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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, answer our cry. Enlighten our lawmakers with a shining inward light and remove the shadows from their hearts. Control their thoughts and prepare them to face the inevitable challenges that invade our Nation and world. Give them the peace of knowing that their times are in Your hands and that You are willing to fight the battles of all who trust in the power of Your Name. Fill their hearts with courage, and may they take time throughout the day to remember Your direct involvement in the details of their lives.

Lord, help us all to maintain a pure conscience, a love for truth, and a passion for peace on Earth.

We pray in Your mighty 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, March 20, 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 consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, if Republicans and Democrats keep working in good faith to fund the government, then I hope we are just days away from completing the appropriations process. The job is not done, but we are very close.

A few days ago, Congressional leaders announced an agreement on the last six funding bills. These bills will make significant investments for our national defense, for the well-being of our servicemembers, for keeping the United States competitive against the Chinese Communist Party, and so much more.

Today, appropriators continue working on the legislative text, and, despite the tight deadline, they continue to make very good progress. They are very diligent. They work through the night. And we salute them on both sides of the aisle—my staff, PATTY MURRAY's staff, SUSAN COLLINS' staff, and Leader MCCONNELL's staff—for trying to get this done, as well as all of the other members of the appropriations subcommittees.

We don't yet know precisely when the House will act, but, as soon as they send us the funding package, I will put it on the Senate floor. And from there, as we all know, it will take cooperation to get on the bill and consent from every Senator to keep this process moving quickly.

Even with bipartisanship, it is going to be a tight squeeze to get this funding package passed before the weekend deadline. I ask my colleagues to be flexible, to be prepared to act quickly, and to prioritize working together in good faith so we can finish the appropriations process.

If we proceed like we did 2 weeks ago with the first six funding bills, then the odds are good that we can get this done without excessive delay or headaches.

Again, I want to thank my Senate colleagues, Chair MURRAY, Vice Chair COLLINS, Leader MCCONNELL, the Speaker, and all the appropriators for working in good faith to finish the job.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Mr. President, now on something near and dear to my heart, chips—chips in America. Today, President Biden

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



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will be in Phoenix, AZ, to roll out a colossal \$8.5 billion grant to Intel to expand its chip production here in America, a historic sum made possible by the Chips and Science Act, something I was proud to author and push.

Today's "Chips" announcement lands like a thunderclap: \$8.5 billion; 10,000 manufacturing jobs; 20,000 construction jobs; thousands upon thousands of indirect jobs; \$100 billion in private investment. And the ripple effects will be felt across a huge swath of the country: from Oregon to Arizona, to New Mexico, to Ohio. These are just some of the places where a golden new age of American chip production will manifest itself.

And today's announcement comes about a month after GlobalFoundries in New York received its own billion-and-a-half-dollar award to expand their legacy chip production and further make New York State a global hub for chip manufacturing. And we expect more soon for companies like Micron in central New York. You will hear good announcements about that, I believe, soon enough.

One announcement at a time, we are keeping our promise of bringing manufacturing back to America and making the United States the leader in microchip production once again.

And let me be clear. This isn't the tech revolution of yesterday. This is something entirely different and entirely new. When people in the future think "tech," it won't be just enough to mention places like Silicon Valley anymore. They will think of the Silicon Heartland.

Because of Chips and Science, the story of American innovation will now happen in places like New Albany, OH, where Intel is building its Ohio One facility. This one facility will create 3,000 new jobs and 7,000 union construction jobs. These jobs will pay exceedingly well, and not all are going to require college degrees.

Along with Senators CANTWELL, KELLY, WARNER, WYDEN, and so many of my Republican colleagues, too, I want to take a moment to applaud Senator BROWN for making Chips and Science happen. Thanks to my good friend SHERROD BROWN, these jobs in New Albany will be good-paying union jobs. Because SHERROD BROWN worked with the administration and worked with Intel, Intel is using a project labor agreement for the deal, which makes sure the workers building this fab are well prepared and well compensated.

It is not just that Intel will directly hire thousands of new workers. The benefits will also extend to universities across the region, especially HBCUs. It will benefit other industries, like the auto industry. This investment will help generate a pipeline of highly skilled tech workers right in the heart of Ohio, as well as Arizona, New Mexico, and Oregon. And the benefits will spread across communities that have long been overlooked and have long

been waiting for a second chance. And this is what so many of us here in the Senate envisioned when we wrote Chips and Science. I thought of this years ago. I worked with Senator YOUNG. It took us a long time to convince people how important this was. But today's announcement by Intel, the one that was announced last month in Upstate New York—and many others to come—our faith in this bill is being vindicated in terms of jobs and in terms of leadership, not only in chip manufacturing but in science.

So many of us envisioned this when we wrote Chips and Science—a cascade of public investment that in turn creates a fountain of private sector activity. Today's announcement is perhaps the clearest signal yet that Chips and Science is delivering. In the long run, these are the investments we need to keep America safe, keep America competitive, keep America a world leader for innovation in manufacturing in the future.

America was the envy of the world for much of the 20th century precisely because of our ambitions in technological innovation and manufacturing.

When I started working on what I then called endless frontiers a few years back—we retitled it "CHIPS and Science" because too many people thought endless frontiers had something to do with covered wagons—I did it because I knew we had to keep America competitive, and it would take an immense investment by the Federal Government. Other countries were investing. If we didn't, we would have fallen way, way behind, much to the detriment of industries across America because so many depend on chips and much to the detriment of our national security because not only does our defense industry depend on chips, but if they are made overseas, foreign countries might have sway over us economically and foreign policy-wise.

It has taken a while to get here, but the results are truly, truly paying off, and I am excited and feel vindicated about all the work we put into this. So I want to thank President Biden for his leadership in making today's announcement possible. President Biden understood the need to do this immediately when we talked to him about it, and his administration—particularly Commerce Secretary Raimondo—has done a great job negotiating with the companies, as today's announcement shows.

Finally, another shout out to SHERROD BROWN, who understood the importance of bringing chip manufacturing to Ohio for its auto industry and for so much else in projecting a future for a strong manufacturing base in Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, the longer that the national security supplemental sits on Speaker Johnson's desk, the more desperate the situation in Ukraine becomes. The war in Ukraine is devastating entire cities

and towns and villages, not just reducing their buildings to rubble but also decimating their populations. As a result, Ukraine is beginning to run out of soldiers. One Ukrainian village is even reported to have practically no men left because so many were drafted to fight, and many, sadly, will not return.

A few weeks ago, I visited Ukraine with a group of Senators, and I will never forget the moment when they took us, in Lviv, to a cemetery. It was a parking lot 4 months earlier, but they needed more room to bury their dead. Half the cemetery was already filled with graves, and you saw the pictures on each grave site of the young men and young women whose lives were taken so soon in their lives. But right across the way, there were workers working, as we were looking at those who were already buried, building new graves because they knew there would be so many more dead. This was a sad sight, but it never saps the vitality and strength of President Zelenskyy and of the Ukrainian people, so we need to help them.

What does Ukraine need? Ukraine is running out of munitions. Russia is now making three times—three times—as much artillery and munitions as the United States and Europe, and Ukrainian forces are suffering the consequences on the ground.

The supplemental package will provide Ukraine the resources it lacks: military equipment, munitions, intelligence support, weaponry, more. Making sure Ukraine has the resources it needs is one of the best ways we can help them compensate for being outnumbered on the battlefield.

Speaker JOHNSON knows this as well as I do. If he puts the supplemental on the floor of the House for a vote, it will pass with the same kind of bipartisan support we saw in the Senate. So my question for the Speaker is this: Why delay providing Ukraine the critical aid it needs to defend itself against Vladimir Putin?

The supplemental package is Ukraine's best chance to win this war. The aid being supplied to Ukraine by our European allies—they are generous, but it is not enough. Ukraine needs more help, and our allies around the world are looking at the House of Representatives, are looking at Speaker JOHNSON to step up.

The choice for Speaker JOHNSON is clear: Put the supplemental on the floor of the House for a vote and help deliver Ukraine the aid it desperately needs or kowtow to President Trump and the MAGA hard right who seem to want a victorious Putin.

History will remember what we do here in this time of great consequence for democracy. The Senate answered the call by passing the national security supplemental with a large, bipartisan majority. Now it is time for the House to do the same. The clock is ticking.

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.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, more than 5 months after the butchery of October 7, Israelis are overwhelmingly united behind their government's unity war Cabinet in support of ongoing military operations against Hamas. By contrast, some prominent American Democrats are increasingly vocal in their belief that Israel's unity government and Israeli voters are wrong.

That is, after all, what we are talking about here. As much as some of our colleagues might like them to be, Democrats' egregious and hypocritical attempts to influence Israeli domestic politics aren't some simple or narrow critique of a particular Prime Minister; they are an affront to the very independence of the State of Israel—a sovereign nation, a robust democracy, and one of America's closest allies and friends; not a colony, not a vassal state, not some appendage of our own domestic politics.

As I said last week, our Democratic colleagues don't have an anti-Bibi problem; they have an anti-Israel problem. What else are we supposed to make of the way Democrats have fallen in line behind the position the Democratic leader expressed here on the floor last week? It is absurd enough for American Senators to masquerade as duly-elected members of the Knesset, as if their views should have any bearing on how Israel conducts its domestic politics. But unfortunately it now seems important to remind our President that he is America's Commander in Chief, not some supreme allied commander with authority over Israel's war operations.

I was worried to see the U.S. intelligence community opine publicly last week on the stability of the Israeli Government. It seems to me we should ask our intelligence professionals to keep their assessments of our closest partners a bit closer to their chest.

Think about just how embarrassing our colleagues would find this behavior if it was directed toward any other democratic U.S. ally. Think about how we might be received if the DNI or the CIA Director publicly commented on political tensions within Germany's coalition government or on the decision-making processes of President Macron or on the declining public support for the Trudeau government in Canada.

America is best served when our intelligence professionals refrain from public comments on politics—both our own and our allies.

The war thrust upon Israel by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad has al-

ready brought a host of profoundly embarrassing revelations to light.

It has exposed the United Nations Relief and Works Agency as irredeemably corrupt and appallingly complicit in both the violent kidnapping of Israelis and the indoctrination of Palestinians in a culture of hate, violence, and terror.

It has exposed the rank anti-Semitism that America's most elite universities have allowed to fester on their campuses and some of these institutions' weakening grasp on moral resolve.

Now it is exposing Democrats as unwilling or incapable of resisting the political pressures of their radical base. Just look how our colleagues have staked out bizarrely vocal support for policies for which even the Israeli left has said it has no time.

So membership in the U.S. Senate does not come with voting rights in the Knesset or the Bundestag. It certainly doesn't entitle colleagues who spent years decrying foreign interference in American politics to decide one day to flip the script on our allies.

Let's get one thing straight: This violence and this humanitarian crisis rest entirely on the shoulders of Hamas. This entire conflict would end if the cowardly terrorists who rule Gaza from beneath schools and hospitals released their innocent hostages.

And the people they oppress every day—the people of Gaza—have a say in the matter. They can turn on Hamas, turn in terrorist leaders like Yahya Sinwar, and turn over the hostages whose seizure by Palestinian terrorists started this conflict in the first place. Until then, the Israeli government ought to do what the overwhelming majority of Israelis expect of it: bring the innocents home; bring the terrorists to justice; and bring peace and security to its citizens.

And, I might add, pay the peanut gallery no mind.

EPA REGULATIONS

Mr. President, on a different matter, this week the Biden administration's radical EPA is finalizing yet another regulation that will force ordinary Americans to conform their lifestyles to coastal elite sensibilities. This latest rule would use strict emissions requirements on auto manufacturers to effectively ban gas-powered vehicles.

The President's energy agenda just keeps on putting climate activists in the driver's seat and leaves American workers in the dust. From canceling new oil leases and clean energy projects like LNG to threatening to ban gas stoves, the Biden administration has made it abundantly clear that they are willing to trade working families' livelihoods for kudos from their radical base.

But this week, the House Republican majority is actually fighting back. Our colleagues have dedicated this week to considering commonsense legislation to undo some of the worst offenses of the Biden administration's regulatory

state. They will take up bills to clear radical roadblocks that are preventing the completion of so many urgent energy infrastructure projects, to protect energy sector jobs against freezes on fracking and other energy development, to repeal a multibillion-dollar taxpayer slush fund for green energy projects, and to warn about the disastrous effects of a carbon tax on the U.S. economy.

The Biden administration keeps trying to sell working families on electric vehicles, but the American people aren't buying the hype. The average EV costs over \$14,000 more than the average gas-powered vehicle. Auto dealers around the country have noticed that demand for electric vehicles is stagnant. And at least one rental company is selling off its stock due to a lack of interest.

Meanwhile, State utilities are growing concerned that their power grids are already straining under soaring demand for electricity. Just imagine what would happen to our fragile electrical grids if we forced people to drive electric cars. Now, that doesn't seem to concern the Biden administration; neither does the fact that the supply chains for the critical minerals in EV batteries run straight through the People's Republic of China.

The EPA's new emissions standards are so stringent that they would require electric vehicles make up two of every three vehicles on the consumer market within 8 years, regardless of whether charging infrastructure is ever available. Apparently, rolling blackouts are just one of the many costs of admission to the Biden administration's green future.

So I would like to commend our House Republican colleagues for putting serious solutions on the table, and I hope Washington Democrats will snap out of their climate daydream before it becomes a nightmare for working families.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. President, on one final matter, here on the floor yesterday, the Democratic leader defended his efforts to restrict rural Americans' access to justice. And he laid plain some rather partisan goals.

Apparently, our colleague is upset that he still has not managed to bully the Judicial Conference into embracing his vision of unequal justice.

During the course of his speech, he invited me "to find ways to restore trust in the judiciary." Well, I have one. It is the bill from Senator COTTON to end nationwide injunctions. The Federal bench, in places like Texas and Louisiana, as an entity, isn't what erodes trust in the judicial branch. What erodes trust is the ability of individual district judges everywhere to apply their orders nationwide. I think we should end this practice—in Amarillo and San Francisco, in Lubbock and Seattle, in Dayton and in Baltimore.

If the Democratic leader wants to restore trust in our judiciary, he can join

me in supporting this commonsense nonpartisan reform. Or perhaps he would rather have a DHS Secretary in Oakland who just wears a robe.

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.

ISRAEL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we have heard some concerning statements on Israel in recent days from leading Democrats.

Last Thursday, the Democratic leader came to the floor to deliver a speech in which he took the extraordinary step of calling for a regime change in Israel. That is right. The Democratic leader of the U.S. Senate, who has, in the past, fiercely decried the prospect of foreign interference in U.S. elections, decided to insert himself into the internal electoral politics of a sovereign nation and a close U.S. ally. It was an incredibly troubling moment.

As I said, it wasn't the only troubling statement lately from a Democrat leader. The President has also recently inserted himself into Israeli decision making by criticizing Israel's war plan and saying it would be a "red line" for Israel to go after Hamas strongholds in Rafah on the southern border of Gaza—in effect telling Israel that Hamas should be allowed to continue to hold this region.

Both the President and the Democrat leader are entitled to their personal strategic opinions and their personal opinions on Israel's leadership. What they are not entitled to is to attempt to dictate the election process or the strategic planning of a sovereign nation.

There would be justifiable outrage if one of our allies attempted to dictate to our country when we should hold elections and whom we should choose to lead us. It is equally offensive for U.S. leaders to attempt to dictate war planning or election outcomes to one of our allies.

I also have to wonder where the similar statements are on, for example, Iran. Iran has been fomenting terror across the Middle East for decades—Hezbollah, the Houthis, Shia militias in Iraq and Syria, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and, of course, Hamas.

Hamas gets approximately 90 percent of its military budget from Iran. There is reason to wonder whether Hamas would even have had the capability to carry out its October 7 attack without its history of support from Iran. There is certainly reason to wonder what the Middle East would look like today if Iran hadn't spent decades funding and arming terrorist organizations.

Yet, in his entire State of the Union Address, the President mentioned Iran

only once. The same goes for last week's speech from the Democrat leader. Where are the redlines for Iran, the calls for regime change? For that matter, where are the redlines for Hamas? Because, let's remember, that is how we ended up here. Israel didn't attack Hamas; Hamas attacked Israel.

President Biden himself has noted that October 7's brutal attack against Israeli civilians was the deadliest day for the Jewish people literally since the Holocaust. More than 1,100 individuals were killed. More than 240 hostages were taken, and 130 of those hostages still—still—remain in Gaza, including 5 American citizens. This was not a war of Israel's making; the current war is the responsibility of Hamas.

Hamas has pulled its own citizens into the war zone because that is what they do. It has woven its terrorist infrastructure all through Gaza so that its fighters can easily slip into and outright hide behind the civilian population. The Israeli military has continued to discover Hamas tunnels networked beneath schools, hospitals, and the United Nations' headquarters in Gaza, UNRWA. The lives of its own citizens seem to mean as little to Hamas as do the lives of Israelis.

The world has seen the evil of Hamas and its indifference to life, and that is precisely why Israel must succeed in removing the threat of Hamas from its borders.

When Democrats do things like set redlines around an offensive operation into Rafah, they are supporting the conditions that will perpetuate this terror. No other nation would accept this threat just miles over its border, and we must not ask our longstanding ally Israel to make such a dangerous exception.

I hope and pray that Israel will succeed in permanently disabling Hamas and paving the way to a more peaceful future for Israelis and—and—for Palestinians.

In an age in which the Democratic Party is increasingly surrendering to its most extreme-left wing, perhaps the President and the Democrat leader's comments should not have been unexpected, but, expected or not, they were inappropriate and troubling.

There is an old adage that when you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. Yet Democrats are out with a letter this morning that sets forth a new laundry list of conditions for Israel to meet.

Our focus should be on supporting our ally Israel and working for a future where both Israelis and Palestinians can live free from terror like Hamas's, and that requires clear-eyed focus on the task at hand of helping our allies defeat these terrorists, bring the hostages home, and restore peace.

I yield the floor.

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, here we go again. I cannot believe I am here today on the Senate floor talking about Americans dying at the hands of illegal aliens.

I said I would do this every week and give an update on the young people and people of our country who are dying at the hands of illegal aliens—specifically young people. Our kids are dying because of Joe Biden's immigration policies.

I was on the floor last week talking about the death of Laken Riley, a young woman who was running around the University of Georgia, minding her own business, when she was abducted and brutally beaten—unrecognizable—by an illegal alien from Venezuela.

Just a week ago, I came to the floor to talk about the death of Washington State Trooper Chris Gadd. He was on duty at a DUI checkpoint when Raul Benitez Santana, an illegal alien from Mexico, drunk behind the wheel, crashed into Trooper Gadd's police cruiser. Trooper Gadd was 27 years old.

There are so many other young people who need and deserve to be recognized and remembered, so many sad examples of the deadly impact this administration's open border policies have had in this country. It is a shame.

In December, Travis Wolfe, a 12-year-old boy from Missouri, was riding with his parents when their car was struck head-on by another vehicle driving down the wrong side of the road, 70 miles per hour—the wrong side of the road, 70 miles per hour. Court documents reveal that the driver of the other car that crashed into Travis Wolfe was an illegal alien from Venezuela.

Twelve-year-old Travis spent the last 3 months on life support. He died on March 6. His family hasn't received an apology from Joe Biden. They are not going to get an apology from Secretary Mayorkas. They just buried their 12-year-old son. Do my colleagues care? Do they care?

Last August in Ohio, a minivan driven by Hermanio Joseph, an illegal alien from Haiti, collided with a bus that was carrying 52 kids and was headed to school for the very first day. Although he was from Haiti, Joseph illegally entered the country through the southern border. Twenty-six kids were hospitalized—26.

One child, 11-year-old Aiden Clark, was ejected from the bus and pronounced dead at the scene. In Aiden's obituary, his family wrote that he loved daily vegetable gardening with his dad, trampoline jumping with his sister, and snuggling with his mom. Eleven years old.

Aiden's life was taken far too soon. Travis Wolfe will not get to grow up. Trooper Gadd had a wife and a 2-year-old daughter. His daughter will never see her father again. Laken Riley will never become a nurse. She will never hang out with her friends again or celebrate a victory at the University of Georgia with friends and family.

Losing a child is a parent's worst nightmare. We can't possibly imagine what their families are going through, but we can work to prevent more deaths from occurring. We know what needs to be done. People in this body know what needs to be done. People on the other end of the building in the House know what needs to be done. People in the White House know what needs to be done to protect these lives.

President Biden can use the authorities given to him by Congress to secure the border. He can do that. He doesn't need more laws; he can use the laws that have already been written.

He can finish the border wall, which he stopped and now is selling all the materials that are at the border to build this wall, that the American taxpayers have paid for—they are selling it for 10 cents on the dollar. You can't make this up.

He can stop exploiting the Department of Homeland Security's parole authority by letting in millions of people without screening or processing.

President Biden can stop supporting sanctuary cities where law enforcement officers are blocked from working with Federal officers to get criminal aliens off the streets and out of our communities.

President Biden can bring back order to our country. We are losing it daily. He can do all these things right now. He doesn't need another law. The laws are there—just go for the laws.

He himself suspended the border wall. He authorized Homeland Security to continue paroling people without consequences. He and his blue State supporters set up shelters in the middle of cities and suburbs to house illegal aliens indefinitely, costing you, the American citizens and taxpayers, billions of dollars, when we have homeless and veterans on the streets not being taken care of.

Hospitals, schools, and other community resources have been depleted—depleted—by being forced to provide for both U.S. citizens and the millions of illegal aliens crossing the border. U.S. citizens are paying for all of this, not the Biden administration—the U.S. citizens. It is their right.

It is embarrassing. Our country's leadership must be reminded of their greatest responsibility: the safety and security of Americans. No. 1 responsibility. This administration could care less.

Let's look at a recent example of a country's prioritizing safety for its citizens. What has the Dominican Republic been doing in response to gang violence and unrest in Haiti because Haitians are coming to the Dominican Republic? What are they doing? They secured their border.

The Biden administration established a parole program specifically for Haitians. Our immigration policy priorities are completely misaligned and totally opposite of what they are doing in the Dominican Republic. With our duty to support and defend the Constitution

against all enemies, foreign and domestic, they are letting our guard down.

So States are taking matters into their own hands. Yesterday, the Supreme Court ruled that a new Texas law, which allows State and local law enforcement to arrest and detain and deport illegal aliens, could go into effect while under review at the lower court level, but late last night, the Fifth Circuit Court again blocked enforcement of the new Texas law ahead of oral arguments. This is a crime. The Supreme Court has spoken. While the Biden administration won't arrest, detain, or deport illegal aliens, Texas would have been doing so. It is shameful that a State had to take matters into their own hands like this.

It is embarrassing that President Biden's Department of Homeland Security sued Texas for implementing immigration laws which they should have been implementing themselves. But they have a different agenda. They want more people in this country to vote for this administration.

Americans are being killed by illegal aliens, and the President simply cannot be bothered. The blood of Laken Riley, Trooper Gadd, Travis Wolfe, Aiden Clark, and so many other Americans is on his hands—the blood of Laken Riley, Trooper Gadd, Travis Wolfe, and so many others. They won't be forgotten.

Democrats say their open border policies are motivated by compassion: We have compassion for people coming into this country.

Whose compassion? Democrats have plenty of compassion for illegals. What about American citizens? taxpayers? the young people in this country who are dying at the hands of these illegal aliens that should not be here but only are here because of this administration?

They don't seem to have compassion for victims of crime.

Joe Biden, last week, apologized that he called an illegal alien "illegal" in the State of the Union Address. That sets the scene for everything. They couldn't care less about the American citizen. They care more about people from other countries.

This is madness. This madness must end. We can't wait until an election. We can't let 4 or 5 million more people in. We can't let hundreds of people die at the hands of these illegal aliens. Our children's lives are at stake, and our country is at stake.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RUSSIA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, over the weekend, the Russian Federation held

a Presidential election. And surprise, surprise, officials declared a landslide victory for President Vladimir Putin. By their account, Putin won a fifth term in office with a whopping 87 percent of the vote—the highest level of support in any previous elections.

This reminded me of a story—I think maybe true, maybe apocryphal—of a reporter who was traveling with a driver in Iraq in the run-up to the Iraq war. And as was typically the case in dictatorships, the report was that Saddam Hussein won 100 percent of the vote. And the reporter asked the driver, he said: Well, you have been with me; clearly, you haven't been able to go and cast your ballot. To which the driver responded: Well, I guess Saddam knew what was in my heart.

As implausible as that result was and as implausible as this result is, it is entirely predictable. After all, elections in Russia are unlike elections here in the United States or any other democracy.

In Russia, elections are carefully orchestrated by the Kremlin. The candidates are hand-selected. The results are predetermined. And the opportunity for change is nonexistent.

In short: Russia's elections are a sham. They are neither free nor fair, and it is no surprise that Vladimir Putin will continue to lead the corrupt and morally bankrupt Kremlin.

The result of this election was always guaranteed. And the only real question is: What comes next? What, if anything, will change with the start of Putin's new term in office?

Well, there is widespread speculation this could signal the beginning of a new military mobilization into Ukraine. The Kremlin has made a habit out of rolling out unpopular policies in the period after a Presidential election.

Following 2018, for example, the Kremlin raised the retirement age—a move that was deeply unpopular among the Russian people.

Putin even alluded to this new strategy when speaking to reporters in Moscow. He said:

All the plans we have created to develop Russia will certainly be carried out and their goals achieved.

He added:

We have come up with grandiose plans and will do everything to carry them out.

Well, this should be an additional warning sign that cannot be ignored by the United States or our allies. We are at a critical juncture in Russia's war against Ukraine, and more support is desperately needed.

It is in America's national security interest to help Ukraine because Vladimir Putin will not stop in Ukraine, just as he did not stop with the invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014.

He will keep coming and coming and coming. And he doesn't have very far to go after Ukraine to encounter NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And we have a treaty obligation with those countries under article 5 to come to the defense of any one

of those countries that are attacked. So this is very close and near and dear to the United States' national security interests.

Over the past few months, the United States has provided Ukraine with unprecedented defense aid: Javelins, Stingers, grenade launchers, small arms, ammunition, and more.

A few weeks ago, the Senate passed a security supplemental that, among other things, provided additional support for Ukraine as it battles Russian forces. That legislation passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. But it awaits action in the House of Representatives.

The Senate, as we know, is not a rubberstamp for the House, and the House is not a rubberstamp for the Senate. Neither Chamber is under any obligation to take up bills that originated in the other Chamber and pass them as is. But we also have a duty to address the biggest threats that our country is facing—one posed by Russia's aggression in Ukraine and in Europe, generally.

I am glad that our friends in the House are working on their own security supplemental. I appreciate the comments being made by the Speaker that we will not leave Ukraine hanging out to dry.

We know that the House is working on ideas that include a number of policies that were not part of the Senate's legislation. One of them is called the REPO Act—REPO for Ukrainians Act—which would repurpose seized Russian assets to help finance aid for Ukraine. It would shift some of the financial burden of supporting Ukraine from U.S. taxpayers to Putin and the Russian oligarchs, whose assets have been seized.

This is a bipartisan bill introduced by Senator RISCH, the ranking member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and it has been cosponsored by a quarter of all Senators, myself included.

Now, the House version of the bill was introduced by my friend and fellow Texan, Chairman MICHAEL McCaul, chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee. And it has more than 75 bipartisan cosponsors. This is a smart and effective way to continue supporting Ukraine without sticking American taxpayers with the bill.

I am disappointed that these measures weren't included in the Senate supplemental, but I hope our colleagues in the House will pass this bill—the REPO Act—as part of their security supplemental.

I am also encouraged to hear that the House is likely to include language to extend the lend-lease authority. This authority was created, as pertains to Ukraine, by legislation I introduced with Senator CARDIN, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, which became the law nearly 2 years ago.

It was rooted in the same principle as President Roosevelt's Lend-Lease Act

in World War II, which allowed the United States to supply Great Britain and other allies with military resources.

President Roosevelt recognized how critical it was to support Great Britain, which lacked what it needed to protect its people and to fend off German aggression. He famously vowed to transform the United States into the arsenal of democracy and worked with Congress to get the Lend-Lease Act passed to achieve that goal.

The original Lend-Lease Act was signed into law in March of 1941 and allowed the United States to supply its allies with resources at a critical moment during World War II.

Later that year, Winston Churchill said the bill "must be regarded without question as the most unsordid act in the whole of recorded history."

The circumstances we find ourselves in today are not the equal of March 1941, thank goodness. But they could be. In fact, the circumstances today look eerily similar to the circumstances in 1939 when Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia for many of the similar reasons that Putin claims he has a right to invade Ukraine.

If the world had stood up to Germany then, we may have avoided global calamity and prevented the loss of millions of innocent lives.

The lessons of the past must inform the present. And I believe we have a duty to exercise our role—America's unique role—as the arsenal of democracy to help Ukraine defend its sovereignty and to prevent further spread of military aggression and Russian desires to restore the Soviet Union, which is what Vladimir Putin said: The failure of the Soviet Union in 1991 was the greatest geopolitical tragedy of the last 100 years.

You know, I have thought about that and contrasted that statement with the fact that Russia lost between 20 and 30 million people in World War II. Putin says the failure of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical tragedy in the last 100 years; and he must mean a greater tragedy than the loss of 20 to 30 million Russians.

That is how he thinks. And he wants to restore that golden age for the Soviet Union. And so he will not stop with Ukraine.

Given the aid provided by Congress over the past couple of years, the Biden administration hasn't relied on the lend-lease authority to aid Ukraine, but that doesn't mean it isn't needed now.

Ukraine is willing to fight. President Zelenskyy is willing to lead the Ukrainian people in that fight. But it needs additional assistance from the United States and our NATO allies to fend off this Russian invasion.

Ukraine's arsenal is shrinking by the day. It is rationing its artillery shells and its other ammunition, and it has asked the United States for additional help.

Now, there are different points of view, but there is broad bipartisan

agreement that America should continue to support Ukraine. But there is also a growing concern over the cost of that assistance. I understand that. That is a concern that I share, which is why I introduced the modern Lend-Lease Act in the first place. Because lend-lease is not a blank check, it gives the administration the option to lease or rent defense articles to Ukraine. It would allow us to answer Ukraine's call to provide more of what they need and ensure it is done in a more fiscally responsible way.

The weapons the United States and our allies have provided thus far have allowed Ukraine to punch above its weight against the Russian Army. But one thing the Russian Army is capable of doing is to engage in a war of attrition, simply to wear down the opposition, both militarily and politically.

But Ukraine has punched above its weight against the Russian Army, but it can't do so without ammunition and without defense articles. Additional American assistance is vital to Ukraine's success in this war, and we need to reauthorize the lend-lease authority as soon as possible.

This legislation was attempted to be added to our security supplemental, and, for some reason, it didn't make the cut. But I hope now that our colleagues in the House will pass a security bill that includes both the lend-lease extension and the REPO Act and send that bill back here to the Senate without further delay.

The future of Ukraine is at stake, but that is not all. The rest of the world is watching to see how the United States and our NATO allies respond to a power-hungry dictator. If the United States fails to support Ukraine in this pivotal moment, other authoritarian governments will take note. America's response to this war will likely affect Iran's calculations when it comes to Israel and its other proxies that it supports throughout the Middle East, being the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism. And it will also figure into China's calculations when it comes to Taiwan. If they see the United States respond with passivity, they can expect to be met with the same level of weakness when these other autocrats and dictators act.

We cannot allow America's global leadership to be diminished in this way because it is dangerous. This isn't a status symbol or something that we want to be able to brag about. This is about our own safety and our own national security, and that comes from strength. As Ronald Reagan said, peace comes through strength.

The tyrants and the madmen around the world must see the United States and our allies with strength, and a strong security supplemental is one key to demonstrating that strength and that commitment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. 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 Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes, followed by Senator MENENDEZ for up to 5 minutes, prior to the scheduled vote.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is a familiar headline: "Congress announces a deal to avoid a shutdown."

It is currently midday on Wednesday, March 20, and, on Friday at midnight, just the day after tomorrow, the government will run out of funding for more than half of the 12 budget categories, and most of the government's funding is found within this section that will shut down, absent legislation by Congress.

We are told that the only way we can avoid a shutdown is to vote for what we expect to be a monstrous spending plan, a bill written in secret by a small handful of appropriators and ultimately given the blessing of the "Law Firm of Schumer, McConnell, Johnson & Jeffries."

It should be noted that not one Member of this body has had the opportunity to fully review the legislative text or, in the case of nearly all Members of Congress, to see any of it. We have not seen it. We can't see it. We are not allowed to see it.

We don't know much about the particular details of the bill, what will be in it and what won't be in it. But if history is any indicator, as it has been proven to be reliably in the past, there are a few things about the bill of which we can now be certain, even before laying eyes on it.

It will, among other things, be full of earmarks, these special-interest giveaways handed out as sweeteners, as if to make the medicine go down. It won't force President Biden to secure the border. It will perpetuate massive deficits, approaching or possibly even exceeding \$2 trillion. To add insult to injury, we can be sure that, when the text is finally released, there will be, alas, insufficient time to read, comprehend the text, air it with the public, debate the bill, and offer and consider amendments.

You see, these bills—massive legislative undertakings that, in many instances, bundle all Federal spending or, in this instance, most Federal spending into one single package—have become synonymous with legislative excess and manipulation.

You see, the firm's modus operandi involves drafting these omnibus bills behind closed doors, with only a select group of appropriators contributing to their formulation. By design, and not by any coincidence, these bills are un-

veiled to the public and most Members of Congress with barely any time to spare before a potential government shutdown.

This strategic timing, which often unfolds strategically right before a long, scheduled recess, ensures that the bill passes, with minimal scrutiny and little or no opportunity for debate—any meaningful debate, certainly—for amendments.

In other words, it becomes a "take it or leave it" package. It is a charade, occasionally softened by allowing a few votes on just a few amendments. But make no mistake, the firm wields its influence to make sure that no substantial changes are made—certainly, nothing that could threaten the supposed sanctity of their original draft.

Members are thus cornered into a false dichotomy in which their votes for the measure are extracted—extorted, if you will. We are told to pass the bill unread, not understood, undebated, or, alternatively, face the chaos and inevitable public vitriol associated with a government shutdown.

Thus, the individual voices of our elected representatives—our elected lawmakers here in Congress, in both Houses, of both political parties—and, by extension, the will of the American people are diluted in a process dominated by a few at the expense of the many.

It is not that these bills are bad in every circumstance. There are a lot of things that are within them that the government needs, that most—perhaps all—of this body, in some cases, would find unobjectionable. The problem is not that the bill is rotten from one end to the other. It is, instead, that it has been written by a select few, and the many are not allowed to have any say in it.

And when it is brought forward without any timely, meaningful, fulsome opportunity for debate, discussion, public airing, and amendment, Congress, as a whole, becomes a rubberstamp to the firm.

The will of the people is thwarted, and, ultimately, millions—hundreds of millions—of Americans are effectively disenfranchised from the entire process.

Tonight, with just a few days before the government runs out of funding in these areas covered by this bill, this body, once more, throws American taxpayers under the bus and forsakes fiscal responsibility, if, in fact, we pursue this course once again.

In so doing, they oppose measures that the vast majority of Americans would support—measures like stopping an invasion happening right now at our southern border, resulting in a wave of crime, death, and destruction that we haven't seen in the past.

This is, rather, entirely the result of the whole system of government funding being designed not to benefit the vast majority of Americans but, rather, to benefit the very architects of these bills: the appropriators, ear-

marks, lobbyists, and special interests—and, of course, all at the direction of the firm.

These entities thrive in the shadows of this process, influencing legislation in ways that serve the architects themselves, often at the expense of the general public.

Americans are bearing the cost of decisions made without their consent or their knowledge, manifesting in, among other things, skyrocketing costs of living and staggering national debt, now exceeding \$34 trillion.

It is time to dismantle this corrupt process and restore transparency and accountability to the way we fund our government. The process behind what we fully expect to be a wasteful, insulting, minibus bill is a disgrace. And let history show that a few of us stood up and said so.

This is not the way. Once we get this bill, we shouldn't be forced to rush to judgment on it without debate, discussion, or amendment. We should, instead, adopt a short-term continuing resolution that would take us to April 12, to give lawmakers adequate time to review and understand the bill, to air it to the public, to offer amendments to the bill to improve it, and, finally, vote on it. That is the order in which it should occur, not the opposite.

Instead, the firm would take us down yet another road of "fire, ready, aim."

Voting for this minibus is voting in favor of massive deficits, corrupting earmarks, and funding Joe Biden's border invasion. So I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in fighting for fiscal responsibility, for the best interests of American families—the same families we are supposed to represent in Washington.

This proposal, this short-term continuing resolution, is neither Democratic nor Republican. It is neither liberal nor conservative. This is just common sense. Give people's elected lawmakers the chance to be involved in the lawmaking process because we are certainly not doing that now.

To that end, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of my bill, which is at the desk. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we have a clear and straightforward path ahead of us. We have at long last a bicameral, bipartisan agreement on all of our full-year bills. It is time to get them passed and close out fiscal year 2024. After all, we are now 6 months into the fiscal year. We have to get a move on.

So let's stay focused on the deadline in front of us right now. We are working as fast as possible to release the bill, the text of the minibus, as soon as

possible, and if there is bipartisan cooperation, we can get this package passed by the deadline.

This minibus is a carefully negotiated, bipartisan package that reflects the input of nearly every Senator and the priorities of every State in America. We need to turn the page on fiscal year 2024, take the government off of autopilot, and focus on passing these bills before Friday at midnight.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, in wrapping up my remarks, I just want to say this is unfortunate. We owe it to each other and we owe it to those we represent to actually discuss and debate the merits of legislation before being forced to pass it.

The fact that there is bipartisan agreement as to final numbers doesn't mean that most Senators have even seen the bill. They have not. They have kept it secret from us and from those we represent. It is simply disingenuous to suggest that this has been agreed upon long ago.

We need at least a few days to do this. That is why I am asking that we extend the spending period out to April 12. That would give us time to do that. It is unfortunate we didn't get that agreement today. We will be back.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NOMINATION OF EDWARD SUNYOL KIEL

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to support the confirmation of Mr. Edward Sunyol Kiel to the U.S. district court of New Jersey.

Mr. Kiel, whom Senator BOOKER and I proudly recommended to President Biden, is eminently qualified for this position. Mr. Kiel has spent the entirety of his career demonstrating an even temperament and an unshakable commitment to equal justice under the law.

With 27 years as a practicing attorney in New Jersey, he has amassed an abundance of trial experience and an objectively impressive record of pro bono work for numerous organizations and church groups.

Atop his outstanding credentials, Mr. Kiel is already quite familiar with the District of New Jersey and the Newark courthouse. In fact, he currently serves as a magistrate judge on that very same court. During his time on the bench, he has again and again proven himself a capable and even-keeled jurist, a sharp legal mind with a deep reverence for precedent and the rule of law.

Beyond his regular duties to the court, Judge Kiel has also devoted generous amounts of time to Newark vicinage's Pretrial Opportunity Program, an important initiative that offers treatment alternatives and non-custodial sentences for eligible individuals—once again proving his commitment not just to the law but to human beings impacted by our justice system.

I would be remiss to discuss Judge Kiel's qualifications without also touching on his incredible personal story. Judge Kiel was born in Daegu, South Korea, to parents who fled North Korea as refugees during the war, on foot.

