF ILLINOIS
MARK A. PANNELL, OF VIRGINIA

CALVIN D. PETERSON, OF VIRGINIA
LIZA PETRUSH, OF MARYLAND

HILARY F. RENNER, OF VIRGINIA
MICHELLE L. RIEBELING, OF MISSOURI

ISABEL E. RIOJA-SCOTT, OF VIRGINIA
KRISTIN M. ROBERTS, OF WASHINGTON

JOHN G. ROBINSON, OF MISSISSIPPI
KRISTIN L. ROCKWOOD, OF VIRGINIA

SHANNON M. ROSS, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT P. SANDERS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CONN J. SCHRADER, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE NAVY

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

To be captain

DANIEL A. HANCOCK

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

To be captain

JAMES L. CLARK III

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

To be lieutenant commander

ROCKFORD D. BURTON

SHELLY A. SEAVER, OF VIRGINIA
 PRIYADARSHI SEN, OF VIRGINIA
 KEVIN D. SKILLIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 PATRICK T. SLOWINSKI, OF VIRGINIA
 BETH M. SMITH, OF WYOMING
 JENNIFER S. SPANDE, OF VIRGINIA
 MARK A. TERVAKOSKI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ANDREA J. TOMASZEWCZIK, OF NORTH CAROLINA
 TIMOTHY P. TRENLKE, OF WASHINGTON
 HOLLY B. WAEGER MONSTER, OF VIRGINIA
 BRIDGETTE L. WALKER, OF VIRGINIA
 APRIL S. WELLS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DEREK H. WESTFALL, OF VIRGINIA
 DAVID S. WILLIAMS, OF CALIFORNIA
 MICHELLE WOLLAM, OF VIRGINIA
 NOAH SAMUEL ZARING, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 THE FOLLOWING NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
 ANNETTE D. BLAKESLEE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ANITA A. BROWN, OF MARYLAND
 KAREN L. BROWN CLEVELAND, OF MARYLAND
 LAWRENCE W. E. CASSELLE, OF VIRGINIA
 JOHN R. CORY, OF VIRGINIA
 MARIA J. DELEON, OF VIRGINIA
 DEYANIRA DESOUZA, OF FLORIDA
 SHANE L. DIXON, OF TENNESSEE
 NICOLE A. GALLAGHER, OF FLORIDA
 LYSIA C. GIULIANO, OF VIRGINIA
 JOAN F. GREW, OF ALASKA
 KORY M. HAMMOND, OF WYOMING
 PHILLIP B. HAYES, OF VIRGINIA
 GARY M. HEIN, OF MARYLAND
 ROBERT K. HELM, OF VIRGINIA
 KIMBERLY K. JONES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DAVID R. KROUGH, OF VIRGINIA
 LISA W. KYRIENKO, OF MARYLAND
 TAHWANDA LAMBERT, OF TEXAS
 LISA G. LANDES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ANNA J. LASON, OF TEXAS
 STEVEN C. LEMELIN, OF MARYLAND
 WILLIAM PAUL MARGULIES, JR., OF TENNESSEE
 ROBERT C. MCMURRY, OF VIRGINIA
 DARCY M. MERCADANTE, OF NEW MEXICO
 JESSICA M. MOORE, OF ARIZONA
 KATHRYN D. MORGAN, OF VIRGINIA

AMANDA C. PHILPOT, OF VIRGINIA
 GIL W. SERRAO, OF VIRGINIA
 LESLIE A. TAGGART, OF TEXAS
 RAHIM THERIOT, OF VIRGINIA
 MAURIZIO VISANI, OF FLORIDA
 MELISSA S. WOLIN, OF VIRGINIA
 STEPHEN ZIEGENFUSS, OF VIRGINIA
 THE FOLLOWING NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:
 DONALD A. BLOME, OF VIRGINIA
 BRIDGET A. BRINK, OF MICHIGAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 8, 2023:
 DONALD LU, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

ELIZA F. AL-LAHAM, OF VIRGINIA
 CONSTANCE C. ARVIS, OF VIRGINIA
 SUMERA ASHRUF, OF VIRGINIA
 NATALIE A. BAKER, OF TEXAS
 SARAH M. BERAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DANIEL R. BISCHOF, OF MARYLAND
 MARGARET H. BOND, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SUSAN MARIE BURNS, OF MARYLAND
 JEREMY A. CORNFORTH, OF CONNECTICUT
 KEVIN T. COVERT, OF MARYLAND
 SARA M. CRAIG, OF VIRGINIA
 MARK W. CULLINANE, OF VIRGINIA
 RICHARD R. CUSTIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 AIMEE CUTRONA, OF VIRGINIA
 TIMMY T. DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA
 KAREN L. ENSTROM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 SUSAN K. FALATKO, OF VIRGINIA
 KATHRYN L. FLACHSBART, OF VIRGINIA
 NATASHA S. FRANCESCHI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DAVID J. GAINER, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 MICHAEL B. GOLDMAN, OF VIRGINIA
 RIAN HARKER HARRIS, OF VIRGINIA
 PATRICIA L. HOFFMAN, OF VIRGINIA

KIMBERLY C. KELLY, OF TEXAS
 MISTY S. KNOTTS, OF VIRGINIA
 ROBERT T. KOECKE, OF VIRGINIA
 RACHNA S. KORHONEN, OF NEW JERSEY
 JUDY H. KUO, OF MARYLAND
 CHARLES J. LILLY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 JOANN M. LOCKARD, OF VIRGINIA
 PETER W. LORD, OF FLORIDA
 MARGARET R. MACCALLUM, OF VIRGINIA
 DAVID G. MANGO, OF NEW YORK
 GRAHAM D. MAYER, OF VIRGINIA
 CHANDA C. MCDANIEL, OF VIRGINIA
 KARA C. MCDONALD, OF VIRGINIA
 DAVID C. MCFARLAND, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MAUREEN MCGEOUGH, OF VIRGINIA
 MATTHEW MURRAY, OF MARYLAND
 MARGARET H. NARDI, OF VIRGINIA
 JEREMY M. NEITZKE, OF VIRGINIA
 ROHIT S. NEPAL, OF MARYLAND
 ERIKA A. OLSON, OF WASHINGTON
 MARIA DE GUADALUPE OLSON, OF VIRGINIA
 LUCIA C. PIAZZA, OF VIRGINIA
 PAUL EVANS POLETES, OF VIRGINIA
 MUSTAFA M. POPAL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ELIZABETH CARUSO POWER, OF TEXAS
 GAUTAM A. RANA, OF NEW JERSEY
 EUGENIA M. SIDEREAS, OF ILLINOIS
 MARK E. STROH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ELIA E. TELLO, OF NORTH DAKOTA
 ROBERT W. THOMAS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 ELAINE S. TIANG-CHU, OF VIRGINIA
 SCOTT BRIAN TICKNER, OF VIRGINIA
 ELIZABETH K. TRUDEAU, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 SCOTT C. WALKER, OF VIRGINIA
 JACQUELINE LEANN WARD, OF FLORIDA
 RICHARD TSUTOMU YONEOKA, OF VIRGINIA

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 25, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

GRETCHEN S. LUND, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA.