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No. 18

## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, eternal and unchangeable, You have ordained that day follows night and that in trials we find our triumph.

Keep our lawmakers aware of Your goodness and mercies that never fail. Lord, lift our Senators above contention to an optimism that trusts the unfolding of Your prevailing providence. May they also live with the awareness that our times are in Your hands.

Lord, give our legislators the wisdom to rededicate themselves to the doing of Your will so that this Nation may yet shine with the beauty of righteousness, justice, and peace.

And, Lord, remember the families of the servicemembers killed in the Jordan drone attack.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 31, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### 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 shall report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, every last Member of this body knows what is on the line as we work on the national security supplemental. From securing our southern border to helping

our friends in Israel and innocent civilians in Gaza, to showing strength in the Indo-Pacific, and, of course, standing with Ukraine, the Senate's very resolve and courage is being put to the test.

A month ago, I said the only way we will rise to the occasion is if both sides are serious about finding a bipartisan compromise. The negotiation was never going to be easy. In fact, we all knew it would be immensely difficult.

Nevertheless, I said Democrats were willing to treat these negotiations with the seriousness they deserve. And for months, we have been true to our word, working with Republicans on border security, listening to their proposals, and coming to agreement on a vast range of issues.

We have not concluded negotiations. So we will keep going to get this done.

Democrats have always been ready and willing to have a debate on the border. We want to get this done. We have continued to work to get this done, and we remain committed—we remain committed—to bipartisanship. Both sides will have to give.

It is unfortunate, but, frankly, not surprising, that many on the hard right are mightily trying to sink the bipartisan work happening here in the Senate. But, in the Senate, our responsibility is clear: We need to put the needs of our country above the interests of party politics because the security of our southern border is on the line; the security of Israel is on the line; the health and safety of innocent Gaza civilians are on the line; the stability of the Indo-Pacific region is on the line; and, finally, as every Senator on both sides knows, the survival of Ukraine is on the line.

It will be 2 years since Vladimir Putin began his illegal, savage campaign against the Ukrainian people. American military assistance has been one of the most important lifelines for Ukrainian fighters since the start of the war, but now that aid has run out.

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



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Congressional action is required if we want to send additional military assistance.

The matter here is very simple, as President Zelenskyy told us in December. Ukraine will win the war against Russia if more aid is approved by Congress, but, if no more aid is approved, Putin will win.

We dare not hand Eastern Europe over to Vladimir Putin. The supplemental is how we ensure that Western democracy is protected.

The work is not easy. It is very hard. There are still some issues outstanding, but we remain committed to bipartisanship, and we will keep working because we want to get this done.

#### IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, on the Mayorkas impeachment effort in the House, last night, while most Americans were fast asleep, a House committee voted to advance the absurd effort to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

The Republican House majority is moving forward with the sham impeachment effort, despite producing no evidence that Secretary Mayorkas has committed any crime. House Republicans have not shown that he has violated the Constitution. House Republicans have failed to present any evidence of anything resembling an impeachable offense.

Instead, what House Republicans are doing by advancing the sham impeachment effort is denigrating our Constitution, all for the sake of appeasing one person and one person only, Donald Trump.

And let this be clear: This unserious spectacle by House Republicans does nothing—nothing—to secure our border.

While Senators on both sides of the aisle are actually negotiating in good faith on border security, House Republicans keep exploiting the border only for political gain—only to help Donald Trump on the campaign trail—instead of working to solve the problem.

There have already been many shameful and embarrassing moments in the Republican House majority, but abusing the Constitution by pursuing this sham impeachment effort is a new, ignominious low.

#### MIFEPRISTONE

Mr. President, on the mifepristone amicus brief, yesterday I signed on to an amicus brief with over 260 of my Democratic colleagues urging the Supreme Court to reverse a dangerous circuit court ruling restricting access to mifepristone. We just learned that the Supreme Court will hear this case on March 26.

The FDA ruled mifepristone safe over two decades ago, but the hard right continues to seek its prohibition. The hard right's attacks on a drug that has been deemed safe for two decades shows how unhinged and limitless their desire is to eliminate freedom of choice in America. And the consequences of the hard right's anti-women agenda has al-

ready proven destructive to an appalling degree.

New research shows that there is a significant increase in the number of rape-related pregnancies—rape-related pregnancies. This is truly horrific. All survivors of sexual violence deserve access to a full range of physical and mental healthcare services; but, tragically, today they don't have that. This is the new reality for women in a post-Roe America.

These extreme abortion bans have caused chaos and inflicted irreparable harm to thousands of women whose stories we will never hear. Democrats will not stand by and watch the hard right continue its all-out assault on reproductive rights. We will continue fighting to protect a woman's right to choose. We will not stop until we prevail.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### BURMA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been 3 years since a thuggish military coup derailed prospects for democracy, unity, and self-determination in Burma. The military—or Tatmadaw—has engaged in a ruthless, systematic war against the people of Burma. This war has displaced roughly 2½ million people. Last year alone, it claimed over 15,000 lives.

And, of course, the junta has placed tens of thousands of innocent people behind bars for opposing the military regime. Right now, nearly 2,000 members of the National League for Democracy, Burma's leading pro-democracy party, are being unjustly held as political prisoners, as are many others from all corners of Burma's society and its myriad ethnic groups.

Undoubtedly, the most well-known political prisoner is my friend Aung San Suu Kyi. For the longtime leader of Burma's pro-democracy movement and for the hopes she represents, I can only imagine the 3 years of pain, suffering, and frustration.

I would hope my colleagues would join me, on this third anniversary of the coup, in calling for the unconditional release of all political prisoners in Burma. In the face of sustained repression and brutal violence, the people of Burma continue to resist. Working together, increasingly across ethnic and religious lines, they continue to defy the heavy fist of the junta. In recent months, forces resisting the Tatmadaw have conducted promising counteroffensives and drawn significant defections from the ranks of the

pro-junta military. They are determined to establish a new democratic Burma committed to coexistence, justice, and the rule of law.

As I have said repeatedly, the world must encourage and support their efforts. The United States must urge more of our allies and partners to join in applying maximum pressure to the ruling junta, to state-owned enterprises like the MOGE, and to their enablers abroad.

There is also more the Biden administration can do to help the people of Burma. For one, it is past time to implement the bipartisan BURMA Act and deploy its new authorities and resources to engage and provide non-lethal assistance to those struggling to resist the junta, including ethnic groups and organizations on the frontlines of this terrible conflict.

The conflict in Burma is not just about freedom or justice. It has also been a boon to China and Russia. Both of our adversaries have armed the Tatmadaw for a healthy profit and growing influence. Beijing also has its eyes on critical infrastructure projects it sees as expanding its strategic reach into the Indian Ocean. Foremost among these is a \$7 billion deepwater port in Rakhyne State.

I would encourage my colleagues to look at a map and consider just where this complicated country of more than 50 million people sits. Geography may not exactly be destiny, but it certainly matters. The outcome of the conflict will matter in the geostrategic competition unfolding all across Asia.

Throughout my career, I have been proud to be a voice for my friend Aung San Suu Kyi and for her fellow democracy advocates in Burma. I have been proud to celebrate their remarkable progress and to call attention to their setbacks and ongoing struggle. And the American people should be proud that so many are willing to risk so much to follow their example of self-government.

As the people of Burma begin to turn the tide of the conflict, I will continue to stand with them against the Tatmadaw thugs who seek to snuff out the bright light of their future. I hope my colleagues, the administration, and America's friends in the region and democratic countries around the world will do the same.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. President, now, on another subject, tomorrow the world-leading innovators that have produced medical cures here in America will face yet another compliance deadline from Washington Democrats' price-fixing scheme. As I have discussed before, the so-called Inflation Reduction Act includes a price-fixing mechanism that requires drug manufacturers to agree to a crooked negotiation process, pay an excessive fine or take their drugs off the market.

By February 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, are required to send each drug company a

little Valentine's Day gift: their initial "maximum fair price" offer for each selected drug. Calling this price-fixing scheme a negotiation is like calling a bank robbery a transaction. In any fair negotiation, either party has the ability to walk away from a deal they don't like. But in this case, if a drug company fails to agree to the "maximum fair price" determined by unelected bureaucrats in a government Agency, the company has two options: They can agree to pay an excise tax capturing up to 1,900 percent of the drug's daily revenue; if not, the IRA would force them to withdraw entirely from participation in the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

So, unsurprisingly, multiple drugmakers have sued the Federal Government over the IRA's price-fixing racket. The companies have argued that the IRA's requirements constitute an uncompensated taking of property in violation of the takings clause.

In response, my colleague from Vermont, Senator SANDERS, decided to call the CEOs of all these companies to testify before the Senate HELP Committee, and the timing is no coincidence. As a recent editorial pointed out, "Mr. SANDERS doesn't want to negotiate, or conduct actual oversight. He wants to keelhaul the CEOs as punishment for suing the government."

Of course, the ultimate victims are not the innovators but the patients who will never receive lifesaving treatments. By one estimate, the incentives eliminated by this scheme would have delivered nine times as much funding for cancer research as then-Vice President Biden's own 2016 Cancer Moonshot Initiative provided.

The simple truth of the matter is that socialism doesn't work. The government can't wave a magic wand and make prices go down. And expressing anger about prices to a CEO won't lower prices either.

So perhaps instead of holding show trials on high prices, Washington Democrats might reconsider how their own reckless taxing and spending policies have created an economy that is failing innovators, patients, and working families alike.

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.

#### IRAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Nation received tragic news on Sunday morning. Three American soldiers were killed in an attack by an Iran-backed militia against Tower 22, a base in northeast Jordan that sits near the border of Syria and Iraq. More than 40 servicemembers were also injured in the attack with 8 requiring evacuation.

Families of the fallen and injured are in our prayers, as are the families of the two Navy Seals who were lost at sea off the coast of Somalia earlier this month, during a dangerous nighttime raid to interdict Iranian missile parts being shipped to the Houthis in Yemen.

We owe all of these military members a tremendous debt of gratitude.

There will no doubt be an investigation into how the drone that killed our soldiers on Sunday was reportedly mistaken as a friendly drone. But with more than 165 attacks against U.S. troops over the last several months, the risk of a U.S. fatality has been very high, and the half measures so far pursued by the Biden administration have failed to stop us from reaching this tragic milestone.

That is because the Biden administration's posture is missing a key element. It is possible to deter an adversary from taking certain actions by having the military capabilities to deny their success or to impose a crippling response. But having the military might alone isn't sufficient for a credible deterrence. These capabilities must be—have to be—backed up with a clear willingness to use them.

So when the Biden administration repeatedly asserts that we don't want to escalate with Iran, that we don't seek a war with Iran, the Iranian regime sees that as permission to set loose its terrorist proxies. It is unquestionably true that we would prefer to avoid escalation in the region. I am not here to call for war with Iran. And if the ayatollahs in Iran are to be believed, they say they do not want war either.

But if every diplomatic admonishment and so-called proportional response to the Houthis or Iran-backed militias comes with a caveat that we are not seeking to escalate, it is interpreted as "we won't escalate." This is not the language of deterrence, and it neuters the ability of our counterstrikes to compel any change in behavior.

So what should this administration do in response to the 165-plus attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq, Syria, the Red Sea, and now in Jordan? First and most importantly, keep all options on the table. Let the Iranian regime guess the lengths to which we will go to protect our troops from attacks, combat terrorism, uphold our freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, and help our ally Israel. Second, the President, as Commander in Chief, needs to take decisive action and articulate his strategy to the American people. I will defer to our military leaders on what measures will send the clearest message to Iran that its days of enabling attacks against U.S. military targets are numbered.

But there is no question that we need something more compelling than the President's handful of airstrikes, which have clearly done nothing to deter Iran and its proxies. When the stakes are this high and American lives are on the line, half measures will not cut it.

When it comes to President Biden's handling of Iran, a course correction is long overdue. First, there was President Biden's attempt to reinstate the Obama administration's flawed Iran nuclear deal. Then there was the Biden administration's attempt to unfreeze \$6 billion in Iranian assets as part of a deal to free American prisoners. Thankfully, the administration ultimately refroze those funds in the wake of Hamas's October 7 attack against Israel, but unfreezing them in the first place was a serious mistake.

It isn't just this kid-glove treatment that has emboldened and enabled Iran; the President's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan on a timeline announced to our enemies seriously dented perception of America's resolve.

Then there are things like the President's decision to restart funding to United Nations' Relief and Works Agency, otherwise known as UNRWA. New intelligence has confirmed what we had long suspected, and that is that roughly 10 percent of UNRWA workers in Gaza have ties to Islamist militant groups. Worse, at least 12 members actually participated in Hamas's October 7 attack, with two kidnapping an Israeli woman, two raiding an Israeli kibbutz, and another providing ammo to Hamas terrorists.

President Trump stopped sending taxpayer dollars to UNRWA in 2018 in response to reports that its staff held affiliations with Hamas and promoted anti-Semitism in classrooms. So why in the world—why in the world—would the Biden administration restart this funding without certifying it wouldn't be used to support terrorism? Another unforced error that has harmed our credibility in the eyes of our adversaries.

So what happens next?

President Biden needs to demonstrate resolve and leadership in bringing a swift end to Iran's campaign of terror. He must forcefully respond to Iran and show that the United States will be unwavering in defending our national interests, especially our troops.

He needs to seriously reconsider the reported plans to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq and Syria based on an arbitrary timeline rather than security conditions on the ground, which will only be interpreted as a retreat by Iran and its terrorist proxies.

It would also be nice if he stopped stifling American energy and unfroze the liquified natural gas export approvals he recently halted so that our allies aren't forced to turn to countries like Russia and Iran for energy supplies.

This is a critical time. The eyes of the world and particularly the eyes of our adversaries are on our President. I hope—I sincerely hope—he will step up to meet the challenge.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Missouri.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KANSAS CITY  
NATIONAL SECURITY CAMPUS

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the Kansas City National Security Campus and the important role it plays in strategic deterrence on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

I stand here today at the desk of President Harry S. Truman. In 1946, President Truman established the Atomic Energy Commission, and in 1949, Kansas City was selected as the location to produce nonnuclear components for our nuclear arsenal. For 75 years, the Kansas City National Security Campus has been the primary site within the Nuclear Security Enterprise for procuring and producing—say that a few times—nonnuclear parts and components for nuclear weapons.

As the United States continues to advance nuclear modernization programs, the Kansas City National Security Campus plays an essential role in America's national security, helping to ensure the nuclear stockpile is safe, secure, and reliable.

More than 6,000 hard-working Missourians go to work day in and day out, and the importance of their contribution to our country and its defenses cannot be understated. They make 80 percent—80 percent—of the nonnuclear components for the weapons in our national nuclear arsenal. In addition, they support proliferation deterrence, supply chain security, and our overall responsiveness to global threats. Kansas City National Security Campus is not only improving the reliability and modernity of our arsenal, they are making it more efficient too.

The U.S. nuclear stockpile remains the bedrock of our strategic deterrence, and the security and stability it provides to our country's defense is paramount. It is not an exaggeration to say that this is the most important moment for our nuclear arsenal in generations, and the Kansas City National Security Campus is at the center of it all.

At a time when the People's Republic of China is rapidly growing and modernizing its own arsenal, Kansas City National Security Campus and the critical role it plays in our defense is more important than ever. Never in our history have we faced so dangerous a threat as communist China, founded on the belief that the power to govern comes not from the people but from the barrel of a gun. We must therefore meet their strength with our own, and Kansas City National Security Campus is making our country and its defenses stronger each and every day.

I am deeply proud—and there are many of them here today—to represent the State of Missouri and the folks from that campus in the U.S. Senate

and to represent the dedicated workforce of the Kansas City National Security Campus. They are central to our Nation's security.

I could not be more pleased to recognize the Kansas City National Security Campus and its 75 years of contributions to national security. Some of the facility's leadership is with us today in the Gallery, and I thank them for their service.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

NOMINATION OF KAROLINE MEHALCHICK

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning to share my strong support for the judicial nominee that we are about to vote on, Judge Karoline Mehalchick. Judge Mehalchick has been nominated to serve on the Middle District Court of Pennsylvania. That is one of our three Federal judicial districts. Upon confirmation, she would sit in the Federal courthouse in my hometown of Scranton, PA, where she has already been serving with distinction for over 10 years as a Federal magistrate judge.

Born and raised in Lackawanna County, Judge Mehalchick went on to attend and graduate from the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University before heading to Tulane Law School in Louisiana.

Fortunately for Pennsylvania, Judge Mehalchick returned home after graduation and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Trish Corbett on the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County. From there, she worked as an associate and partner at the law firm of Oliver Price & Rhodes in Scranton, before being appointed as a U.S. magistrate judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in July of 2013.

In 2021, she was appointed chief U.S. magistrate judge in the Middle District, and upon her appointment, the then-chief judge of the Middle District Court, Judge John Jones III, commented that she has been an "exemplary and hardworking jurist" and that he had "every confidence that she will . . . serve with distinction." I think his confidence was well placed, based upon her service.

Judge Jones, the then-chief judge of the Middle District, was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate some 20 years ago.

Judge Mehalchick has proved to be a strong leader in both the Middle District and across the Nation, during her time on the bench. She has served as cochair of the Middle District's Prisoner Litigation Settlement Program and presided over the Scranton CARE court. She has also served on the magistrate judges' advisory group of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and was appointed in 2021 by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts to serve on the Judicial Conference Committee on Codes of Conduct.

Her reputation and commitment to the Middle District are further high-

lighted by the numerous letters of support that she has received from fellow members of the judiciary. The former chief, Judge Jones, as I mentioned earlier, in another statement of support, spoke of Judge Mehalchick's "exemplary character," her hard work, impressive temperament, "brilliant" writing, and dedication to the rule of law. This former chief judge further wrote:

The greatest appellation that I can award to a fellow jurist is that she is a "judge's judge." This fits Judge Mehalchick perfectly.

Another retired judge, Thomas Vanaskie, who served on both the District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit said as follows:

[Judge Mehalchick] has the legal acumen, personal discipline, exceptional work ethic, sense of fairness, and compassion to be an outstanding member of the Federal judiciary.

Her nomination has garnered support even beyond the legal community throughout Pennsylvania. The president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, Bob Durkin, wrote about the "first-rate judiciary of the Middle District" and highlighted how Judge Mehalchick "has been a critical player in this institution," and that her confirmation "will further strengthen and bring honor to that bench."

Judge Mehalchick has dedicated her career to the people—the people—of the Middle District, from her legal practice and judicial service to her community work with organizations such as the Ballet Theatre of Scranton.

Throughout her legal career and particularly during the past decade, sitting as a U.S. magistrate judge, she has undoubtedly demonstrated that she has the temperament and experience to faithfully serve the people of the Middle District.

I am pleased that the Senate is moving forward with her confirmation vote today. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kirk Edward Sherriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

NOMINATION OF KIRK EDWARD SHERRIFF

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Kirk Sherriff to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

Born in Berkeley, CA, Mr. Sherriff received his B.A. from Columbia College at Columbia University and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. After completing law school, Mr. Sherriff

clerked for Judge Deborah T. Poritz of the New Jersey Supreme Court before beginning his legal career at White & Case LLP. As an associate, he focused on complex commercial litigation and on domestic and international arbitration matters.

Following his time in private practice, Mr. Sherriff has spent the past two decades at the U.S. Attorney's Office—USAO—for the same district to which he is nominated, where he has handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters. Since 2015, Mr. Sherriff has been the chief of the USAO's Fresno office, where he is responsible for overseeing Federal prosecutions brought in the southern half of the Eastern District of California.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Sherriff "well qualified" to serve on the district court, and he has the strong support of Senators PADILLA and BUTLER.

Mr. Sherriff's deep ties to the California legal community, combined with his significant courtroom experience, make him an excellent candidate to serve on the Federal bench.

I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

#### VOTE ON SHERRIFF NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 26 Ex.]

#### YEAS—54

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

#### NAYS—45

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

Thune	Tuberville	Wicker
Tillis	Vance	Young

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The nomination was confirmed.

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

#### 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. 311, Karoline Mehalchick, 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 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.

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 Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, 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. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 27 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—49

Blackburn	Capito	Cramer
Boozman	Cassidy	Crapo
Braun	Collins	Cruz
Britt	Cornyn	Daines
Budd	Cotton	Ernst

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

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:28 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### NOMINATION OF KAROLINE MEHALCHICK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Karoline Mehalchick to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Mehalchick received her B.S. from Pennsylvania State University and her J.D. from Tulane Law School before clerking for Judge Trish Corbett on the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas in Scranton, PA. She then entered private practice in Clarks Summit, PA, where she maintained a general civil and commercial litigation practice, representing both plaintiffs and defendants in all stages of litigation. During her time as a litigator, she tried 10 cases to verdict, including 6 jury trials. She also argued seven appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and served as co-counsel in one case before the Supreme Court of the United States.

In 2013, Judge Mehalchick was appointed as a U.S. magistrate judge on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Scranton. She has served as chief magistrate judge since 2021. During her decade on the bench, she has handled a wide variety of both civil and criminal matters, and she has presided over 16 trials that have gone to verdict. She has issued more than 1,200 opinions and reports and recommendations and more than 1,000 criminal orders related to pretrial detention and release. In addition to her judicial service, Judge Mehalchick also presides over the Scranton Court-Assisted Re-Entry Program—CARE Court—and serves on the Judicial Conference Committee on Codes of Conduct.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Mehalchick as "qualified" to serve on the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and she is

strongly supported by both of her home State Senators and the Pennsylvania legal community. Her litigation background and her courtroom experience as both an advocate and as a magistrate judge ensure that she will be an asset to the district court.

I am proud to support her nomination, and I ask my colleagues to join me in my support.

#### VOTE ON MEHALCHICK NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mehalchick nomination?

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 28 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—49

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

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The nomination was confirmed.

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

#### 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. 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.

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 Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 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. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 29 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—49

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

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### IRAN

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I rise here today in support of our closest and longest standing ally in the Middle East, Israel, and also to prevent American taxpayer dollars from supporting terrorism.

On October 7, Hamas broke the ceasefire with a horrific and barbaric attack on Israel. Hamas terrorists crossed the border. They killed unarmed citizens, raped and mutilated women, burned children, beheaded soldiers, and kidnapped innocent civilians as well. That horrific attack demonstrates the barbarity of this terrorist organization.

For those who call on a cease-fire for Israel to somehow sponsor this, I call on you to call on Hamas to surrender. Hamas must surrender. Israel cannot tolerate an organization on its border that is dedicated to destruction of its state. Hamas has said time and time again they will continue to attack Israel in this barbaric way. Hamas must be destroyed and the United States must support Israel. Israel will be doing the world a favor when Hamas is destroyed.

On that day, 1,200 Israelis were killed. It included 33 Americans. Hundreds of people were kidnapped, many of whom have not been returned. I have been posting about the hostages since this terrible event has happened. These folks are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, children. These folks are real people, and they must be returned. That is why it is so important that Hamas surrender, return the hostages, and the State of Israel must continue to defend itself until that happens.

Now, we ought not support terrorism, especially not a brutal terroristic organization by the name of Hamas. We shouldn't undermine our foreign policy to support the State of Israel. And yet that is exactly what we are doing at this moment.

There is an organization called the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East, also called UNRWA. Last Friday, there was a report that a dozen UNRWA employees participated in the October 7 attack, six directly in the attack killing Israelis. A couple were responsible for logistics, procuring weapons. More were involved in kidnappings. Still more were traced to the sites where Israelis had been killed.

The Wall Street Journal reports that perhaps 10 percent of UNRWA employees, some 1,200 people, may have links to Hamas or even the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which considers Hamas too moderate. Think of how crazy that is.

UNRWA has been described as, essentially, a branch of Hamas. But, by the way, this is not a news flash that this

happened. The UN has said they are going to launch an investigation into this. But guess what. We know through previous investigations that this was the pattern of UNRWA.

The Trump administration knew this, and so they cut off funding for UNRWA. They knew that UNRWA previously had been supporting Hamas, had its employees also be agents of Hamas, that its textbooks glorified martyrdom, terrorism, and preached anti-Semitism. Its teachers talked about killing Jews. Its schools had stored weapons for Hamas.

UNRWA sites and facilities have been used to launch attacks on Israel. This was not new news. And yet, inexplicably, the Biden administration, as soon as they came into office, resumed our funding, our taxpayer dollars to UNRWA. Madam President, 730 million U.S. taxpayer dollars given to UNRWA.

And we have since found out now that one of the UNRWA teachers, an Arabic language teacher, was a Hamas commander who participated on an attack on a kibbutz that killed 97 people and in which 26 people were kidnapped.

We should not fund Hamas, and we should not fund Hamas through UNRWA. We need to cut off the funds to UNRWA. The Trump administration saw it. And the State Department saying they are going to temporarily pause their funding to UNRWA is simply not good enough.

The junior Senator from South Carolina and me have proposed the Stop Support For Hamas. This would end U.S. taxpayer funding to UNRWA and stop their support of Hamas.

This bill must pass, or we have other ways to do it. We can put it into any supplemental that we pass that is going to provide aid to Gaza. We are currently considering such a bill right now.

Before we provide another taxpayer dollar, we must pass this legislation so that UNRWA cannot continue to support terrorists like Hamas. We must stand with our ally Israel. They not only have the right to defend themselves, but it will be important for world peace to see Hamas destroyed.

Hamas is a brutal terroristic organization. It has no place in the world. We need to provide Israel the tools they need to be able to defend themselves and destroy this terrorist organization. And we should not act counter to that by providing UNRWA money.

We must permanently ban our funding to UNRWA so that our taxpayer dollars are not supporting the terrorist organization Hamas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

IRAN

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, this weekend, three brave Americans gave their lives in service to our country. My heart goes out to the families of SGT William Jerome Rivers, SPC Kennedy Sanders, and SPC Breonna

Moffett, who were serving in the Army Reserves 718th Engineer Company—the same company I served in nearly 30 years ago as a platoon leader. I know the bravery of men and women who put themselves in harm's way, and my prayers are with their colleagues who are suffering from their injuries.

Our servicemembers continue to be on the frontlines of Iran-backed attacks. Earlier this month, two Navy SEALs went missing in action while interdicting lethal aid that Iran was resupplying to the Houthis. Navy Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Christopher Chambers and Navy Special Warfare Operator 2nd Class Nathan Ingram made the ultimate sacrifice working to prevent more Iranian-backed terror.

Iran's proxies who continue to attack our troops must know how seriously the United States takes American lives. Every American life is precious. Our adversaries need to understand that a single American loss is one too many and that they will pay dearly for spilling the blood of those who wear the uniform.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: American weakness on the world stage emboldens our adversaries and puts U.S. citizens at risk.

Right now, today, six Americans continue to be held hostage by Iran-backed Hamas. This terrorist organization thinks it can barter with American lives. Instead of fearing us, they seek to manipulate us. Instead of hiding in the shadows, they hold press conferences and entertain foreign officials openly in Doha.

For over 100 days, Hamas has held six of our citizens and has not paid a price. Instead, the opposite has occurred. What is President Biden doing to bring them home? Doubling down on the appeasement strategy.

By refusing to enforce existing sanctions on Iran's illicit oil sales, President Biden has fueled and funded Tehran's terrorist proxies and green-lit terrorism. For years, President Biden lined the coffers of the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism through his appeasement strategy, culminating in the October 7 assault on Israel.

Every day since these Iranian-backed attacks on Israel, we have seen the world erupt into chaos, and American lives have been in constant danger. Still, the Biden administration fears escalation more than anything else. What is the result? They are letting Tehran's terrorists off the hook for their illicit actions and attacks on American lives.

October 7 was not only a physical attack on Israel but also one of the largest losses of American lives from terrorism since 9/11. There were 32 unforgettable deaths.

Make no mistake, this chaos is exactly what Iran wants. It pays for it, and it plans for it.

When I was in the region during the attacks, many leaders shared their concerns with me that Iran would cap-

italize on the chaos by using proxies to escalate the conflict. I knew that it was essential to stand with Israel not only to protect our partnership with our greatest ally in the region but also to protect American lives.

Unfortunately, we are seeing those fears come to fruition. Since October 7, Iran-backed proxies have ramped up their aggression, with over 160 attacks on our servicemembers. The Houthis are unleashing drone attacks on our troops in the Red Sea, disrupting commerce, and wreaking havoc on innocent civilians.

We struggle to defend our ships from incoming rockets and drones and hesitate to find, fix, and finish the very source of these attacks. We know it is Iranian proxies. Folks, we know that. There is no doubt about it. We know they are trained by the IRGC. It is time to strike the source of the problem. Why? Because American lives continue to be on the line every single day. Self-defense is not escalation; it is the most basic and moral action we can take as a nation. We owe it to our troops. We owe it to our citizens.

For nearly 4 months—4 months, folks—Hamas has held U.S. citizens hostage as political prisoners. Our fellow Americans are being used as human shields, without consistent access to food, to water, to medical treatment, or to sleep. Right now, American hostage families live in agony, uncertain if their loved ones are alive or dead. No parent should ever have to endure this, and terrorists should not be able to hold this power over Americans. We must do everything in our power to stop Hamas from torturing our families.

To end Hamas's reign of terror, we must cut off their IRGC funding. These terrorist groups have one thing in common: As long as they are sponsored by Tehran, they are committed to chaos in the world, and they pose a threat to Americans at home and abroad.

Now is the time for strong U.S. leadership. I have been calling for President Biden to hit Iran where it hurts—the pocketbooks funneling illicit oil funds to its terrorist proxies.

The choice, folks, is clear: To stand with Israel, we must target Iran's terrorist arm and end its ability to target Americans so we can bring American hostages home safely and quickly. Folks, every second counts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I want to talk today about deterrence and escalation.

In 1988, the American frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts struck an Iranian mine in international waters. Thankfully, no Americans were killed. But, wisely, President Reagan didn't wait for tragedy to occur before acting. Just 4 days later, the United States destroyed two Iranian oil platforms, three warships, two fighter jets, and multiple other vessels.



The message was clear: If you put American lives in danger, you will be destroyed. There was no escalation. The conflict did not spiral into an uncontained war. Deterrence was restored.

Compare that powerful and effective example of deterrence to where we are today. Another Iran-backed group, Hamas, attacked our ally Israel on October 7. The President said that the United States would stand with Israel and that he would not tell Israel how to conduct its war against this terror. Since then, his administration has all but folded to the demands of those in his party who want to condition aid and support to our ally.

Since October 7, Iran-backed militias have attacked U.S. troops not once, not twice, but more than 150 times. President Biden has allowed not days, not weeks, but months of unanswered attacks by Iran-backed Houthis on U.S. ships and civilian cargo vessels in the Red Sea. What was the inevitable result of the President's hesitation? The tragic deaths of three American troops at the hands of an Iran-backed militia, with dozens more seriously injured in that attack. And let's not forget that two Navy SEALs gave their lives just days before. They died trying to stop Iran from supplying weapons to similar militia groups across the region.

This administration likes to say that it doesn't want to escalate the situation. President Biden doesn't want Israel to escalate its justifiable war, and he doesn't want the United States to escalate our defense of Americans. His administration has said it wants to avoid escalation so much that it is beginning to seem like he is more afraid of being blamed for escalation than he is afraid of Americans being killed. But we should be clear: The only attacks President Biden is deterring are our own.

It is time to realize that our enemies have already escalated. Our response must be strong enough so that we can restore deterrence. Militants, they have attacked Israel, targeted civilian ships, and now they have killed Americans—all funded and supported by Iran. To stand up for our country, to stand against the murder of Americans and to stand with Israel, we must clearly demonstrate to Iran that they will pay a price for their continued support of terrorism.

Public reports say that President Biden is considering options for a retaliatory strike against Iranian forces. Whatever he decides to do, it must not follow his now well-established pattern of too little, too late. President Biden must finally restore credible deterrence, which is the only way that we will prevent escalation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, over the weekend, our Nation lost three servicemembers in a drone attack in Jordan. Responsibility for this attack

rests with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Sadly, what happened over the weekend, it is not a surprise. It has been happening for months.

Iran and their proxies have launched more than 165 attacks against U.S. troops across the Middle East and countless more against commercial and military vessels in the Red Sea.

There has been a consistent drumbeat of Iranian-backed proxy attacks since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

A few things are clear about this situation. First, Iran and its proxies, they do not currently fear the United States.

Second, Iran is intent on harming the United States, our servicemembers, and our interests.

Third, Iran is aiming to push the United States out of the Middle East in a bid for complete regional power. We can't let this takeover happen.

Iranian dominance in the Middle East would jeopardize the free flow of international trade; it would endanger important energy resources as well as damage America's counterterrorism efforts. And in the shadow of October 7, if we were to abandon our Middle East allies, it would be open season on Israel and the Jewish people.

I have heard the views of many in this Chamber, ranging from those who favor an immediate military offensive inside Iran to those who want the United States to leave the region altogether. Instead of beginning another "forever war" or succumbing to isolationism, I would submit that there is a better way. And we don't have to go back very far in history to find it.

After a single American contractor was killed at the hands of Iran in 2019, President Trump ordered a strike that eliminated the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force, Qasem Soleimani. We didn't start a war, and we didn't withdraw. We simply sent Iran's leaders a very clear message; that is, if you kill Americans, you will forfeit your life. And Iran pulled back.

That is deterrence, when all nations know for certain that we are willing to act in defense of our people. It is that clear understanding that actually prevents a wider conflict, and it is a breakdown in clarity that is provoking the Iranians to continue taking more dangerous—and ultimately deadly—shots at U.S. forces abroad.

We must end the failed Biden policy of appeasement toward Iran. We must also stop telegraphing U.S. responses so Iran and its proxies can move personnel, weapons, and equipment out of the target area. Weakness only invites further aggression.

We must reestablish deterrence, and we must respond with the strength that this moment requires. No more half measures, hesitation, or muddled messages. Iran and their proxies must know that when the United States of America tells them to stop, we mean it, and we are willing to do something

about it. Without a strong response, the risk of escalation only increases and, with it, the danger to America.

One other note before I yield the floor, all of my colleagues and I are here today to stand shoulder to shoulder with the nation of Israel. They are one of our closest friends and allies. That is why it is highly disturbing to read reports that the Biden administration is reviewing options to reward the extremism and barbarism of Hamas by unilaterally recognizing a Palestinian state. This would represent a major reversal of longstanding U.S. policy and would be a betrayal of our friend and ally Israel. The Biden administration must abandon any consideration of such a dangerous and foolish proposal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

ISRAEL

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to once again stand in strong support of our friend and ally Israel and to highlight the continued fallout that we are witnessing as a result of the October 7 terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas.

It is really difficult to describe those 116 days that we have had since October 7 as anything other than shocking, as we have seen the senseless murder of over 1,200 people in Israel, widespread violence across the Middle East, and alarming rise of anti-Semitism right here in the United States.

Just this past weekend, on January 27, we recognized International Holocaust Remembrance Day and honored the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust—the largest genocide in human history with unspeakable horror inflicted on the Jewish people. This commemoration serves as a reminder of why the State of Israel must exist and our continual commitment to stand against the persecution of the Jewish people.

But now, nearly 80 years later, the safety of the Jewish people is once again under siege. I never thought I would make that statement.

The terrorist attacks on October 7 killed the most Jews in 1 day since the Holocaust. Hundreds of women and children were taken hostage, including our very own Americans who still remain in captivity today. And, shamefully, some of the most prominent organizations that claim to support women were silent when it came to Hamas's use of sexual violence against women and girls on October 7.

We must continue to universally denounce the barbaric tactics of Hamas and do all that is in our power to free the hostages and bring those American hostages home.

It remains clear that Israel has the right to defend themselves, as any country would, in the face of this unprovoked terror. There isn't another country in the world that would be expected to sit back and allow this to



happen, allow their next-door neighbor—whose own charter calls for genocide—to commit this kind of brazen and indiscriminate violence.

To this day, Hamas continues to fire rockets at Israel, target their civilians, and hold women and children hostage. That is all in violation of international law. They also continue to use protected civilian structures for its operation, endangering its own people.

There is no question that our world has dramatically shifted since October 7, as we can clearly see that Israel's security is directly related to our own national security here at home.

Unfortunately, since the beginning of the attacks on Israel, President Biden has not displayed the strength that is needed for our Nation at this critical junction. His administration, beginning on October 7, made their fears of an escalating conflict crystal clear.

Secretary Blinken said on October 22 that "This is not what we want. . . . We don't want escalation."

This widely broadcasted fear of escalation prevented them from taking action to stop this violence spreading beyond Israel's borders.

Now the Iran-backed Houthis have launched hundreds of drone and missile strikes against ships transiting the Red Sea, one of the most important waterways in the world. We have conducted multiple airstrikes in Yemen but with no clear indication that the Houthis have been deterred. And most especially sad, we lost two Navy SEALs, some of our most elite members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice while halting the shipment of more advanced weapons to this group.

Adding to this, there has been a staggering increase in attacks by Iranian proxies on our troops and bases in the region.

I think we have heard earlier, there have been over 165 attacks on our men and women in uniform in the Middle East since October 7, with minimal response from this administration. This has led, sadly, to another loss of our American soldiers. We lost three heroic Americans in one of these attacks, with dozens more wounded.

Less than 3 weeks ago, on January 12, when asked if he had a message for Iran, President Biden said:

I've already delivered the message to Iran. They know not to do anything.

That message was clearly not delivered and has put our Nation and servicemembers in an unacceptable situation.

What does all of this aggression in the Red Sea and these attacks on our Armed Forces have in common? It is all funded and supplied by Iran. For far too long, this nefarious nation has been pulling strings behind the scenes that are inciting terror and creating chaos in the Middle East.

The Iranian regime stands in direct opposition to what we as Americans represent and our values. Their hatred for America is made more obvious by

the company they keep and the continued closeness they are cultivating with adversaries like Russia, China, and North Korea.

China is Iran's biggest oil customer and provides a revenue stream to support Iran's aggression. Russia continues to purchase Iranian drones, using them in their unjust war against Ukraine. North Korea has remained Iran's leading partner in destabilizing actions and nuclear proliferation.

Iran's malign influence and its disdain for America and our ally Israel is unmistakable.

It is past time to reestablish deterrence against Iran with a decisive response to these unacceptable actions. This is something my Republican colleagues recognize and something we continue to urge President Biden and his administration to take seriously.

Secretary Blinken himself said just this past week that the Middle East has not been this dangerous since 1973. This comes, of course, after President Biden's National Security Advisor announced that the region was quieter than it had been for decades as we were approaching the October 7 date.

We can all see now that this is an increasingly important moment with incredibly high stakes. We must take this opportunity to lead with strength, to lead in the ways that only the United States can lead. While our adversaries are attempting to divide us, we must come together.

The future of our Nation depends on our ability to support our allies, like Israel, in their time of need; to protect vital American interests, like our ships; to defend our troops overseas; and to secure the homeland of our own country.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remain committed to the security of the United States and our ally Israel. This Chamber must display the American leadership that times of crisis require. We have done it before, and we must do it again.

#### NOMINATION OF JOSEPH GOFFMAN

Madam President, I rise today in strong opposition to the nomination of Joe Goffman to lead the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation.

Mr. Goffman has been the Biden administration's leading political appointee in that office now for over 3 years without Senate confirmation. He also spent all 8 years of the Obama administration in the same EPA office. Rarely do we have such a robust record to draw on in evaluating a nominee. And I say this with great disappointment: Rarely is the record so damaging.

Mr. Goffman's actions, marked by Federal overreach and job-killing regulations, have been a disaster for our country. Under President Obama, Mr. Goffman was a chief architect of the Clean Power Plan. This rule aimed to close down coal- and gas-fired powerplants, especially those in my own home State of West Virginia, but it

was a direct shot at American energy production.

In 2022, the Supreme Court confirmed what we all knew: The original Clean Power Plan was illegal. Unfortunately, before this rejection, mines were shuttered, workers were laid off, and communities were left behind. Yet this has not fazed Mr. Goffman. Recently, in his current position at the EPA, Mr. Goffman has proposed the second iteration of the Clean Power Plan.

Many of us have warned a lot about the lawlessness and the danger of this regulatory plan, and I appreciate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle speaking truth to the EPA in recent letters about what this would do to our economy and to our energy sector. But you don't have to take it from us. Here is what our Nation's grid operators, which are nonpartisan groups responsible for ensuring our electrical system is reliable and affordable, said about the Clean Power Plan 2.0:

Without firm proof of the commercial and operational viability of these technologies, proceeding with these requirements could place the reliability of the electric grid in jeopardy. In short, hope is not an acceptable strategy.

Despite these concerns, Mr. Goffman is intent on implementing this part of a misguided climate agenda regardless of what the law says or its disastrous consequences on the reliability of the grid or the affordability of energy.

I have also spoken before about the Biden administration's rapid push toward electric vehicles despite warning signs and lack of a plan to deal with the inevitable increased electricity demand. Compliance with the EPA's current policy would require two-thirds of new cars to be electric by model year 2032, and now California wants to push the auto industry even faster, requiring that all new cars must be electric by 2035. And important to note, since Senator SCHUMER last filed cloture, Mr. Goffman's office has agreed to formally consider this request by California to ban sales of all new cars with internal combustion engines within the next decade. Well, we saw what happened with our electric vehicles during the cold spell we just had.

Meanwhile, automakers have sounded the alarm that Americans simply aren't buying EVs at rates that would match this pace and have scaled back previously announced investments. So the EPA is trying to force Americans to buy expensive electric cars—and they are more expensive—that they can't afford, at a rate they do not want. And this is all at Mr. Goffman's direction.

Already in 2024, we are seeing the courts working to correct the regulatory confusion created when the EPA Office of Air and Radiation oversteps its legal authorities. As an example, the EPA's so-called "Good Neighbor" regulation would remove the authority States have to manage their environmental policy under the Clean Air Act.

Initially, Mr. Goffman's rule targeted 23 States, and—you are right—one of

them was mine, but just in the last week, his office proposed to expand the rule to 5 more States, which now include Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, New Mexico, and Tennessee. This has caused the Supreme Court to step in once again and consider pausing the program while litigation proceeds.

We are also expecting Mr. Goffman's office to finalize an unattainable, unnecessary air regulation that would threaten manufacturing jobs and projects across the country. That rule is expected any day now.

So, to sum it up, from his more than 10 years at the EPA, we know this is what Joe Goffman stands for because he has shown us this time and time again. His record is one that consistently kills American jobs, threatens our electric grid, and violates the law. That is why I continue to strongly oppose his nomination today, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

I yield the floor.

(At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise to oppose the confirmation of Joseph Goffman for Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

My opposition is not about a person. My opposition is about a poisonous idea. The idea of total government control. Mr. Goffman wants to control what Americans can drive, where Americans can work, and what Americans can buy. Mr. Goffman wants to do this by imposing political, punishing, and penalizing regulations. These regulations will cost Americans their future and their freedom.

From energy to the environment, Mr. Goffman's record is radical and extreme. Mr. Goffman is one of the main architects of the so-called Clean Power Plan. This was such an extreme overreach that it was struck down by the Supreme Court. Mr. Goffman is also a champion of Joe Biden's out-of-touch, electric vehicle mandates. Mr. Goffman is one of Joe Biden's top generals in Democrats' war on affordable, reliable, American-made energy. By the EPA's own estimates, the regulatory costs imposed by Mr. Goffman's department already exceed \$500 billion. Mr. Goffman is determined to keep pushing Democrats' job-killing, radical, out-of-touch, environmental agenda.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly shot down the EPA for overreaching in its authority. Mr. Goffman doesn't care what the Court says. He wants to defy its rulings, including the landmark case *West Virginia v. EPA*. Mr. Goffman had the audacity to tell the *New York Times*, "This case does not take anything off the menu."

President Biden has chosen another unelected, unaccountable, heavy-handed, Washington bureaucrat who believes the rules don't apply to him. If confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Goffman will not moderate. He will not change. He will not stop.

If you want an EPA that is more aggressive, more out-of-touch, and controls more of your life, then vote for Mr. Goffman. But if you want to lower costs, unleash American energy, and protect American jobs, then vote no.

Energy-producing States such as Wyoming have been in Mr. Goffman's crosshairs for years. We should not allow him to have his fingers on the trigger.

The Senate must reject his nomination. •

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise today in support of Joe Goffman's nomination to serve as Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation.

At the end of last year, I joined several of our colleagues to discuss our recent delegation trip to Dubai for the annual United Nations climate conference, known as COP28. While on the ground, our message to the world was clear: The United States is again leading the global effort to attack the climate crisis.

That leadership is thanks in no small part to the Biden administration's work to implement the unprecedented climate and clean energy investments that many of us here on this floor helped to enact into law. It is also thanks to the historic action by the Environmental Protection Agency to rein in climate pollution in a way that supports economic growth and job creation.

Still, meeting our Nation's climate goals, reducing harmful air pollution, and supporting good-paying, clean energy jobs requires having the right leadership in place.

As I have said before many times on this floor, the Office of Air and Radiation has an outside impact on our lives, and the American people deserve someone leading this office who is committed to carrying out its mission. That includes reducing climate pollution, while also improving our vehicle emissions standards and protecting public health—all of which go hand in hand with economic growth and job creation.

Mr. Goffman has proven that he is up to the task. Under his direction, the EPA has made significant progress in implementing many of the programs that we secured in the Inflation Reduction Act. That includes programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help lower energy costs for all Americans.

From the earliest days of his career serving on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which I am now privileged to chair, to his time at EPA under President Obama and now President Biden, Joe Goffman has dedicated his life's work to cleaning up the air that we breathe and protecting our one and only planet. He is thoughtful, he is principled, and he is humble. I know those things because Joe has

served as chief counsel of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which I am now privileged to chair.

Importantly, he has followed and continues to follow the law, and he does so in a way that also provides certainty and predictability for the industry.

Joe Goffman is also committed to fair outcomes, and that is because he cares about doing things the right way while listening to the concerns of all who might be impacted by changes to our Nation's clean air standards. Don't just take my word for it. Over 50 groups representing a broad coalition of interests, from—oh my, what a wide group, and I will mention them in a minute—they voiced their support for Joe Goffman's confirmation to serve as EPA's Assistant Administrator.

Here is just a sample of the breadth of the groups that are supporting his nomination: National Resources Defense Council, the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the National Wildlife Federation. That is to name a few. Just as importantly, though, key industry partners, such as the Edison Electric Institute and the Renewable Fuels Association, support Joe Goffman's nomination. Finally, Joe Goffman's nomination has the support of some of our Nation's largest labor unions, and they include the AFL-CIO and the United Steelworkers. Even the United Mine Workers of America, our Nation's largest union of coal miners, has voiced its support for Mr. Goffman's nomination. A coalition this broad does not happen every day and certainly not on this floor, and it bears testimony to Joe's character and his commitment to doing what is right.

Let me close, if I could, by saying that Joe Goffman, I believe, is the right person to lead EPA's Office of Air and Radiation during this critical time for our Nation. I am confident that he will excel in this important role, in part because he is already doing the job. I do not doubt that Joe will be considerate, he will be courteous, and he will be inclusive as he develops EPA's rules to reduce harmful pollution, clean up the air we breathe, and protect America's health and well-being.

With that, I want to urge our colleagues to join me and to join us, I hope, in supporting Mr. Goffman's nomination so that he can continue serving the Nation. He will not disappoint us in the confidence we have placed in him.

With that, I yield the floor.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

#### VOTE ON GOFFMAN NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 30 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—49

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

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

#### GAZA

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight to talk about the extraordinarily challenging humanitarian situation in Gaza. And let's begin with October 7.

Israel has every right to eliminate the military threat of Hamas, to go after Hamas terrorists who conducted a horrific attack on Israel October 7.

But how the Netanyahu government wages that war matters. And how they have done so is deeply disturbing to millions of Americans, and it is deeply disturbing to me.

Hamas is the enemy. Palestinian civilians are not the enemy.

Earlier this month, Senator VAN HOLLEN and I visited the Rafah Crossing on the border between Egypt and Gaza. We spoke with aid workers who had served in the worst conflict zones in the world, from Syria to Sudan to Yemen, including one worker who had spent several months working on the frontline in Ukraine. Each told us that

they had never witnessed a humanitarian disaster on the scale or severity of Gaza.

In Gaza, calamity after calamity multiplies the suffering. It is not just a shortage of food. It is a shortage of food; it is contaminated water; it is massive displacement; it is continuous bombing and shelling; it has destroyed hospitals and other hospitals that desperately need drugs and medical supplies; it is communication failures due to damage and communication failures due to blackouts.

As of today, more than 26,000 Palestinian civilians are dead. It is estimated that 70 percent are women and children—some 18,000 women and children. It is really an unfathomable number.

But let's try to put some perspective on that. If 18,000 women and children were lined up holding hands, they would form a line over 13 miles long. Or if you spent 1 minute with each child and woman—18,000 women and children—it would take you more than 300 hours to visit or connect with each of them—12 days.

In addition to the 26,000 Palestinian civilians who are dead, an estimated 65,000 Palestinians are wounded.

Of Gaza's 2.3 million people, 1.7 million are eternally displaced—over 70,000 homes destroyed. Those who are told to leave the north for the safety of the south are now often bombed or shelled in the locations they were encouraged to go to. There is no guaranteed safe place in Gaza. Even designated U.N. shelters have come under attack.

When thinking about food, 90 percent of Palestinians are living on less than one meal a day—one meal a day. Only one of the three clean drinking water pipelines from Israel is functioning. And water filtration equipment has been repeatedly turned away by Israeli inspectors, as I saw for myself in Rafah.

Just 14 of 36 hospitals are still operating, and those hospitals lack basic medical supplies and even lack food.

One doctor who came out of Gaza talked to me about the extraordinarily deep wounds—burns—caused by white phosphorus, and he showed me pictures of those wounds. Another talked to me about—he was an orthopedic surgeon. He fixed broken bones, but he said he couldn't believe how many bones had been shattered by the blasts and how much untreatable trauma there was to individuals' internal organs. UNICEF estimates at least 1,000 children have had arms or legs amputated, many without anesthesia.

New mothers have been profoundly impacted. More mothers are having miscarriages. More mothers are having stillbirths. More mothers are anemic and suffering postpartum hemorrhaging. More mothers are undernourished and cannot breastfeed, and yet finding clean water and formula is extremely difficult. More mothers are enduring C-section surgeries without anesthesia.

Let me say it again: Israel has every right to go after Hamas. Hamas is Israel's enemy. The Palestinian people are not their enemy, and they are not our enemy. So we should be disconcerted, we should be staggered, we should be horrified by the extraordinary level of civilian deaths and injuries and the humanitarian challenges I have described with food and water and medicine.

President Biden has called the bombing “indiscriminate” and urged the Netanyahu government to adopt a much more targeted war strategy. This message has been repeated by Secretary of State Blinken. This message has been repeated by Secretary of Defense Austin. These messages have been repeated with increasing intensity. But the Netanyahu government has rejected these requests.

President Biden has called for Israel to vastly increase humanitarian aid to afflicted Palestinian civilians, but the Netanyahu government has also rejected that request. The suffering is growing with each passing day. So what has prevented a massive influx of aid needed to address the humanitarian conditions in Gaza? Before October 7, 500 trucks a day went into Gaza. Why can't 500 trucks a day go into Gaza carrying that needed humanitarian aid—food, water, and medical supplies?

In short, Israel has done two things: They have set up a complex and inefficient inspection process post-October 7 that restricts aid from entering Gaza. And, second, once aid is into Gaza, there isn't a deconfliction process that makes it possible to deliver aid safely.

Into more detail now about how that inspection process works. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I witnessed the burdensome inspection process firsthand at the Rafah checkpoint. The inspection process can take more than a week from the time a driver loads a truck until that driver can deliver that aid into Gaza. We witnessed hundreds of trucks lined up on the highway in Egypt, mile after mile of trucks. They were filled with food, water, and medical supplies, sitting on the side of the highway. Some of them were waiting for permission to go to Israel, to Nitzana, for inspection. And some of them had been inspected in Nitzana and sent back to Rafah to await final permission to enter into Gaza. The challenge, when you think about a truck, is it should be able to load up its supplies, be inspected, and deliver those supplies in the same day, not a process that takes over a week.

Let's think about that process for a moment. Israel is appropriately trying to stop dual-use items from entering into Gaza, and so there is a preapproval process between the suppliers and the Israeli Government. That is appropriate. But then, when things are approved and trucks arrive at Nitzana, they are often told by the person inspecting: No, we are not allowing that to go in.

Maybe the tent pole is too long, or in one case, medical kits for birthing children had scalpels. A scalpel is a sharp blade, and they were rejected. That inconsistently greatly complicates delivery, and it includes the fact that if anything in the load is rejected, the entire truck is rejected, and it starts the process all over again.

Items that are allowed in one day can be rejected the next. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I visited a warehouse full of those rejected items, and they were the things that you would expect for delivery for humanitarian aid. There were water-testing kits. There were medical supplies. There was other desperately needed equipment.

Once trucks make it through one of the two gates—Kerem Shalom from Israel or Rafah Crossing from Egypt—then they face the second problem, the problem of deconfliction or the lack thereof of deconfliction, so that drivers face a terrifying gauntlet of damaged roads and falling bombs and artillery shells.

The failure to set up deconfliction that allows this aid to be delivered safely is unacceptable, and there is only one government that can set up that deconfliction process, and that is the Netanyahu government.

More than 150 U.N. workers have been killed in Gaza so far—the largest loss of life in the history of the United Nations. More than 300 additional healthcare workers have been killed. Due to injuries and displacement, the U.N. humanitarian workforce, which was 13,000 strong in Gaza on October 6, has been reduced to 3,000 workers. The rest are injured or killed or refugees within Gaza itself.

Only the Netanyahu government has the power to establish an organized, efficient inspection process. Only the Netanyahu government has the power to enforce deconfliction protocols. This double failure has stymied the delivery of sufficient humanitarian aid, unnecessarily deepening the suffering of Palestinian civilians.

Now, delivery of aid faces an additional problem. The Netanyahu government has produced information showing that at least 12 U.N. workers may have been involved in the October 7 terrorist attack on Israel. This is, for sure, deeply troubling. That is 12 workers out of a workforce that counted 13,000, but it is troubling. It is completely against the principles in which the U.N. Relief and Works Agency functions.

The United States has appropriately paused assistance to UNRWA pending an investigation, and I welcome that these individuals were immediately terminated. They certainly don't represent the thousands of men and women who work for UNRWA and bravely serve vulnerable people day in and day out in some of the most dangerous settings around the world.

I look forward to a swift and thorough investigation to ensure accountability so that U.S. assistance can

promptly resume, that the entire humanitarian assistance program can continue.

Wish though we might, there is no immediate way to replace that UNRWA workforce—now down to 3,000 workers but essential 3,000 workers—to deliver the aid that does make it into Gaza. It can't be replaced overnight by any other international organization.

It is the Netanyahu government that has chosen a war strategy against Hamas that has killed a breathtaking, shocking, unacceptable number of Palestinian civilians. It is the Netanyahu government that has preserved a complicated and inefficient inspection system and a failed deconfliction process that severely limited humanitarian aid to innocent civilians.

But let me be clear. The United States shares the responsibility for these failures. We, the United States of America, are Israel's major partner in supplying economic aid. We, the United States, are Israel's major partner in supplying military aid. We, the United States, have resupplied Israel with bombs and artillery shells—bombs and artillery shells of the types that have caused many of the civilian deaths.

The world looks at our close partnership and expects the United States to do more than “request” that the Netanyahu government adopt a more targeted strategy against Hamas to reduce civilian deaths and injuries. The world expects the United States to do more than “request” that the Netanyahu government fix the inspection and deconfliction process to greatly increase the flow of humanitarian aid. No matter how often we “request,” no matter how intensely we “request,” simply requesting hasn't worked. The world expects the United States to use our influence that comes with being Israel's closest partner to reduce the civilian carnage and vastly increase the humanitarian aid.

President Biden and his team have operated for 3½ months under plan A. Plan A made sense in the context of our longstanding relationship. Plan A was to make requests, make them more clearly, make them repeatedly, make them more intently, but not use any other significant leverage for change. Plan A, now over 100 days in operation, has failed, so it is time that the United States move in a bolder fashion. Let's call it plan B.

Provision 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act reads:

No assistance shall be furnished under this Act or the Arms Export Control Act to any country when it is made known to the President [of the United States] that the government of such country prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance.

Well, Senator VAN HOLLEN and I certainly saw for ourselves the restrictions on the delivery of aid that the Netanyahu government has sustained for 100 days, a convoluted inspection policy, and a broken deconfliction process.

Section 620I is American law. It enables the President of the United States to tell Prime Minister Netanyahu: We are not allowed by law to provide another dollar of aid as long as you are restricting humanitarian aid into Gaza through these broken deconfliction processes and complicated, convoluted inspection processes.

So President Biden has leverage. He is bound by American law. All he has to do is make it clear that that is leverage that he is bound to follow, that is a law he is bound to follow. As long as the Netanyahu government restricts the delivery of humanitarian aid, the United States cannot legally deliver financial or military aid to Israel under provision 620I of U.S. public law.

And the President should do more. Our President should do more. He should make it clear that as long as the Netanyahu government delivers insufficient humanitarian aid to Gaza, the United States is going to provide aid directly—directly provide food, water, and medical aid to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

It is time for the United States to use American ships and helicopters to provide medical supplies to every one of Gaza's remaining 14 hospitals. We must move swiftly to eliminate the shortages of anesthesia and antibiotics and any other shortfall of medicine or medical supplies. Picture American helicopters delivering to those 14 hospitals.

Never again should a woman delivering a child in Gaza go through a C-section without anesthesia. Never again should a child having an arm or leg amputated because it is shattered or it is full of gangrene have it done without anesthesia. Never again should these medical procedures occur without antibiotics. The United States can deliver and is morally bound to address this shortfall of medical aid.

It is also time for our team, our President, to say to Team Netanyahu, to say to his government, that if the Netanyahu government cannot or will not ensure that sufficient food and water are supplied to civilians in Gaza, the United States will ensure, and we will use our ships and our ship-to-shore assets to supply food and water to Gaza directly, which, fortunately, has a 40-mile coastline that greatly facilitates that type of supply.

We, the United States, as the major partner with Israel through financial aid and military aid, are inextricably linked to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The United States, as Israel's supplier, is complicit now in the suffering of the people in Gaza. This complicity must end. President Biden must use the leverage and power of the United States to address the suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza—to deliver medical supplies, to deliver food, to deliver clean water.

Let me step back and repaint this picture once again. More than 26,000 Palestinians are dead. That includes

more than 18,000 women and children. More than 65,000 Palestinians have been injured, and 1.7 million Palestinians in Gaza have been driven from their homes. Ninety percent of Palestinians in Gaza are surviving on less than a meal per day. The supply of clean water is woefully insufficient. Medicines are in desperately short supply.

As we ponder this, we must realize that we must value the life of every child the same, no matter who they are or where they call home. If we keep that in mind, we will find the right answer to the enormous suffering in Gaza.

The Palestinian people are not Israel's enemy. The Palestinian people are not America's enemy. The United States must end our complicity in this humanitarian catastrophe. The United States must pivot from simply "requesting" that the Netanyahu government fix the inspection and deconfliction processes that are restricting humanitarian aid to using every asset at our disposal to directly deliver a massive amount of humanitarian aid into Gaza. We must act boldly. We must act swiftly. To do otherwise is completely unacceptable and immoral. The United States must act now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I recently read a book by the great historian William L. Shirer—not "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," which we all read some years ago, but a book about the fall of the Third Republic. It was about France between the wars, between World War I and World War II.

One of the most haunting parts of that book—more than a chapter—was about the failure of the European allies, particularly France and Great Britain, to confront Hitler in the late 1930s when stopping him would have been relatively easy.

Whenever people write to my office, they say: Why are we supporting Ukraine?

I answer: Google Sudetenland, 1938.

We could have stopped a murderous dictator who was bent on geographic expansion at that time—I say "we," the West—at a relatively low cost. The result of not doing so was 55 million deaths. That chapter has haunted me because it echoes so strongly in what is happening now in Ukraine.

We are going to have one of the most important votes that any of us have ever taken—hopefully in the next few days—on support for the people of Ukraine, as they fight for our values. This vote will echo throughout the history of this country and the history of the world for generations, particularly if we fail to meet what I believe is a commitment to the people of Ukraine.

If we back away, walk away, pull out, and leave the Ukrainians without the resources to defend themselves, it will compromise the interests of this coun-

try for 50 years. It will be viewed as one of the greatest geopolitical mistakes of the 21st century. Why?

First, it will embolden Vladimir Putin. He told us in 2005 that he felt that the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century was the dissolution of the Soviet Union. He has said that, and he has pursued the remedy to that catastrophe—in his eyes—ever since.

In 2005, he said that the greatest catastrophe was the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In 2008, he gobbled up part of what had been an independent country of Georgia; in 2014, we all know, Crimea and Eastern Ukraine; in 2022, he tried for the rest of Ukraine.

And I have talked to people about this. I talked to a fellow on the street in Maine recently, and he said: Well, he will stop with Ukraine.

I said: The Finns don't think so. The Swedes don't think so. The Baltic countries don't think so. And the Finns and the Swedes know Russia. Finland has a long border with Russia. They know Russia better than any of us. And they decided to join NATO. They haven't been in NATO for almost 75 years. Why did they decide to join this year? It wasn't just a coincidence: Oh, yeah. Oh, let's join NATO.

No. They know what is coming. They see the danger of our failure to stop Vladimir Putin in Ukraine.

Maya Angelou once said: If someone tells you who they are, you should believe them. Putin has told us who he is. He is an autocrat. He is an authoritarian. And he wants to rebuild the Soviet Union. And I believe we wouldn't stop there.

I don't have much doubt about that, in 2022, when those Russian tanks were headed for Kyiv, if Zelenskyy had run and if they had succeeded in dismantling and amputating the head of the Ukrainian Government, the people of the Baltic states—Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia—would also be facing threats from Russia.

We have to take him at his word. He doesn't like the West. He despises the West. He thinks NATO is an aggressive alliance, somehow designed to invade or otherwise threaten Russia.

NATO doesn't want to invade Russia. NATO wants to keep the lines where they are. And that is one of the significances of the invasion of Ukraine. It was the first crossing of a border of this nature since World War II. The lines of Europe had been drawn. He crossed into a separate country.

He doesn't like the concept of democracy. He doesn't like the rule of law. He has a nostalgic view of the Soviet Union.

What we are looking at here is an important piece of a global struggle that is really the struggle of the 21st century, in my opinion. It is the struggle between the idea of democracy and the rule of law and the authoritarianism and totalitarianism. That is what is going on here. And Ukraine is the opening wedge in that debate.

I hate to call it a "debate." It is a conflict, where we have

authoritarianism and totalitarianism. And they are saying—Xi Jinping and Putin and others—are saying our system can't work; it is too messy; it is too complicated; it takes too long to make decisions. And they are betting—they are betting—that we don't have the staying power, that our democracy is too feckless to stick to our guns—in this case, literally. We would be rewarding naked aggression. Sudetenland 1938—the lesson we learned from the '30s was that appeasing dictators—appeasing authoritarians—just doesn't work.

But it wouldn't only embolden Putin; it would embolden Xi Jinping. Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are gravely concerned about the future of Taiwan. It is inevitable that if we cut and run in Ukraine, that will change Xi Jinping's calculus about Taiwan.

He is going to say: Well, the Americans aren't going to stick. We don't have to worry too much about them helping the Taiwanese defend themselves.

That is going to make it easier for him to make that decision because he is going to look and take a lesson. We aren't as good as our word. We left. We walked away. He is watching this like a hawk—and not a friendly hawk.

Do you know who else is watching us like a hawk? Kim Jong Un. Just in the last few days, he is making threatening noises about South Korea and about war on the peninsula. Do you think he doesn't pay attention to what we are doing or not doing in Ukraine? It will be a signal to him: You can't count on those Americans. You can't count on them sticking with the South Koreans against aggression from the north.

It will embolden Iran. It will be the most—I hate to use the word "catastrophe" because that is what Putin used, but it would be a catastrophe for this country.

It would also shatter the confidence of our allies and our commitments. Our asymmetric advantage in the world right now is allies. China has customers. We have allies. Russia has Iran and North Korea. We have allies across the world. But our allies are going to say, Well, wait a minute, you are with us now, but when the going gets tough and you have to, maybe, have a budget supplemental to stick with us, you are going to walk away. And it is going to undermine the confidence of our allies.

And in places like Japan and South Korea, they may say: We can't count on the Americans to defend us. Therefore, maybe we better develop our own nuclear arms, for example. Maybe we can't count on the famous American nuclear umbrella: proliferation, heightened tension—a higher likelihood of these unthinkable weapons being used.

The other reason we can't walk away is, we are undermining our ability to negotiate and make deals in the future. Who the heck is going to deal with us if they know we can't be trusted, that we can't keep our word? People who

don't keep their word, nobody wants to deal with them. Nobody wants to make agreements. Nobody wants to make concessions. Nobody wants to work together.

"We will be your ally when times are good, but don't count on us when it gets tough. Don't count on us if it is not easy. Don't count on us when times are tough."

What an awful thing, what an incredible wound—self-inflicted wound—on this country, not only on our moral standing but on our practical, because the allies are going to go their own way because they say we can't be trusted. We would be abandoning the people of Ukraine who are literally dying for our values.

And I was doing a little historic research the other day. The Battle of Yorktown, 1788—the battle that ended the Revolutionary War and really made America—it was the key battle. It was the French fleet that bottled up Cornwallis at Yorktown. It was a French Army, along with the Continental Army, that won the Battle of Yorktown.

What if the French had said: It is going on too long, this war has gone too long; we are just going leave, we are to walk away? There is a reasonable chance we wouldn't be the United States of America today if our ally had walked away.

"Ally" means somebody you can count on. The whole idea of an alliance is that you can count on somebody when the times are tough. And we are sending ammunition; they are sending lives.

And, by the way, there is not much doubt if we cut and run, if we stop, if we cut off aid—it would be very difficult for the Ukrainians to continue to defend themselves. Russia is a bigger country. It has a bigger war machine, a bigger army, more wherewithal in terms of munitions. Let's not kid ourselves. If we walk away this week, it is highly likely that Russia will control Ukraine within a few months.

We can't have this fantasy that somehow this isn't a big deal and, oh, it will all get fixed. We are sending ammunition. They are sending lives. They are not asking us to fight their battles. They are not asking us to send troops. All they are asking is for the means to defend themselves.

And, by the way, most of the money that we are talking about here ends up going back into our economy for the arms and ammunition that we are sending them. It ends up back in our States, in our communities.

What is another argument not to do it? Corruption—I hear this—corruption. I have been there. I spent an entire day in Kyiv. And my principal mission was: What about corruption? How serious is it? And I met with everybody from Zelenskyy to officials who were running software to keep track of every bullet that goes into their war effort.

I am satisfied that it is one of the best and strongest and most closely ac-

counted for provisions of aid ever. Does that mean it is perfect or that there might be a scandal here or there? I don't think there will be. But nothing is ever perfect.

But I looked President Zelenskyy in the eye. My question was, If you have a scandal, Mr. President, it is going to kill us; we can't support you. And I didn't know what he was going to say. But his answer was, I know. And they are working on that.

And, by the way, another point that I think is important is, who is supporting—I hear this: We are giving all the money. What about the rest of Europe?

Well, actually, here is the chart of support for Ukraine. Here is Poland, and here is the United States. We are No. 14 in percentage of GDP in support of Ukraine. The blue line is actual military and financial support. The gray line is refugees.

In Poland, they have taken in millions of refugees. They are in their schools, in their communities. They have made an enormous commitment. It is up to 2.5 percent of their GDP. We are at .3 percent. So the idea that nobody else is contributing and Europe isn't doing its part is just bunk. I think that is very important to consider.

Democracy matters. Values matter. Freedom of expression, the rule of law matter. And that is what is at stake. That is the point I am trying to make. This is a historic struggle between authoritarianism, arbitrariness, surveillance, and the radical idea that people can govern themselves. That is what this is all about. This is a battle for the soul of our democracy in the world.

Democracy is an anomaly in world history. It is unusual that the norm is dictators, Pharaohs, Emperors, Kings. What we are doing in this country is an anomaly. But it is a glorious idea. It is a huge, radical idea. It was radical in 1776. It had to be fought for in 1865. And it had to be fought for in the plains of Europe and the Pacific in World War II. It is worth fighting for. And, in this case, we don't even have to do the fighting; we just have to supply the arms and ammunition. So I have a question for my colleagues: When the history of this day is written, as it surely will be, do you really want to be recorded as being on the side of Vladimir Putin? All those in favor of Putin, say aye. That is what is at stake here.

Or on the side of China, as they contemplate the invasion of Taiwan, all those in favor of invading Taiwan, say aye.

No, we don't want that. But history is going to record this vote as one of the most important votes that any of us has ever made.

One final note—my wife says I say "finally" too much; it gets people's hopes up.

Finally, people say: Well, secure our border before we worry about Ukraine's border.

OK, a group of the best of our Senate have been working on that for months.

Apparently, they have come to an agreement. I am told by those who know that it is the strongest border security legislation in something like 40 years. So we have that.

Do you want to secure our border before we do Ukraine? Hey, we can do them both in this bill. We can do them both in this bill. And if we don't do the border now, who knows when this opportunity will come again.

The dictators are betting we can't do it. They are betting against our system. They are betting that democracy can't work, that we can't make tough decisions and tough commitments and live up to them.

I want to stand on the side of resisting authoritarianism, on the side of democracy, on the side of the values that the country has stood for and that people have been fighting for, for 250 years.

There is a wonderful hymn that we sing in my church, and it starts out like this, and it just seemed to me to fit the situation so well:

Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good or evil side.

This is our moment: "Once to every man and woman and nation comes the moment to decide."

On December 1, 1862, in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln came to the Congress, and he was trying to shake them out of the politics—and, by the way, the politics is what we are talking about here, politics—to focus on the crisis of the Civil War and what it really meant. And he wanted to bring that home to the Members of Congress, and here is how he ended that speech. On December 1, 1862, here is what Abraham Lincoln said:

[My] fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.

"The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation."

Mr. President, I deeply hope we choose honor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, a huge thanks to my colleague from Maine and for his scholarly and passionate presentation of the challenge that we face at this moment. And, as he summarized the end, may we choose honor and sustain our support and partnership with the people of Ukraine.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 181 and 487 through 505, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force,



Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Daniel L. Cheever

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Big. Gen. Jason E. Kelly

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Erica R. Austin

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 brigadier general*

Col. Korey E. Amundson  
Col. Amanda S. Birch  
Col. Randall W. Cason, Jr.  
Col. Richard A. Erredge  
Col. Erika A. Foster  
Col. Christopher J. Hobbs  
Col. Robert E. Jackson, Jr.  
Col. Frank R. Kincaid  
Col. Christopher T. Lay  
Col. Michael M. Moeding  
Col. Joshua G. Padgett  
Col. Brett R. Paola  
Col. Janette L. Thode  
Col. Timothy M. Weber  
Col. Nathan D. Yates  
Col. Christopher M. Zidek

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Patricia R. Wallace

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Douglas K. Clark  
Brig. Gen. Sean N. Day

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. William T. Wilburn, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Thomas M. Armas

Col. Daniel B. Taylor  
Col. Patrick F. Tiernan

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C. section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Alexis G. Grynkeiwich

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Gwendolyn A. Foster

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Jason J. Lennen

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Eveline F. Yao

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Timothy E. Brennan  
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Farris  
Brig. Gen. Michelle A. Link  
Brig. Gen. Justin M. Swanson

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Melissa K. Adamski  
Col. Daniel Cederman  
Col. Frederick A. Hockett, Jr.  
Col. Brian R. Horton  
Col. Eero R. Keravuori  
Col. Reginald Kornegay  
Col. John P. Stanley

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Michael L. Smith

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Todd F. Cimicata  
Capt. Frankie J. Clark  
Capt. David G. Duff  
Capt. Todd A. Figanbaum  
Capt. Bret M. Grabbe  
Capt. Jeffrey L. Heames  
Capt. John W. Hewitt  
Capt. Liam M. Hulin  
Capt. Marcos A. Jasso  
Capt. Matthew J. Kawas  
Capt. Justin A. Kubu  
Capt. Robert E. Loughran, Jr.  
Capt. Philip S. Miller  
Capt. Brian T. Mutty  
Capt. Cassidy C. Norman  
Capt. Erin P. Osborne  
Capt. Bartley A. Randall  
Capt. Craig C. Sicola  
Capt. Melvin R. Smith, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Brian A. Harding  
Capt. Vincent S. Tionquiao

IN THE SPACE FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Space Force to

the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Chandler P. Atwood  
Col. Matthew S. Cantore  
Col. Brian A. Denaro  
Col. Robert J. Schreiner  
Col. Zachary S. Warakowski

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Carden, Jr.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Melvin G. Carter  
Brig. Gen. Phillip N. Frieze  
Brig. Gen. Robert C. Fulford  
Brig. Gen. Peter D. Huntley  
Brig. Gen. Jason L. Morris  
Brig. Gen. Julie L. Nethercot  
Brig. Gen. Ryan S. Rideout  
Brig. Gen. George B. Rowell, IV  
Brig. Gen. Daniel L. Shipley  
Brig. Gen. James B. Wellons

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Timothy A. Brown  
Capt. Michael York

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1032 AIR FORCE nomination of Julie A. Griffith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 19, 2023.

PN1075 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning LA RITA S. ABEL, and ending DARA J. WARREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1274 AIR FORCE nominations (123) beginning ANDREW RAY ADAMICH, and ending JOHN PETER ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

PN1275 AIR FORCE nomination of Zachary M. Nunn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

IN THE ARMY

PN1207 ARMY nomination of Thomas P. Parshall, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2023.

PN1208 ARMY nomination of Regan C. Reynolds, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2023.

PN1209 ARMY nomination of Ryan L. Veneberg, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2023.

PN1210 ARMY nomination of Habibatu A. Mojidi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 14, 2023.

PN1278 ARMY nomination of Lawrence M. Csaszar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

PN1279 ARMY nomination of David A. Delcuadrozimmerman, which was received



by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

#### IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN283-2 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Joan Polaschik, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN355 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (7) beginning Andrew Edlefsen, and ending Christopher Wilken, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN736 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (14) beginning Olutayo O. Akingbe, and ending Kathy W. Yao, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 30, 2023.

PN1129 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (113) beginning Christopher Allen, and ending Alicia P. Allison, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1304 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning JEFFREY A. DOVAN, and ending HUGO J. VARGAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1305 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning BRYAN M. BAKER, and ending WILLIAM T. CARRIER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1306 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning ANTONIO C. EWINGS, and ending ADAM W. SPIARS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1308 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning DONALD E. CHARBONEAU, and ending JEFFREY A. TRANBERG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1309 MARINE CORPS nomination of Aaron Mora, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1311 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning RAFAEL B. MARTINEZ, and ending ISAAC K. TIBAYAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1312 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning LUIS E. COLON, and ending ANTHONY L. GALLUZZI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1313 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning JASON T. CONNOLLY, and ending COLE A. SARDINTA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1314 MARINE CORPS nominations (12) beginning DUSTIN M. BAILEY, and ending XAVIER TEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1315 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning MATTHEW D. DALEO, and ending MICHAEL J. LANDERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1316 MARINE CORPS nominations (8) beginning JASON R. BEKEN, and ending JOSHUA B. WHITEHEAD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1317 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning BERNARD J. COYNE, JR., and ending AHLEZA THEOBALD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1318 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning GREGORY S. CANEVARI, and

ending ANTONIO G. MARRERO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1319 MARINE CORPS nomination of Richard L. Raines, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1320 MARINE CORPS nomination of James M. Rod, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1322 MARINE CORPS nomination of Daniel E. Fuson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1323 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning GLENN A. STALEY, and ending COREY R. WAINSCOTT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

#### IN THE NAVY

PN1284 NAVY nomination of Matthew W. Rose, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

PN1325 NAVY nomination of Mark A. Wess, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1326 NAVY nomination of Scott H. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

PN1327 NAVY nomination of Sonny D. Rowland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

#### IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1287 SPACE FORCE nomination of Kevin F. Champaigne, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

#### U.S. SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator LANKFORD, vice chairman of the committee, that the annual report of the Select Committee on Ethics for calendar year 2023 be printed in the RECORD.

The committee issued this report on January 31, 2024, as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

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

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, 118TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

JANUARY 31, 2024

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the Act) calls for the Se-

lect Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report no later than January 31st of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2023 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee—145. (In addition, 6 alleged violations from previous years were carried into 2023.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 112.

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 20.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 19. (This figure includes 6 matters from previous years carried into 2023.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit or because it was inadvertent, technical or otherwise of a de minimis nature: 12.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 1.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2023, the Committee staff conducted 18 Member and office campaign activity briefings; 23 employee code of conduct training sessions; 4 public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 15 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; 2 private sector ethics briefings, and 2 international briefings.

In 2023, the Committee staff handled approximately 12,165 inquiries (via telephone and email) for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2023, the Committee wrote approximately 992 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 790 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 163 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2023, the Committee received 4,126 public financial disclosure and periodic disclosure of financial transactions reports.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, on December 18, 2023, I was not present for a rollcall vote, vote No. 347, to confirm the nomination of Martin O'Malley to serve as Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. If present, I would have voted to confirm Commissioner O'Malley.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO RUSTY WILFONG

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Rusty

Wilfong, who is being honored with the 2023 Bill Best Humanitarian Award by the Rotary Club of Ruston.

Mr. Wilfong, a first-rate cook, uses his talents to serve the 20,000-plus-strong community of Ruston, LA. He cooks at dozens of community events as part of the Karl Malone Toyota Cooking Team, sponsored by the Louisiana Tech graduate and retired 14-time NBA All-Star.

For example, Mr. Wilfong and his team cook every year at the Louisiana Tech student-athletes' welcome-back event and at every Tech home football game. He also cooks jambalaya for the annual radiothon sponsored by the Domestic Abuse Resistance Team. Based in 2023 at Super 1 Foods in Ruston, his jambalaya encouraged people to come by, donate, and go on Q94.1 FM to encourage others to donate. The organization supports shelters, counseling, and legal services for local abuse victims.

Mr. Wilfong volunteers for Rotary Club events, including at a crawfish boil for local first responders last spring. He does it all for free, for local causes that make people's lives better, and to honor others who serve and enrich the community. His neighbors and colleagues value his contributions, which is why he is receiving this distinguished award.

Rusty, thank you for supporting Ruston and all of North Louisiana through your time and your talents. You make our State a better place and give a little more joy to those who support it. I ask that all of Louisiana join me in thanks for his service.●

#### REMEMBERING WARREN COPELAND

● Mr. BROWN. Madam President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Warren Copeland, an Ohioan, an educator, a man of deep faith, and a dedicated public servant, who passed away this January.

Warren Copeland's life and career are the epitome of public service. He believed in justice and opportunity for all, and worked every day toward that goal. He was one of the longest serving mayors in Ohio history, representing the people of Springfield from 1990 to 1994 and, again, from 1998 to 2023. Warren retired in November 2023 during his 35th year as mayor. He also served on the city commission from 1988 through 2023. Springfield was lucky to have Warren at the helm.

Warren put the people of Springfield and the good of the city first. He was dedicated to his community and cared deeply for those in it. Over the course of his career, Warren achieved so much and helped make Springfield the vibrant community it is today. For members of the community, Warren was a constant; he rarely missed local events and was always there if you needed him.

As a leading voice in the bipartisan Ohio Mayors Alliance, Warren offered

guidance and advice to new mayors. He served as a mentor and supporter for many of his counterparts across the State. I had the privilege of working with Warren and appreciated his dedication to our State. We fought together to protect manufacturing jobs in his city and region. He knew that good jobs with a living wage are the key to strong communities.

Warren also served his community and lived his faith as a professor of religion and the director of urban studies at Wittenberg University. Warren was an accomplished scholar with a master of divinity from Christian Theological Seminary and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He joined Wittenberg faculty in 1977 and continued teaching throughout his time as mayor.

During his time at Wittenberg, he helped to establish the Susan Hirt Hagen Center for Civic and Urban Engagement, where he served as faculty director. The center and Warren supported students as they explored careers and interests connected to community service. He cultivated partnerships that were beneficial for his students and for Springfield, including with our mutual friend former Congressman Dave Hobson. Warren shared his wisdom and knowledge and passion with class after class. He taught his students to be engaged citizens who embody the values found in the Beatitudes and in Matthew 25, values that Warren championed throughout his life of service.

Today, we recognize Warren's commitment to Ohio, we honor his life of service and faith, and we recommit to the example of service he set. Because of Warren, Springfield is a better place, and Ohio is a better place. We are grateful for his leadership and his service.

Our thoughts are with his wife Clara, his three children, and seven grandchildren and all those who were blessed to know Warren.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5585. An act to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 3427. An act to extend the authority to provide employees of the United States Secret Service with overtime pay beyond other statutory limitations, and for other purposes.

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

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5585. To impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 31, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3427. An act to extend the authority to provide employees of the United States Secret Service with overtime pay beyond other statutory limitations, and for other purposes.

#### 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-3421. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2019 Annual Report to the President and Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3422. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Standardizing Federal Supply Schedule Clause and Provision Prescriptions" (RIN3090-AK58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3423. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of the General Counsel, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment" (RIN3090-AK77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3424. A communication from the Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2022 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3425. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2024 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments for Ethics in Government Act Violations" (RIN3209-AA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3426. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 21st Century IDEA 2023 report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3427. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 25-357, "Adjustment of Building Restriction Line in Square 2950 along the southern side of Fern Street, NW, S.O. 23-06301 Temporary Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3428. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-358, "Green Housing Transition Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3429. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-359, "Hotel Enhanced Cleaning and Notice of Service Disruption Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3430. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-360, "Fidelity in Access to Government Communications Clarification Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3431. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-361, "Retired Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3432. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-367, "Wage Transparency Omnibus Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3433. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-368, "Work Order Integrity Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3434. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-369, "Catlett Alley Designation Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3435. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Agriculture's fiscal year 2023 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3436. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sixteen (16) legislative recommendations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3437. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Metonitazene in Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-900) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3438. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of Halides of 4-Anilino piperidine as List I Chemicals" (Docket No. DEA-1098) received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3439. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Nine Specific Fentanyl-Related Substances in Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-1036) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3440. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Specific Listing for Three Currently Controlled Schedule I Substances" (Docket No. DEA-1222) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3441. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additions to Listing of Exempt Chemical Mixtures" (Docket No. DEA-1118) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3442. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Management of Quotas for Controlled Substances and List I Chemicals" (RIN1117-AB49) (Docket No. DEA-455) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3443. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2023 Merger Guidelines (Note: The Antitrust Division has concluded that these Merger Guidelines are not a 'rule' within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 804(3) and thus do not require submission pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1). Nevertheless, the Antitrust Division is submitting the Merger Guidelines to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General for the sake of consistency because this jointly promulgated document was already submitted by the FTC.); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3444. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director of Regulations and Rulings, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guam-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Visa Waiver Program Automation and Electronic Travel Authorization; Creation of CNMI Economic Vitality & Security Travel Authorization Program" (RIN1651-AB37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Finance.

\*Rebecca Lee Haffajee, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

\*Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Serv-

ice and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

\*Adrienne Jennings Noti, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Danny Lam Hoan Nguyen, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Kenechukwu Onyemaechi Okocha, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Judith E. Pipe, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, William M. Jackson, retired.

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VANCE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3697. A bill to establish the Space National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3698. A bill to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise references in such title to individuals with intellectual disabilities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3699. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include expenses for certain nonathletic supplies in the above-the-line deduction for eligible educators, and to allow such deduction to interscholastic sports administrators and coaches; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 3700. A bill to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to furnish necessary services, appliances, and supplies to individuals receiving medical benefits for illnesses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3701. A bill to establish education partnership programs between public schools and



public health agencies to prevent the misuse and overdose of synthetic opioids by youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3702. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 3703. A bill to clarify that an issuer may exclude a shareholder proposal pursuant to section 240.14a-8(i) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to whether that proposal relates to a significant social policy issue; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3704. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve or deny applications for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of facilities to export or import natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3705. A bill to protect individuals who face reprisals for defending human rights and democracy by enhancing the capacity of the United States Government to prevent, mitigate, and respond in such cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3706. A bill to amend section 3663A of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that restitution includes necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by a person who has assumed the victim's rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3707. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the educational material used by the Palestinian Authority in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3708. A bill to reprogram Federal funds appropriated for UNRWA to construct the southwest border wall and to prohibit future funding for UNRWA; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3709. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to add additional investment thresholds for an individual to qualify as an accredited investor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3710. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to small company capital formation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3711. A bill to provide tax relief with respect to certain wildfire relief payments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3712. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to treat United States Citizenship and Immigration Services field offices as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3713. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from conducting, funding, approving, or otherwise supporting any research involving human fetal tissue that is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion, and to prohibit the solicitation or knowing acquisition, receipt, or acceptance of a donation of such tissue; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3714. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3715. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit mandatory pre-dispute arbitration agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3716. A bill to create children's lifetime savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3717. A bill to prohibit United States voluntary contributions to the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3718. A bill to prevent the distribution of intimate visual depictions without consent; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 536. A resolution honoring the life, bravery, and memory of Sergeant Rose Ida Lubin; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. Res. 537. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States

should recognize the 1994 genocide in Rwanda as "the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 538. A resolution commending Blue Mountain Christian University for 150 years of service to the State of Mississippi and the United States; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 539. A resolution supporting the contributions of Catholic schools in the United States and celebrating the 50th annual National Catholic Schools Week; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 5

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes.

S. 68

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 68, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes.

S. 76

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

S. 161

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 161, a bill to extend the Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 859

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 859, a bill to provide for the expedited consideration of nominations for the Supreme Court of the United States.

S. 893

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 893, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to raise the retirement age for pilots engaged in commercial aviation operations, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1573

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

(Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1573, a bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

S. 1596

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1596, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide further transparency and accountability for the use of content that is generated by artificial intelligence (generative AI) in political advertisements by requiring such advertisements to include a statement within the contents of the advertisements if generative AI was used to generate any image or video footage in the advertisements, and for other purposes.

S. 2003

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2003, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State to provide additional assistance to Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and other sovereign assets of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 2367

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2367, a bill to improve border security through regular assessments and evaluations of the Checkpoint Program Management Office and effective training of U.S. Border Patrol agents regarding drug seizures.

S. 2407

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2407, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 2562

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2562, a bill to require ports of entry along the northern border to remain open as many hours per day as they were open prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to reauthorize the position of Farmworker Coordinator.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish the Office of the Farm and Food System Workforce.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 2898

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2898, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to authorize the use of certain grants to deliver peer-to-peer mental health support to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, farm work, and other occupations relating to agriculture.

S. 3141

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3141, a bill to provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.

S. 3192

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) 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. 3194

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3194, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 3220

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3220, a bill to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage prevention and treatment of coccidioidomycosis.

S. 3428

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3428, a bill to terminate the membership by the United States in the United Nations, and for other purposes.

S. 3464

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3464, a bill to support endemic fungal disease research,

incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes.

S. 3488

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3488, a bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to provide for a NASA public-private talent program, and for other purposes.

S. 3502

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

S. 3526

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3526, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3558

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

S. 3637

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3637, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 with respect to the definition of biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 3666

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3666, a bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to establish an additional reporting requirement, and for other purposes.

S. 3689

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3689, a bill to establish the Office to Enforce and Protect Against Child Sexual Exploitation.

S. CON. RES. 23

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 23, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the economy of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED  
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3711. A bill to provide tax relief with respect to certain wildfire relief payments; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Protect Innocent Victims Of Taxation After Fire Act. This legislation would provide tax relief for individuals and families who have received compensation for losses and damages suffered during a wildfire.

The Protect Innocent Victims Of Taxation After Fire Act would exclude from gross income certain qualified wildfire relief payments, including compensation for losses, expenses, or damages, such as compensation for additional living expenses, lost wages, personal injury, death, or emotional distress.

This legislation would provide much needed certainty and relief to victims by ensuring that any compensation they receive is not subject to Federal income tax and instead may be fully utilized for its intended purpose.

Pacific Gas & Electric, or PG&E, equipment was found to be responsible for three major fires in 2015, 2017, and 2018. In 2019, PG&E and victims of these wildfires reached a settlement that set up a Fire Victim Trust, funded with \$6.75 billion in cash and 477 million shares of PG&E stock, to compensate victims for losses and damages associated with these devastating wildfires.

Unfortunately, the taxability of funds received from the trust varies based on what type of loss is being claimed, which makes it difficult for recipients to determine what amount of their claims can be used to rebuild their lives or replace their losses. This financial and legal uncertainty is the last thing wildfire victims should be worried about in the aftermath of such tragedy.

This specific settlement is unfortunately no longer unique. Last Congress, I joined Senators Feinstein and HICKENLOOPER as well as our bipartisan House leads in introducing a version of this legislation designed to cover the Fire Victim Trust claimants. The bill introduced today expands protections to anyone receiving wildfire-related disaster aid payments. As the impacts of climate change continue to fuel the frequency and severity of wildfires across the Western United States, it is imperative that Congress enact this legislation and provide certainty to both past victims and those who may be impacted in the future.

I would like to thank Representatives LAMALFA and THOMPSON for leading this bipartisan legislation in the House, and I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this bill to ensure wildfire victims receive full and proper compensation to help rebuild their lives and communities.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3712. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to treat United States Citizenship and Immigration Services field offices as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the INVITE Act.

This legislation would require USCIS field offices to offer voter registration assistance at naturalization ceremonies to ensure that newly naturalized United States citizens are able to fully participate in our democratic process.

This legislation would designate USCIS field offices as voter registration agencies under the National Voter Registration Act and require them to support new citizens in registering to vote, including providing the registration application, offering assistance in completing the application, and returning the application to the State election official or agency.

It would significantly expand the agency's voter registration efforts to encompass all new United States citizens, not just those naturalized through USCIS administrative ceremonies.

USCIS policy currently only requires the agency to ensure that voter registration forms are distributed to new United States citizens at their naturalization ceremonies—not returned to the appropriate State election agency—and also fails to reach new United States citizens who are naturalized at judicial ceremonies or without a formal ceremony.

During the recent midterm elections, just 61 percent of all naturalized citizens were registered to vote, compared to 70 percent of native-born Americans, due in part to distinct obstacles, such as language barriers, that new citizens face.

The National Voter Registration Act has proven to be an effective tool for voter registration, with departments of motor vehicles accounting for almost 40 million new voter registration applications from 2018 to 2022.

USCIS, like the other agencies designated under the National Voter Registration Act, interacts with a significant population of eligible but unregistered voters. In 2022, the agency naturalized more than 900,000 new U.S. citizens.

New United States citizens deserve to be supported as they exercise their right to political participation, as guaranteed by our Constitution.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 536—HONORING THE LIFE, BRAVERY, AND MEMORY OF SERGEANT ROSE IDA LUBIN

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

S. RES. 536

Whereas Rose Ida Lubin (referred to in this preamble as “Rose”) was born on December 1, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia;

Whereas Rose grew up in Dunwoody, Georgia, attending Vanderlyn Elementary School, Peachtree Middle School, and Dunwoody High School;

Whereas Rose was a talented and dedicated performer, artist, writer, athlete, and the only student of her graduating class of 2021 with varsity letters in both wrestling and cheerleading;

Whereas, at 12 years of age in her bat mitzvah speech, Rose spoke of the obligation to “do something great for the world” and not simply “wait for the world to do something great”;

Whereas Rose's peers said they saw her as a steadfast leader—someone they trusted and relied on as they became adults;

Whereas, according to Rose's family, Rose consistently extended a welcoming hand to those who felt isolated or alone;

Whereas Rose's brother Alec described Rose as “the most free-spirited person I know”;

Whereas Rose's family and friends described that her sense of community, her drive to excel, and her want to do more for others carried her to Israel to make aliyah in 2021;

Whereas Rose demonstrated her bravery by becoming a soldier in Israel after making aliyah;

Whereas Rose joined the Israeli border police, Magav, and graduated at the top of her class;

Whereas Rose served in the Old City of Jerusalem;

Whereas Rose found an adopted family at Kibbutz Sa'ad;

Whereas, in the midst of the terrorist attacks on kibbutzim across Israel on October 7, 2023, Rose fought heroically to protect her neighbors;

Whereas it is reported that in part because of Rose's efforts, no life was lost at Kibbutz Sa'ad on October 7;

Whereas, after surviving and protecting others during the terrorist attack of October 7, Rose was killed in a knife attack while she stood guard in Jerusalem, and Rose passed away on November 6, 2023, from wounds sustained in the line of duty;

Whereas thousands gathered on November 9, 2023, at Mount Herzl National Cemetery to honor the life and legacy of Rose Ida Lubin of Atlanta, Georgia, who from her earliest years as an athlete, scholar, soldier, friend, sister, and beloved daughter, was dedicated to selfless service and self-improvement; and

Whereas Rose is survived by her parents, Robin and David, her stepmother, Stephanie, her brothers, Alec, Joseph, and Isaac, her sister, Lily, and her grandparents and step-grandparents: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of Sergeant Rose Ida Lubin for her contributions to her community, the State of Georgia, and the United States, and for her service to our ally the State of Israel;

(2) extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Lubin; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Sergeant Lubin as a demonstration of the respect and admiration that the United States Senate has for her memory.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 537—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE 1994 GENOCIDE IN RWANDA AS “THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA”**

Mr. ROUNDS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 537

Whereas, in 2018, the United Nations General Assembly amended the title of the annual observance of the genocide in Rwanda on April 7 to be the “International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda”;

Whereas United States officials have noted publicly that the genocide in Rwanda was “intended to destroy Tutsi”;

Whereas, on April 7, 2023, Secretary of State Blinken stated, “The U.S. stands with Rwanda . . . in remembering the Tutsi victims of genocide. We also mourn the others who were murdered for their opposition to a genocidal regime.”;

Whereas the United States Integrated Country Strategy for Rwanda (approved March 14, 2022) refers to the “1994 genocide against the Tutsi ethnic group”;

Whereas Rwandan officials, in appropriately opposing genocide denial or revisionism, aptly note that any nomenclature that does not specifically use the phrase “genocide against the Tutsi” is “ambiguous” and conducive to genocide denial or revisionism;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum notes in its public educational materials on the “genocide in Rwanda” that the victims were “predominantly Tutsi” and that the goal of Hutu extremist leaders was for “Rwandan Tutsis to be exterminated”;

Whereas the United States-based non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch, which played a central role in documenting the genocide in Rwanda and in supporting international efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice, found that the “Tutsi were being targeted for elimination”;

Whereas European diplomats refer to the “genocide against the Tutsi” in public statements;

Whereas, starting in 2022, the Government of the United Kingdom has used the terminology “genocide against the Tutsi”; and

Whereas the United States is the only major country in the world to publicly reject the terminology “genocide against the Tutsi”: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States should recognize the 1994 genocide in Rwanda as “the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda”;

(2) the Secretary of State should publicly affirm that terminology; and

(3) other types of atrocities occurred alongside the genocide against the Tutsi, and the history of the genocide should clearly affirm the other experiences of mass violence against Rwandans during the same period, including the killings and other violence experienced by Hutus and the Indigenous Twa community, perpetrated by Hutu extremist militias.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 538—COM-MENDING BLUE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY FOR 150 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED STATES**

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 538

Whereas Blue Mountain Christian University began its first session as a women’s institution on September 12, 1873, with a four-member faculty offering a liberal arts curriculum to 50 students;

Whereas Blue Mountain Christian University was chartered as a college in 1877 and managed by the Lowrey family until 1920 when the Mississippi Baptist Convention assumed ownership;

Whereas, in 1956, the Mississippi Baptist Convention voted to add a coordinated academic program for men preparing for church-related vocations;

Whereas, in 2005, the Board of Trustees voted to make Blue Mountain Christian University a fully coeducational institution;

Whereas, on October 7, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved changing the name of the institution from Blue Mountain College to Blue Mountain Christian University;

Whereas Blue Mountain Christian University has grown from 50 students to host more than 600 students participating in nine programs of study, including establishing graduate programs in education in 2006, business administration in 2019, and kinesiology in 2023, as well as a School of Nursing in 2022;

Whereas Blue Mountain Christian University has played a significant role in meeting the needs of its constituents for 150 years by educating women in the 1870s following a devastating war, by educating ministers in the mid-1950s when bi-vocational pastors were unable to travel to pursue higher education, by converting to coeducational status in 2005 when the education of both men and women became expedient to enhance community advancement and service, and by establishing a nursing program in the 2020s to address a critical shortage of trained personnel in the medical field;

Whereas the inaugural Southern Literary Festival was established at Blue Mountain Christian University in 1937 to foster creative writing and to provide exposure to successful authors;

Whereas Blue Mountain Christian University is renowned for academic excellence in education and ministry, producing both excellent “teachers and preachers” in particular and outstanding graduates broadly who are all academically and spiritually prepared to assume places of leadership in their professions and in the faith community;

Whereas Blue Mountain Christian University was a pioneer in women’s college athletics on the state and national levels, first by joining the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and later the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics;

Whereas the athletic program of the Blue Mountain Christian University Toppers is now composed of 18 men’s and women’s intercollegiate varsity athletic teams that represent Blue Mountain Christian University in the Southern States Athletic Conference;

Whereas Blue Mountain Christian University is dedicated to supporting the academic success of student athletes while striving for on-field success; and

Whereas hundreds of students of all races, creeds, backgrounds, and beliefs receive a world-class, Christ-centered education at

Blue Mountain Christian University: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends Blue Mountain Christian University for its 150 years of service to the State of Mississippi and the United States;

(2) recognizes Blue Mountain Christian University for its academic, faith-based, and athletic excellence; and

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

(A) the President of Blue Mountain Christian University, Dr. Barbara Childers McMillin;

(B) the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of Blue Mountain Christian University, Dr. Sharon Ball Enzor; and

(C) the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics of Blue Mountain Christian University, Mr. Will Lowrey.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 539—SUPPORTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

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

S. RES. 539

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide approximately 1,700,000 students with more than an exceptional scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools serve the United States by providing a diverse student population from all regions of the United States and all socioeconomic backgrounds with a strong academic and moral foundation, including 29.4 percent of students from racial minority backgrounds, 18.8 percent from Hispanic heritage, and 20.8 percent from non-Catholic families, according to the 2023–2024 National Catholic Education Association survey of elementary and secondary Catholic schools in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools are an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved urban areas;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment that promotes spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold “helping others” among their core values;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2023–2024 academic year is 1,700,000, and the student-teacher ratio is 10 to 1, according to the 2023–2024 National Catholic Education Association survey of elementary and secondary Catholic schools in the United States;

Whereas the Catholic high school graduation rate is 98.9 percent, with 85.2 percent of graduates attending 4-year colleges;

Whereas the week of January 28, 2024, to February 3, 2024, has been designated as “National Catholic Schools Week” by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;



Whereas, this year, National Catholic Schools Week marks a significant milestone and celebrates its 50th anniversary, having been first established in 1974; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2024 is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community”, which reflects the fact that Catholic schools, united in their faith, expand beyond the walls of the classroom to envelop the parents and families of students as integral parts of the school community: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event—

(A) cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

(B) established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

(2) applauds the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that all can celebrate; and

(3) supports—

(A) the dedication of Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States toward academic excellence; and

(B) the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I have nine 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 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hybrid hearing.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. KING. Madam President, I would like to ask unanimous consent that my defense fellow, Michael Marfut, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 118th Congress.

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

**FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS**

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023**

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Veronica Duron:					
Bahrain .....	Bahraini Dinar .....	201.00	.....	.....	201.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	1,572.00	.....	.....	1,572.00
Jordan .....	Jordanian Dinar .....	200.21	.....	.....	200.21
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	984.00	.....	.....	984.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....	.....	17,695.00	.....	17,695.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Bahrain .....	Bahraini Dinar .....	.....	.....	132.00	132.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	.....	.....	1,404.15	1,404.15
Jordan .....	Jordanian Dinar .....	.....	.....	49.98	49.98
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	.....	.....	936.74	936.74
Timothy Rieser:					
Guatemala .....	Quetzal .....	622.10	.....	.....	622.10
Honduras .....	Lempira .....	506.00	.....	.....	506.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Guatemala .....	Quetzal .....	.....	.....	764.48	764.48
Honduras .....	Lempira .....	.....	.....	482.86	482.86
Mikayla Bodey:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	4,352.35	.....	.....	4,352.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....	.....	18,460.20	.....	18,460.20
Callie Eideberg:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	4,352.35	.....	.....	4,352.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....	.....	18,460.20	.....	18,460.20
Christian Graf:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	4,602.35	.....	.....	4,602.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....	.....	18,460.20	.....	18,460.20
Lauren Wustenberg:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	4,352.35	.....	.....	4,352.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....	.....	18,460.20	.....	18,460.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	.....	.....	3,759.48	3,759.48

Total .....	21,744.71	91,535.80	7,529.69	120,810.20
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\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Jan. 26, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Katherine Kaufer:					
Australia .....	Australian Dollar .....	1,729.00			1,729.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		31,129.50		31,129.50
Delegation Expenses: *					
Australia .....	Australian Dollar .....			3,848.00	3,848.00
Senator Lisa Murkowski:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	2,915.98			2,915.98
United States .....	US Dollar .....		18,460.20		18,460.20
Lucas Agnew:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	3,208.88			3,208.88
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,391.20		13,391.20
Senator Christopher Coons:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	3,381.88			3,381.88
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,965.40		13,965.40
Elizabeth Hunsaker:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	3,381.88			3,381.88
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,746.20		19,746.20
:Delegation Expenses: *					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			4,698.08	4,698.08
Senator Katie Britt:					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....	413.00			413.00
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....	1,543.20			1,543.20
Sean Ross:					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....	413.00			413.00
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....	1,543.20			1,543.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....			400.73	400.73
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....			707.47	707.47
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....			1,831.47	1,831.47
Senator Lisa Murkowski:					
Iceland .....	Iceland Krona .....	1,182.00			1,182.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		2,714.50		2,714.50
Dana Herndon:					
Iceland .....	Iceland Krona .....	3,368.76			3,368.76
United States .....	US Dollar .....		2,188.50		2,188.50
Senator John Hoeven:					
France .....	Euro .....	559.00			559.00
Greece .....	Euro .....	381.00			381.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		10,261.82		10,261.82
Senator Jerry Moran:					
France .....	Euro .....	559.00			559.00
Greece .....	Euro .....	381.00			381.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		9,995.82		9,995.82
Josh Carter:					
France .....	Euro .....	559.00			559.00
Greece .....	Euro .....	381.00			381.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		10,061.82		10,061.82
James Kelly:					
France .....	Euro .....	559.00			559.00
Greece .....	Euro .....	381.00			381.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		10,061.82		10,061.82
Delegation Expenses: *					
France .....	Euro .....			711.00	711.00
Greece .....	Euro .....			1,100.00	1,100.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....			3,740.79	3,740.79
Alexander Carnes:					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....	175.00			175.00
Jordan .....	Jordanian Dinar .....	223.94			223.94
Lebanon .....	Lebanese Pound .....	253.00			253.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		4,384.48		4,384.48
Paul Grove:					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....	175.00			175.00
Jordan .....	Jordanian Dinar .....	223.94			223.94
Lebanon .....	Lebanese Pound .....	253.00			253.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		4,384.48		4,384.48
Delegation Expenses: *					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....			76.62	76.62
Jordan .....	Jordanian Dinar .....			71.39	71.39
Lebanon .....	Lebanese Pound .....			2,648.00	2,648.00
Jennifer Becker:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	3,554.88			3,554.88
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,650.20		19,650.20
Leilani Doktor:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	4,227.35			4,227.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		12,545.30		12,545.30
Aaron Goldner:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	4,227.35			4,227.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,650.20		19,650.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			2,819.61	2,819.61
Rishi Sahgal:					
Kenya .....	Kenyan Shilling .....	535.30			535.30
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,932.80		13,932.80
Delegation Expenses: *					
Kenya .....	Kenyan Shilling .....			608.74	608.74
Total .....		42,729.54	216,524.24	23,261.90	282,515.68

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PATTY MURRAY,  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Jan. 24, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Dan Adelstein:					
Ethiopia .....	US Dollar .....	128.49			128.49
Rwanda .....	US Dollar .....	50.55			50.55
United States .....	US Dollar .....		11,062.77		11,062.77
Katie Sudhof:					
Romania .....	US Dollar .....	206.38			206.38
United Kingdom .....	US Dollar .....	268.80			268.80
United States .....	US Dollar .....		12,807.75		12,807.75
Delegation Expenses:*					
Romania .....	Romanian Leu .....			1,090.75	1,090.75
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....			5,399.15	5,399.15
Katie Magnus:					
Australia .....	US Dollar .....	2,322.00			2,322.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		6,197.40		6,197.40
Dan Adelstein:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	82.11			82.11
United States .....	US Dollar .....		3,296.00		3,296.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....			30,087.12	30,087.12
Eric Trager:					
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	384.00			384.00
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	645.00			645.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		16,372.26		16,372.26
Delegation Expenses:*					
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....			928.06	928.06
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			25.30	25.30
Total .....		4,087.33	49,736.18	37,530.38	91,353.89

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JACK REED,  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Jan. 24, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,892.17			2,892.17
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,590.00		19,590.00
Daniel Dudis:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,931.13			2,931.13
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,615.20		19,615.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			2,349.05	2,349.05
Angela Ebner:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,157.15			4,157.15
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,057.56		8,057.56
Evan McWalters:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,168.50			4,168.50
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,352.20		8,352.20
Todd Ringle:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,066.35			4,066.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,352.20		8,352.20
Ben Schreiber:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,118.13			4,118.13
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,213.20		7,213.20
Sarah Swig:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,241.35			4,241.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,002.20		8,002.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			4,873.40	4,873.40
Aria Kovalovich:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	7,144.47			7,144.47
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,213.20		7,213.20
Jonathan Misk:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	8,532.48			8,532.48
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,480.20		7,480.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			1,949.36	1,949.36
Total .....		42,251.73	93,875.96	9,171.81	145,299.50

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Jan. 17, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 to DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Michael Inacay:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,208.88			3,208.88
United States .....	US Dollar .....		17,486.20		17,486.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			1,174.52	1,174.52
Senator John Thune:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	413.00			413.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,543.20			1,543.20
Jon Abdnor:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	413.00			413.00
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,543.20			1,543.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....			200.36	200.36
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....			353.73	353.73
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....			915.73	915.73
Senator Peter Welch:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	902.00			902.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....			1,769.83	1,769.83
Amanda Thorpe:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	902.00			902.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....			1,769.83	1,769.83
Total .....		8,925.28	17,486.20	6,184.00	32,595.48

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL,  
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation,  
Jan. 24, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Steve Eule:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	3,159.24			3,159.24
United States .....	US Dollar .....		4,585.20		4,585.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			925.57	925.57
Total .....		3,159.24	4,585.20	925.57	8,670.01

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOE MANCHIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Jan. 25, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1, TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Thomas Carper:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,159.41			2,159.41
United States .....	US Dollar .....		18,675.20		18,675.20
Senator Edward Markey:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,263.41			2,263.41
United States .....	US Dollar .....		18,495.20		18,495.20
Courtney Taylor:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,761.41			2,761.41
United States .....	US Dollar .....		18,530.20		18,530.20
Hannah Vogel:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,262.95			2,262.95
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,599.20		13,599.20
Sue Walitsky:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,171.48			3,171.48
United States .....	US Dollar .....		17,496.20		17,496.20
Delegation Expenses *					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			5,872.65	5,872.65
Nate Bentham:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,352.35			4,352.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		18,530.20		18,530.20
Travis Cone:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,352.35			4,352.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,531.40		13,531.40
Elizabeth Horner:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,890.72			3,890.72
United States .....	US Dollar .....		10,356.20		10,356.20
Sade Nabahe:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,795.90			3,795.90
United States .....	US Dollar .....		18,530.20		18,530.20
Cameron Smith:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,352.35			4,352.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		18,530.20		18,530.20
Delegation Expenses *					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			4,873.45	4,873.45
Total .....		33,362.33	166,274.20	10,746.10	210,382.63

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR THOMAS CARPER,  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Jan. 24, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Michael F. Bennet:					
Mexico .....	US Dollar .....	318.00	1,939.11		318.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....				1,939.11
Santiago Gonzalez:					
Mexico .....	US Dollar .....	1,050.00			1,050.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		5,510.91		5,510.91
Delegation Expenses: *					
Mexico .....	Mexican Peso .....			2,463.00	2,463.00
Senator Michael F. Bennet:					
India .....	Indian Rupee .....	915.93			915.93
Delegation Expenses: *					
India .....	Indian Rupee .....			413.97	413.97
Senator Steve Daines:					
Colombia .....	US Dollar .....	983.39			983.39
Guatemala .....	US Dollar .....	286.16			286.16
United States .....	US Dollar .....		6,472.35		6,472.35
Darin Thacker:					
Colombia .....	Colombian Peso .....	716.71			716.71
Guatemala .....	Quetzal .....	263.34			263.34
United States .....	US Dollar .....		6,389.35		6,389.35
Delegation Expenses: *					
Colombia .....	Colombian Peso .....			2,293.76	2,293.76
Guatemala .....	Quetzal .....			2,365.84	2,365.84
Sydney Beasley:					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....	990.00			990.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,321.20		13,321.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			939.87	939.87
Sally Laing:					
Malaysia .....	Malaysian Ringgit .....	1,301.69			1,301.69
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,526.55		8,526.55
Molly Newell:					
Malaysia .....	Malaysian Ringgit .....	1,193.69			1,193.69
United States .....	US Dollar .....		12,573.60		12,573.60
Mayur Patel:					
Malaysia .....	Malaysian Ringgit .....	1,311.70			1,311.70
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,807.50		8,807.50
Delegation Expenses: *					
Malaysia .....	Malaysian Ringgit .....			4,055.74	4,055.74
Nomcebisi Ndlovu:					
South Africa .....	US Dollar .....	974.53			974.53
United States .....	US Dollar .....		15,202.60		15,202.60
Colin St. Maxens:					
South Africa .....	Rand .....	1,088.60			1,088.60
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,324.10		13,324.10
Delegation Expenses: *					
South Africa .....	Rand .....			2,080.50	2,080.50
Total .....		11,393.74	92,067.27	14,612.68	118,073.69

\*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON WYDEN,  
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Jan. 22, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:					
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,331.38		19,331.38
Charles Ziegler:					
United States .....	US Dollar .....		18,091.40		18,091.40
Delegation Expenses: *					
South Korea .....	Won .....			775.00	775.00
Senator Cory Booker:					
Bahrain .....	US Dollar .....	166.32			166.32
Israel .....	US Dollar .....	888.48			888.48
Jordan .....	Jordanian Dinar .....	200.21			200.21
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	850.26			850.26
United States .....	US Dollar .....		17,679.00		17,679.00
Samantha Schiffrin:					
Bahrain .....	US Dollar .....	166.32			166.32
Israel .....	US Dollar .....	1,005.20			1,005.20
Jordan .....	US Dollar .....	200.21			200.21
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	660.15			660.15
United States .....	US Dollar .....		17,679.00		17,679.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Bahrain .....	Bahraini Dinar .....			396.00	396.00
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....			4,212.45	4,212.45
Jordan .....	Jordanian Dinar .....			149.93	149.93
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			2,810.22	2,810.22
Colin Brooks:					
United Kingdom .....	US Dollar .....	2,820.49			2,820.49
United States .....	US Dollar .....		5,044.40		5,044.40
Delegation Expenses: *					
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....			334.25	334.25
Senator Cory Booker:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	413.00			413.00
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,347.45			1,347.45
Senator Benjamin Cardin:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	406.00			406.00
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,350.00			1,350.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,909.00		1,909.00
Senator Christopher Coons:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	413.00			413.00
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,396.20			1,396.20
Veronica Duron:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	406.00			406.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,509.82			1,509.82
Elisa Ewers:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	406.00			406.00
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,462.20			1,462.20
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,944.19		1,944.19
Tom Melia:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	405.83			405.83
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,419.08			1,419.08
United States .....	US Dollar .....		2,320.19		2,320.19
Damian Murphy:					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....	405.83			405.83
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....	1,227.90			1,227.90
United States .....	US Dollar .....		2,320.19		2,320.19
Elizabeth O'Bagy:					
Egypt .....	US Dollar .....	413.00			413.00
Saudi Arabia .....	US Dollar .....	1,499.20			1,499.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
Egypt .....	Egyptian Pound .....			1,602.91	1,602.91
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....			2,829.89	2,829.89
Saudi Arabia .....	Saudi Riyal .....			7,325.89	7,325.89
Senator Brian Schatz:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,849.88			2,849.88
United States .....	US Dollar .....		14,871.40		14,871.40
Senator Benjamin Cardin:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,173.00			3,173.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,590.00		19,590.00
Amber Bland:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,319.94			3,319.94
United States .....	US Dollar .....		4,935.80		4,935.80
Zachary Hosford:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,739.88			2,739.88
United States .....	US Dollar .....		14,871.40		14,871.40
Josh Klein:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	2,904.31			2,904.31
United States .....	US Dollar .....		21,246.20		21,246.20
Debbie Yamada:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,160.00			3,160.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		19,590.00		19,590.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			7,047.12	7,047.12
Brian Cullen:					
Fiji .....	Fiji Dollar .....	1,069.00			1,069.00
Tonga .....	US Dollar .....	212.00			212.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,189.75		7,189.75
Andy Olson:					
Fiji .....	Fiji Dollar .....	1,069.00			1,069.00
Tonga .....	US Dollar .....	212.00			212.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,189.75		7,189.75
Lizzy Olsen:					
Romania .....	US Dollar .....	710.36			710.36
United Kingdom .....	US Dollar .....	1,223.57			1,223.57
United States .....	US Dollar .....		12,807.75		12,807.75
Delegation Expenses: *					
Romania .....	Romanian Leu .....			272.68	272.68
United Kingdom .....	Pound Sterling .....			1,349.78	1,349.78
Senator Tim Kaine:					
Guatemala .....	US Dollar .....	346.20			346.20
Honduras .....	US Dollar .....	230.10			230.10
Senator Jeff Merkley:					
Guatemala .....	US Dollar .....	346.10			346.10
Honduras .....	US Dollar .....	230.00			230.00
Ausan Al-Eryani:					
Guatemala .....	US Dollar .....	411.75			411.75
Honduras .....	US Dollar .....	248.50			248.50
Jc Jain:					
Guatemala .....	US Dollar .....	357.13			357.13
Honduras .....	US Dollar .....	241.13			241.13
Delegation Expenses: *					
Guatemala .....	Quetzal .....			3,057.91	3,057.91
Honduras .....	Lempira .....			1,931.43	1,931.43
Senator James E. Risch:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	873.20			873.20
Amy English:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	669.07			669.07
Lauren Gillespie:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	593.57			593.57
Robert Insinger:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	780.72			780.72
Hannah Thoburn:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	605.37			605.37
Michael Urena:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	559.19			559.19
Suzanne Wrasse:					
Canada .....	US Dollar .....	763.20			763.20
Delegation Expenses: *					
Canada .....	Canadian Dollar .....			12,388.81	12,388.81
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:					
Bosnia .....	US Dollar .....	362.92			362.92
Montenegro .....	US Dollar .....	197.26			197.26
North Macedonia .....	US Dollar .....	163.99			163.99
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,180.85		8,180.85
Amy English:					
Bosnia .....	US Dollar .....	394.86			394.86
Montenegro .....	US Dollar .....	217.77			217.77
North Macedonia .....	US Dollar .....	180.15			180.15
United States .....	US Dollar .....		6,185.35		6,185.35
Delegation Expenses: *					
Bosnia .....	Convertible Mark .....			2,903.92	2,903.92
Germany .....	Euro .....			2,250.84	2,250.84
Montenegro .....	Euro .....			999.66	999.66
North Macedonia .....	Denar .....			1,127.00	1,127.00
Christopher Socha:					
Australia .....	Australian Dollar .....	1,815.00			1,815.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		9,030.15		9,030.15
Matthew Sullivan:					
Australia .....	US Dollar .....	1,815.00			1,815.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,982.45		8,982.45
Michael Urena:					
Australia .....	US Dollar .....	1,775.00			1,775.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,983.15		8,983.15
Delegation Expenses: *					
Australia .....	Australian Dollar .....			3,494.00	3,494.00
Lizzy Olsen:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,550.35			4,550.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,297.70		7,297.70
Delegation Expenses: *					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			832.73	832.73
Total .....		62,808.62	257,270.45	58,092.42	378,171.49