While his parents did not have much in terms of material wealth, they were rich in faith and in love. With just \$40 in their pockets—a gift pooled together by their relatives before the journey—his family made a decision to come to the United States and bet it all on the American dream. On their very first Sunday in the United States, Judge Kiel's mother placed that \$40 in the church's offering plate—a symbol of her undying optimism for her family's new life in America.

Today, Judge Kiel works every day in the same exact courthouse where his parents became U.S. citizens in the 1970s. If that is not a shining example of the American dream, I don't know what is.

Judge Kiel's story is one that is familiar to so many in the Garden State and across America. His confirmation will be another important step towards achieving the ideal of an independent judiciary that reflects the best of America and mirrors our Nation's rich cultural tapestry. To this end, I commend President Biden for nominating the most racially and ethnically diverse group of qualified Federal judges of any President so far in our Nation's history.

In all branches and at all levels of our government, our democracy and institutions are made stronger by public servants whose lived experiences are as unique and colorful as America itself.

This is a cause to which I have dedicated my Senate career—ensuring that the governed see themselves in their own government, to ensure that our democracy is generally a government of, by, and for the people. It is therefore my sincere pleasure to vote today in favor of confirming Judge Kiel to the district court of New Jersey. I urge my colleagues to do the same. I have no doubt that he will continue to be an asset to New Jersey's Federal bench, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in swiftly confirming him today.

With that, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 465, Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine

Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 95 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—48

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

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Mullin | Wicker |
|--------|--------|

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48.

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 1:10 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF EDWARD SUNYOL KIEL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Edward Kiel to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Born in Daegu, South Korea, Judge Kiel received both his B.S.E.E. and B.A. from Rutgers University, and his J.D. from Notre Dame Law School.

After clerking for Judge Michael R. Imbriani of the Superior Court of New Jersey in Somerset County, Judge Kiel worked at Jamieson, Moore, Peskin & Spicer as an associate, where he worked on a variety of matters, including insurance regulatory and commercial litigation cases.

He then went on to work at Beattie Padovano as an associate, where he handled various civil matters for a range of clients, from individuals to large corporations. Following his tenure at Beattie Padovano, Judge Kiel became a partner at Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, where he litigated matters before the Federal and State courts of New Jersey.

In 2019, Judge Kiel was appointed to be U.S. magistrate judge on the same district to which he is nominated. Since his appointment to the bench, he has issued more than 1,000 orders, reports and recommendations, opinions, and memorandum orders—only two of which have been reversed by a reviewing district court judge.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Kiel “well qualified” to serve on the district court, and he has the strong support of Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER.

Judge Kiel’s two decades of litigation experience combined with his distinguished career on the bench prove he is ready to handle the demands of the District of New Jersey from day one.

I thank my colleagues for supporting his nomination.

VOTE ON KIEL NOMINATION

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 96 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Booker, Brown, Butler, Cantwell, Cardin, Carper, Casey, Coons, Cortez Masto, Duckworth, Durbin, Fetterman

Gillibrand, Hassan, Heinrich, Hickenlooper, Hirono, Kaine, Kelly, King, Klobuchar, Lujan, Markey, Menendez, Merkley, Murphy, Murray, Ossoff, Padilla, Peters, Reed, Rosen, Sanders, Schatz, Schumer, Shaheen, Sinema, Smith, Stabenow, Tester, Van Hollen, Warner, Warnock, Warren, Welch, Whitehouse, Wyden

NAYS—49

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

NOT VOTING—1

Mullin

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

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Tammy Duckworth, Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Catherine Cortez Masto, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen.

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 Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—49

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

NOT VOTING—1

Mullin

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on a cold January morning, less than a year after being elected our Nation’s first President, George Washington set out in a carriage drawn by six horses, headed to Federal Hall to fulfill his duty under our new Constitution, which read:

The President shall from time to time give to Congress information of the state of the Union.

One of the few firsthand accounts of that speech came from Senator Maclay, who said:

The President was dressed in second morning, and read his speech well.

Not exactly a hot take, but Senator Maclay wasn’t one for glowing praise.

More than two centuries later, I had the privilege of watching, from a few rows back, as President Biden delivered the State of the Union Address earlier this month. And I must tell you: Joe Biden didn’t just “read his speech well”; he was electrifying. Despite the tremendous challenges we face around the world today, I came away feeling optimistic about our Nation’s future,

and as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I came away strongly supportive of many of the administration's foreign policy priorities.

To appreciate what this President has accomplished, we need to remember where he started. We need to remember the uncertainty and isolation of the COVID pandemic—a pandemic that experts estimate killed almost 30 million people worldwide.

We need to remember how the global economy was on the brink of collapse—supply chains failed; unemployment surged; there were fears that we were headed for a repeat of the Great Depression.

And we need to remember, from ASEAN to NATO, the disenchantment of our allies. One senior European diplomat said back in 2020:

The transatlantic relationship has never been this bad. The trust between the U.S. and Europe is not there anymore.

Now, I am not going to sugarcoat the world we face today. The Hamas attacks against Israel were one of the worst days in Jewish history, and it has led to a terrible humanitarian crisis for the Palestinians in Gaza. China's efforts to expand its authoritarian influence stretch from the smallest Pacific Island nation to the largest continent in the world—Africa. And Putin continues to wage a campaign to restore the former Soviet empire and annihilate the Ukrainian nation.

These are serious threats. To counter them, we need serious American leadership around the world, leadership that is rooted in values that promote human rights, that defend democracy, and that are driven by something I know Joe Biden has—basic decency.

Sitting and watching the State of the Union, I was struck by the strength of President Biden's moral compass. This is not a President who stands only for himself; he stands for all of us. This is not a President who stands idly by as our climate is destroyed; he has passed landmark legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act. This is not a President who seeks revenge against public servants for their personal views; he revitalizes our foreign policy and national security workforce. This is not a President who invites the Russians to do "whatever the hell they want" or threatens to pull out of NATO; he brings our allies together to stand up for Ukraine's independence. This is not a President who idolizes dictators and encourages autocrats; he prioritizes human rights and civil society movements around the world.

President Biden's foreign policy is focused on the future—a future for Europe, whole and free; a future for an Indo-Pacific that is thriving and at peace; a future with a two-state solution that gives security and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians for generations to come.

This will not be easy, but sitting at the State of the Union, I was encouraged by the bipartisan support I felt in the room when it came to foreign pol-

icy. Even Speaker JOHNSON seemed to be nodding his head as the President talked about Ukraine.

There have been many State of the Union speeches since George Washington spoke more than 200 years ago. They have been printed on paper, broadcasted over the radio and on television, and shared on clips across the internet; but throughout history, Presidents' speeches to Congress have given us hope.

In 1947, at the dawn of the Cold War, President Truman said in his State of the Union Address:

If we maintain and strengthen our cherished ideals, and if we share our great bounty with war-stricken people over the world, then the faith of our citizens in freedom and democracy will be spread over the whole earth.

This is still true today.

To the political prisoners in Putin's jails, do not give up hope on freedom.

To the human rights defenders uncovering violence and assassinations, do not give up hope for justice.

To the war-stricken people of the world who are hungry and forced to flee their homes, do not give up your hope for democracy.

To our allies and partners across the globe, know that the United States stands with you.

And remember that if we come together and stand up for each other, we can build a world that is safe and peaceful and prosperous.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, last month, an illegal alien from Venezuela was arrested for allegedly murdering Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student, while she went for a run on the University of Georgia campus. The suspected murderer, 26-year-old Jose Ibarra, should have never been allowed to set foot in our country. But the Biden administration paroled him into America after he illegally crossed the southern border, along with more than 2 million other migrants who are now eligible for work authorizations and benefits from the Federal Government.

That is the difference. When someone gets paroled, they get benefits. They get work permits. And while President Obama and President Trump each paroled only about 5,600 people a year, President Biden paroled 800,000 in 2022 and 1.2 million in 2023.

When you look at this, what you can say is that this administration failed Laken Riley. They failed her more than once.

Also, when you look at sanctuary city policies, what you know is this:

that New York City, with their sanctuary city policies, failed Laken Riley. Athens, GA, another sanctuary city, failed Laken Riley.

Last year, in New York City, Ibarra was arrested for reckless endangerment of a child. But instead of working with Federal law enforcement to get him deported for his heinous crime, city officials there, in New York City, released him before Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, could request his custody.

A month later, police in Athens, GA—whose city government passed a resolution in 2019 welcoming illegal immigrants "of all statuses"—released Ibarra after he shoplifted hundreds of dollars in goods.

It is no coincidence that both New York City and Athens, GA, are sanctuary cities. In sanctuary cities across the country, we have seen illegal aliens commit crimes with impunity, as local governments refuse to work with law enforcement to deport criminal illegal aliens.

Just last month, the New York Post reported that the violent Venezuelan gang is directing its members to come to our southern border, apply for asylum, and, once waved into the country, establish robbery rings in major U.S. cities. I couldn't believe this.

Then, as I talked to law enforcement in Tennessee, I found out that those gangs are there. They are moving in. And I was so surprised that we had gangs, in addition to MS-13, that have come in on parole status and also as asylum seekers.

Gang members are recruiting migrants in New York City shelters to join their operations in which they steal phones from innocent bystanders so they can resell those phones in Colombia.

In Chicago, another sanctuary city, authorities are tracking the gang's growing crime network, which includes human trafficking, drug smuggling, and sexual exploitation.

No city in America should be allowed to make illegal immigration legal and harbor criminal illegal aliens. They ought not be able to do it. It makes our communities less safe.

That is why, earlier this month, I reintroduced the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act, or CLEAR Act, which would ensure State and local law enforcement officials can work with Federal law enforcement to deport criminal illegal aliens who are in their communities.

Under the provisions in this legislation, it would require States and localities to provide the Department of Homeland Security with information about every alien apprehended in their State, including the name, address, physical description, and the reason for their arrest. At the same time, the bill would ensure their compliance by denying Federal funds to any jurisdiction that refuses to work with Federal immigration law enforcement.

It would also require the Department of Homeland Security to take illegal

aliens into custody within 48 hours after receiving a request from a State and local government, provide essential information about illegal immigrants to the Justice Department, and supply resources to help localities enforce immigration law, including grants and increased space for detention facilities.

Do you see what is happening with all of this? When you have got entities that say, "We are just not going to enforce the law; we are going to do something different, and we are going to ignore immigration law," what happens is every town becomes a border town, and every State becomes a border State.

This is one of the reasons that crime and the border are two of the top issues that people talk about.

Any person who is in this country illegally and committing a crime that endangers our communities should be immediately removed and barred from coming back.

Unfortunately, our Nation's crime issues go beyond the criminal illegal aliens. Across the country, from New York and Washington to L.A. and Chicago, we have seen far-left DAs and soft-on-crime judges push radical bail policies, including easing cash bail requirements or prohibiting cash bail altogether. Far from improving public safety, these so-called bail reforms put criminals back on the streets and place law-abiding citizens in danger.

After the Shelby County District Attorney's Office spearheaded bail reform and made it easier for criminals to avoid pretrial detention, homicides in Memphis last year reached a record-breaking number—398 homicides in Memphis, TN. Many of these were committed by criminals who were out on bail.

Just last month, a violent criminal who was out on bail for attempted murder set off a city-wide manhunt after going on a horrific rampage through the city of Memphis. Across his 5-hour-long crime spree, the offender carjacked a woman in a church parking lot, shot two people after breaking into a hair salon, and killed an innocent teenager outside of a strip mall.

In May, a repeat criminal posted bail after shooting and injuring an off-duty Memphis Police Department officer while attempting to break into a parked vehicle.

One month later, a gunman—while out on bail for carjacking and employing a firearm with intent to commit a dangerous felony—shot and killed a man during an attempted carjacking.

In November, a Memphis judge released the suspected murderer of a 15-year-old boy who was shot and killed outside his grandmother's house on Thanksgiving morning.

And just this month, a Memphis judge set just a \$175,000 bond for a man charged with attempted first-degree murder against a police officer.

These tragedies should never happen to anyone, but far-left bail policies

continue to prioritize criminals over law enforcement, families, and hard-working taxpayers. I can tell you, Tennesseans are tired of this. They are tired of seeing criminals being prioritized over hard-working taxpayers and families.

While addressing crime is the primary responsibility of local governments, there are important steps the Federal Government can take to ensure public safety. That is why I am introducing the Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act. It would deter States and localities from pushing pro-crime policies that make cities like Memphis less safe.

This legislation would block any State or local government from receiving Federal funds if they have a policy that prohibits the use of cash bail for offenders. It would also block Federal funds if they refuse to employ pretrial detention practices for every violent offender, including juvenile offenders.

With crimes spiking in Memphis and other cities across the country, it is essential that local governments protect their residents and put violent criminals behind bars where they belong.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DEBT AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I come to the floor this evening to talk about our national debt, and I will be introducing a resolution here in a moment.

Our national debt, to put it in perspective, had never been much before the year 2000. Cumulatively, it was \$5 trillion. That is a lot of zeroes behind a 5. That is a lot. But that is what it took from the beginning of the country—most of it did occur from the 1960s to 1980. That is when we started doing deficits, but it really started to get to where they became entrenched in standard operating procedure in the year 2000.

We did put two wars on the credit card. In 2000 to 2008, we went up to \$10 trillion—all of a sudden, a lot more zeroes, with an extra zero and a 1. From 2008 to 2016, we went from \$10 trillion to \$16 trillion.

Now it gets to be a little more repetitive. I got here—elected—in 2018. By 2018, we are adding \$1 trillion a year. Stick with me here. That is \$16 trillion, 17, 18. So I get here as a Senator, alarmed by that when you come from a place like Indiana and you ran a business for 37 years, and if you even did

anything close to that, I guarantee you your line of credit wasn't going to get renewed.

Since then—and we had a pandemic in there—it has gotten to where we have put a burden on future generations that I never imagined. I didn't think we would see it in this short a period. Well, we did roughly put \$4 trillion more on the books through the worst pandemic we ever had. I think many of us question whether that was necessary or not. We probably could have done better. But we had already gotten into the routine of maybe erring on the side of doing more rather than less.

Well, since then, we have gone into enterprising through government. When we were borrowing just a few years ago \$1 trillion annually, now we are doing it every 6 months. If you are good at math out there, try taking interest rates, which now are around 5, 6, 7 percent, depending on how the government is borrowing it, start applying that to \$34 trillion or \$35 trillion, and the only blueprint we have for us would be from the Biden administration that puts us \$52 trillion in debt in 10 years.

That is a burden on our kids and grandkids. They will have to figure out how to pay it off. All of us here seem to be unconcerned about it. I think it would be a little different if we were knocking things out of the park.

So those numbers never go away. Sooner or later, interest is going to—well, it is going to be sooner. I think next year, we are going to spend as much on our entire defense industry and budget as we will on interest. It doesn't take long to where that is going to amount to—in 3 to 4 years, 5—what we spend on all discretionary spending here, domestic and defense.

The government has grown from never being more than 20 percent of our GDP to now the new baseline is 25 percent of our GDP. Our economy has only grown maybe a couple percent a year. That is digging a hole deeper and deeper that—anyone who is in the category of being kids and grandkids out there, look out.

It is not going to be easy to get back to where you are actually paying your bills as you accumulate them. If we don't, it will be the same thing Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain had to go through when they fell off the wagon as small economies. We are the largest economy in the world. There is no good ending to it.

It is no more difficult than just not spending more than we take in. Any good manager would figure out really quickly how to get back in line. Your banker would never allow you to renew a line of credit if you didn't. Here, we have the printing press in the basement, and the credit card gets renewed each year. That is no excuse that you should keep performing poorly when you know what the end result is going to be.