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR BENJAMIN CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Jan. 23, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator James Lankford:					
Djibouti .....	US Dollar .....	287.76			287.76
Italy .....	US Dollar .....	516.75			516.75
Kenya .....	US Dollar .....	268.27			268.27
Courtney Fellows:					
Djibouti .....	US Dollar .....	287.76			287.76
Italy .....	US Dollar .....	514.61			514.61
Kenya .....	US Dollar .....	285.76			285.76
Ramona Taylor:					
Djibouti .....	US Dollar .....	327.76			327.76
Italy .....	US Dollar .....	513.00			513.00
Kenya .....	US Dollar .....	282.00			282.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Djibouti .....	Djibouti Franc .....			275.57	275.57
Italy .....	Euro .....			1,768.63	1,768.63
Kenya .....	Kenyan Shilling .....			1,278.51	1,278.51
Matthew Harmon:					
Ecuador .....	US Dollar .....	718.85			718.85
United States .....	US Dollar .....		1,851.56		1,851.56
Total .....		4,002.52	1,851.56	3,322.71	9,176.79

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR GARY PETERS,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,  
Jan. 29, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Michael F. Bennet:					
Country 1 .....		318.00			318.00
Country 2 .....			11,047.00		11,047.00
Maria Mahler-Haug:					
Country 1 .....		1,050.00			1,050.00
Country 2 .....			11,031.00		11,031.00
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 3 .....				2,463.00	2,463.00
Senator Susan Collins:					
Country 1 .....		1,695.73			1,695.73
Dennis Wischmeier:					
Country 1 .....		413.00			413.00
Country 2 .....		1,543.20			1,543.20
Nicolas Adams:					
Country 1 .....		260.00			260.00
Country 2 .....		823.17			823.17
Country 3 .....			12,538.10		12,538.10
Andrew Polesovsky:					
Country 1 .....		260.00			260.00
Country 2 .....		823.18			823.18
Country 3 .....			12,541.30		12,541.30
Caroline Wadhams:					
Country 1 .....		260.00			260.00
Country 2 .....		823.17			823.17
Country 3 .....			12,541.30		12,541.30
Steve Smith:					
Country 1 .....		260.00			260.00
Country 2 .....		823.17			823.17
Country 3 .....			13,002.40		13,002.40
Delegation Expenses: *					
Country 4 .....				705.50	705.50
Peter Metzger:					
Country 1 .....		770.24			770.24
Country 2 .....			11,734.00		11,734.00
Steve Smith:					
Country 1 .....		770.24			770.24



CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Country 2 .....			13,405.50		13,405.50
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 3 .....				119.00	119.00
Eric Losick:					
Country 1 .....		960.00			960.00
Country 2 .....		852.37			852.37
Country 3 .....			21,439.65		21,439.65
Heather Melancon:					
Country 1 .....		960.00			960.00
Country 2 .....		1,152.00			1,152.00
Country 3 .....			20,399.65		20,399.65
Steve Smith:					
Country 1 .....		960.00			960.00
Country 2 .....		1,152.00			1,152.00
Country 3 .....			20,399.65		20,399.65
Russell Willig:					
Country 1 .....		640.00			640.00
Country 2 .....		1,152.00			1,152.00
Country 3 .....			18,953.00		18,953.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 4 .....				281.31	281.31
Country 4 .....				2,322.00	2,322.00
Tara McFeely:					
Country 1 .....		247.75			247.75
Country 2 .....		715.21			715.21
Country 3 .....			12,386.20		12,386.20
Jon Rosenwasser:					
Country 1 .....			522.50		522.50
Brian Walsh:					
Country 1 .....		247.75			247.75
Country 2 .....		715.21			715.21
Country 3 .....			12,386.20		12,386.20
Total .....		20,647.39	204,327.45	5,890.81	230,865.65

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MARK WARNER,  
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Jan. 23, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Anais Borja:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,068.03			4,068.03
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,422.20		7,422.20
Therese Carter:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	4,352.35			4,352.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,423.20		7,423.20
Curtis Newman:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,811.26			3,811.26
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,352.28		8,352.28
Oliver Riquelme:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,981.35			3,981.35
United States .....	US Dollar .....		7,422.20		7,422.20
Juliet Walsh:					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	3,910.73			3,910.73
United States .....	US Dollar .....		8,352.20		8,352.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			136.20	136.20
Total .....		20,123.72	38,972.08	136.20	59,232.00

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH,  
Chairman, Joint Economic Committee, Jan. 29, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22,  
P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Charles Schumer:					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,584.31			1,584.31
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Senator Bill Cassidy:					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,251.94			1,251.94
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Senator Michael Crapo:					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,640.99			1,640.99
South Korea .....	Won .....	326.03			326.03
Senator Maggie Hassan:					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,366.99			1,366.99
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Senator John Kennedy:					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,670.99			1,670.99
South Korea .....	Won .....	384.00			384.00
Senator Jon Ossoff:					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,425.99			1,425.99

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Jon Cardinal: .....					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,470.99			1,470.99
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Kellie Karney: .....					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,544.57			1,544.57
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Michael Kuiken: .....					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,635.99			1,635.99
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Alex Nguyen: .....					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,332.45			1,332.45
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Gregg Richard: .....					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,425.99			1,425.99
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Emily Sweda: .....					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,261.77			1,261.77
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Brian Monahan: .....					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....	1,532.83			1,532.83
South Korea .....	Won .....	284.00			284.00
Delegation Expenses: * .....					
China .....	Yuan Renminbi .....			108,425.40	108,425.40
Japan .....	Yen .....			7,333.68	7,333.68
South Korea .....	Won .....			3,992.75	3,992.75
Senator Charles Schumer: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	1,500.00			1,500.00
Senator Bill Cassidy: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
Senator Mark Kelly: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
Senator Mitt Romney: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
Senator Jacky Rosen: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
Shir Attias: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
Liz Johnson: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
Michael Kuiken: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
Alex Nguyen: .....					
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....	510.00			510.00
Delegation Expenses: * .....					
Cyprus .....	Euro .....			4,854.82	4,854.82
Israel .....	New Israeli Sheqel .....			6,643.26	6,643.26
Total .....		28,559.83	0.00	131,249.91	159,809.74

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER,  
Majority Leader, Jan. 12, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Robert Karem: .....					
Germany .....	Euro .....	1,005.00			1,005.00
Hungary .....	Forint .....	378.00			378.00
United States .....	US Dollar .....		13,968.95		13,968.95
Delegation Expenses: * .....					
Germany .....	Euro .....			1,747.00	1,747.00
Hungary .....	Forint .....			3,104.00	3,104.00
Total .....		1,383.00	13,968.95	4,851.00	20,202.95

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MITCH McCONNELL,  
Republican Leader, Jan. 9, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Prerna Bhat: .....					
United Arab Emirates .....	US Dollar .....	7,636.23			7,636.23
United States .....	US Dollar .....		12,644.20		12,644.20
Delegation Expenses: * .....					
United Arab Emirates .....	UAE Dirham .....			939.87	939.87
Total .....		7,636.23	12,644.20	939.87	21,220.30

\* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN,  
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,  
Jan. 22 2024.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 50

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the order of December 20, 2023, with respect to S.J. Res. 50.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 38

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order of January 22, 2024, with respect to the veto message on S.J. Res. 38, be modified so that the date of consideration be prior to February 29, 2024, with all other previous provisions remaining in effect.

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

MOVING AMERICANS PRIVACY  
PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1568, which was received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1568) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1568) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today the Senate passed the bipartisan, bicameral Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act—S. 758, H.R. 1568—and will send it to the President for his signature. In 2017, a small Montana trucking company came to me with concerns that servicemembers and Americans moving home from abroad were having their identities stolen after cargo manifests were made public by Customs and Border Protection without the removal of their personally identifiable information. So I took action, drafted the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act, and worked with a bipartisan group of Members in the House and Senate to move forward with a solution.

The bill is simple and straightforward. It requires Customs and Border Protection to remove all personally identifiable information, including Social Security Numbers and passport numbers, from manifest sheets before making them public. This is an easy solution to a longstanding problem,

and I am glad Congress is finally acting to get this bill to the President's desk and signed into law.

In 1984, Customs and Border Protection were required to publicly disclose certain manifest information. Since then, we have seen the inadvertent disclosure of Americans' personal data with little to no recourse. In today's digital world, once a person's information is put online, it is nearly impossible to remove it. And while the CBP does offer a process for consumers of shipping services to make their information confidential, these forms can take months to process and are often processed after the individual's data has already been released to the public.

I believe the priority should be to protect Americans' privacy and automatically remove this personal information, rather than requiring citizens to make a request and hope the paperwork is processed in time. This bill will ensure that happens.

I want to thank Senator PETERS for helping lead this bill with me in the Senate, as well as Senator MARSHALL and Senator STABENOW. I also want to thank Representative WALTZ and Representative PASCRELL for leading the House companion bill that we passed in the Senate today. I also want to thank all our staff and the staff on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee for their work over the years to get this bill signed into law. Finally, I want to thank all the Montanans and Americans, including the large group of trucking, moving, and servicemember organizations, who have championed this bill for so long.

I look forward to our bill getting signed into law and ensuring Americans' and servicemembers' privacy is finally protected.

COMMENDING BLUE MOUNTAIN  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY FOR 150  
YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 538, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 538) commending Blue Mountain Christian University for 150 years of service to the State of Mississippi and the United States.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent 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. 538) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
WEEK

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 539, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 539) supporting the contributions of Catholic schools in the United States and celebrating the 50th annual National Catholic Schools Week.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent 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. 539) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 1; 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 Wang nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen at 11:30 a.m.; that following the cloture vote on the Wang nomination, the Senate immediately vote on cloture on the Laroski nomination, and that if cloture is invoked on the Laroski nomination, all time be considered expired and the confirmation vote be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Wang nomination, all time be considered expired at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday'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 11 A.M.  
TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 11 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate January 31, 2024:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JOSEPH GOFFMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. DANIEL L. CHEEVER

THE JUDICIARY

KAROLINE MEHALCHICK, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

KIRK EDWARD SHERRIFF, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

IN THE ARMY

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

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. JASON E. KELLY

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. ERICA R. AUSTIN

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 brigadier general*

COL. KOREY E. AMUNDSON  
COL. AMANDA S. BIRCH  
COL. RANDALL W. CASON, JR.  
COL. RICHARD A. ERREDGE  
COL. ERIKA A. FOSTER  
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. HOBBS  
COL. ROBERT E. JACKSON, JR.  
COL. FRANK R. KINCAID  
COL. CHRISTOPHER T. LAY  
COL. MICHAEL M. MOEDING  
COL. JOSHUA G. PADGETT  
COL. BRETT R. PAOLA  
COL. JANETTE L. THODE  
COL. TIMOTHY M. WELTER  
COL. NATHAN D. YATES  
COL. CHRISTOPHER M. ZIDEK

IN THE ARMY

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

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. PATRICIA R. WALLACE

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS K. CLARK  
BRIG. GEN. SEAN N. DAY

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. WILLIAM T. WILBURN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. THOMAS M. ARMAS  
COL. DANIEL B. TAYLOR

COL. PATRICK F. TIERNAN

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. ALEXUS G. GRYNKEWICH

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. GWENDOLYN A. FOSTER

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. JASON J. LENNEN

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. EVELINE F. YAO

IN THE ARMY

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

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY E. BRENNAN  
BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY M. FARRIS  
BRIG. GEN. MICHELLE A. LINK  
BRIG. GEN. JUSTIN M. SWANSON

*To be brigadier general*

COL. MELISSA K. ADAMSKI  
COL. DANIEL CEDERMAN  
COL. FREDERICK A. HOCKETT, JR.  
COL. BRIAN R. HORTON  
COL. EERO R. KERAVUORI  
COL. REGINALD KORNEGAY  
COL. JOHN P. STANLEY

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. MICHAEL L. SMITH

IN THE NAVY

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. TODD F. CIMICATA  
CAPT. FRANKIE J. CLARK  
CAPT. DAVID G. DUFF  
CAPT. TODD A. FIGANBAUM  
CAPT. BRET M. GRABBE  
CAPT. JEFFREY L. HEAMES  
CAPT. JOHN W. HEWITT  
CAPT. LIAM M. HULIN  
CAPT. MARCOS A. JASSO  
CAPT. MATTHEW J. KAWAS  
CAPT. JUSTIN A. KUBU  
CAPT. ROBERT E. LOUGHHRAN, JR.  
CAPT. PHILIP S. MILLER  
CAPT. BRIAN T. MUTTY  
CAPT. CASSIDY C. NORMAN  
CAPT. ERIN P. OSBORNE  
CAPT. BARTLEY A. RANDALL  
CAPT. CRAIG C. SICOLA  
CAPT. MELVIN R. SMITH, JR.

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. BRIAN A. HARDING  
CAPT. VINCENT S. TIONQUIAO

IN THE SPACE FORCE

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. CHANDLER P. ATWOOD  
COL. MATTHEW S. CANTORE  
COL. BRIAN A. DENARO  
COL. ROBERT J. SCHREINER  
COL. ZACHARY S. WARAKOMSKI

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS M. CARDEN, JR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. MELVIN G. CARTER  
BRIG. GEN. PHILLIP N. PRIETZE  
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT C. FULFORD  
BRIG. GEN. PETER D. HUNTLEY  
BRIG. GEN. JASON L. MORRIS  
BRIG. GEN. JULIE L. NETHERCOT  
BRIG. GEN. RYAN S. RIDEOUT  
BRIG. GEN. GEORGE B. ROWELL IV  
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL L. SHIPLEY  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES B. WELLONS

IN THE NAVY

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

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. TIMOTHY A. BROWN  
CAPT. MICHAEL YORK

IN THE AIR FORCE

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.

IN THE ARMY

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.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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. TIRAYAN, 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.

IN THE NAVY

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.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF KEVIN F. CHAMPAIGNE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF JOAN POLASCHIK.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW EDLEFSSEN AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER WILKEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH OLUTAYO O. AKINGBE AND ENDING WITH KATHY W. YAO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 30, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER ALLEN AND ENDING WITH ALICIA P. ALLISON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.