It is even a threat to our national security. For instance, we spend \$850 billion, roughly, on defense. China, our

main geopolitical foe, spends less than a third of that. Russia, which causes all that trouble around the world, spends about \$90 billion. It begs the question, why can't we do better when we are spending all that money? It is because we don't have any of the safeguards. We are not running it like the biggest business in the world; we are running it like kids with their hands in the cookie jar, and that is not a good business plan. It is unsustainable.

I am not going to repeat the numbers, but if you take this out 10 years, that is going to be a mountain that is so high to climb and so hard to tear down that it will be tough to do. We could do it easily by just not digging the hole any deeper, meaning freezing our spending and allocating our resources better, just like all States do. We choose not to do it. We need to start.

I am on the Budget Committee. We haven't done a budget in the Federal Government that we have adhered to in over two decades. Finally, we are going to have to start knuckling down and having discipline like everyone else does or it will end up like a chapter 11 does in the real world when you have not paid attention to the details, you borrow too much money, and you have a couple years to work it out with your creditors. Hopefully, we will never get to that.

I am introducing this resolution called Recognizing the National Debt as a Threat to National Security.

As in legislative session, and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 600, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 600) recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

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

Mr. BRAUN. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 600) was agreed to.

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

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

The preamble was agreed to.

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

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to complete my remarks, which I have done, followed by Senator PADILLA, for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF EUMI K. LEE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Eumi K. Lee to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Judge Lee received her B.A. from Pomona College and her J.D., cum laude, from the Georgetown University Law Center. After law school, she clerked for Judge Jerome Turner on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, and she later clerked for Judge Warren J. Ferguson on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. During her time in private practice in San Francisco, Judge Lee worked on complex civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and appellate matters, and she tried approximately 21 cases to final decision.

She later served on the faculty of the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, where she taught primarily within the clinical programs and wrote about criminal justice issues. In 2018, Judge Lee was appointed to the Superior Court of California in Alameda County by then-Governor Jerry Brown. She won election to a 6-year term in 2020. During her time on the bench, Judge Lee has handled a wide range of civil and criminal cases at both the trial and appellate levels, and she has presided over 70 trials since joining the bench.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Lee "well qualified" to serve on the Northern District of California. She has strong ties to the district, and she is strongly supported by both of her home State Senators, Mr. PADILLA and Ms. BUTLER. Her litigation background, her academic career, and her invaluable experience as a State court judge will serve her well on the Federal bench.

Judge Lee was the final judicial nominee from California who had the honor of being introduced at her hearing by my late friend and colleague Senator Feinstein. When Senator Feinstein introduced Judge Lee, she noted Judge Lee's "multitude of experience," and Senator PADILLA praised Judge Lee's "wealth of legal expertise." Those remarks highlight what Judge Lee will bring to the district court. I strongly support this nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, the Senate will soon consider the nomination of Judge Eumi Lee to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

I rise today to share, briefly, more about this dedicated public servant and to encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

The proud daughter of parents who survived the Korean war before emigrating to the United States, Judge

Eumi Lee was born in Wisconsin and raised in Tennessee. She earned her bachelor's degree from Pomona College and her law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

After law school, Judge Lee clerked for several judges on the Federal bench—first, for the Western District of Tennessee, then in the San Francisco Bay area clerking on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Now, those early days also included time working on complex litigation and white-collar defense matters in private practice, as well as developing a strong pro bono practice.

After a number of years of developing core litigation skills, she began teaching as a professor at UC Hastings College of Law, supervising clinical students in direct representation and appearing alongside her students in State court.

It is there that Judge Lee also co-founded the Hastings Institute for Criminal Justice. Recognizing her remarkable record and diverse experience practicing law, in 2018, then-California Governor Jerry Brown appointed Judge Lee to the Alameda County Superior Court, where she became the first Korean American ever appointed to serve on that bench.

In the more than two decades that she has spent learning, teaching, and practicing law, Judge Lee has not only gained a wealth of legal expertise, but she has constantly reached out to support others on their path as well.

She has consistently worked to mentor women, people of color, and those typically underrepresented in the legal profession, because Judge Lee knows that public service doesn't stop at the courthouse doors.

In private practice, in the classroom, and in the courtroom, she has demonstrated the intellect and independent mind needed to serve on the Northern District with distinction. And I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her confirmation.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

VOTE ON LEE NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 98 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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| Baldwin | Cantwell | Duckworth |
| Bennet | Cardin | Durbin |
| Blumenthal | Carper | Fetterman |
| Booker | Casey | Gillibrand |
| Brown | Coons | Hassan |
| Butler | Cortez Masto | Heinrich |

| | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|
| Hickenlooper | Murray | Smith |
| Hirono | Ossoff | Stabenow |
| Kaine | Padilla | Tester |
| Kelly | Peters | Van Hollen |
| King | Reed | Warner |
| Klobuchar | Rosen | Warnock |
| Luján | Sanders | Warren |
| Markey | Schatz | Welch |
| Menendez | Schumer | Whitehouse |
| Merkley | Shaheen | Wyden |
| Murphy | Sinema | |

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-90, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.2 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER,

(For James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-90

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bahrain.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$1.6 billion.
Other \$0.6 billion.
Total \$2.2 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Fifty (50) M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Main Battle Tanks.

Four (4) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles.

Eight (8) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges.
Eight (8) M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicles.
Eight (8) Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge (HASB).

One hundred (100) M240 Coaxial 7.62mm Machine Guns.

Three (3) AGT1500 Gas Turbine Engines.
Six thousand (6,000) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose Tracer (TPMP-T) Projectiles.

Five thousand seven hundred sixty (5,760) 120mm M1147 High Explosive Multipurpose Tracers.

Non-MDE: Also included are M2A1.50 caliber machine guns; Common Remote Operated Weapons Station Low Profile (CROWS-LP); Forward Repair System; M250 smoke grenade launchers; service and training ammunition; M1300/M1302 Enhanced Heavy Equipment Transporter System (EHETS); M978A4 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) tanker and Load Handling System (LHS); M074A1 Palletized Load Systems and trailers and flat racks; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); communications equipment; Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)-based Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers; software delivery and support; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; publications and technical manuals; maintenance trainers; training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; Next Generation Automatic Test System (NGATS); and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (BA-BULL).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 19, 2024.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bahrain—M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks
The Government of Bahrain has requested to buy fifty (50) M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Main Battle Tanks; four (4) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles; eight (8) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges; eight (8) M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicles; eight (8) Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge (HASB); one hundred (100) M240 Coaxial 7.62mm machine guns; three (3) AGT1500 Gas Turbine engines; six thousand (6,000) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose Tracer (TPMP-T) projectiles; and five thousand seven hundred sixty (5,760) 120mm M1147 High Explosive Multipurpose Tracers. Also included are M2A1.50 caliber machine guns; Common Remote Operated Weapons Station Low Profile (CROWS-LP); Forward Repair System; M250 smoke grenade launchers; service and training ammunition; M1300/M1302 Enhanced Heavy Equipment Transporter System (EHETS); M978A4 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) tanker and Load Handling System (LHS); M074A1 Palletized Load Systems and trailers and flat racks; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); communications equipment; Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)-based Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers; software delivery and support; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; publications and technical manuals; maintenance trainers; training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; Next Generation Automatic Test System (NGATS); and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$2.2 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Bahrain's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that can deter adversaries and provide the capability to participate in regional operations with the United States and other U.S. partner nations. Bahrain will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be General Dynamics Land Systems, Sterling Heights, MI; BAE Systems, York, PA; Leonardo DRS, Arlington, VA; Honeywell Aerospace, Phoenix, AZ; RTX Corporation, McKinney, TX; and Lockheed Martin, Orlando, FL. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of one (1) U.S. Government and thirty (30) U.S. contractor representatives to travel to Bahrain for a duration of up to five years to support equipment fielding and training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-90

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

NAYS—49

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

NOT VOTING—1

Mullin

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 Maryland.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

1. The M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Tank is a third-generation American Main Battle Tank produced by General Dynamics Land Systems and named for General Creighton Abrams. The M1A2 SEPv3 (System Enhancement Package version 3) features include a multi-fuel turbine engine, composite armor, an advanced computer fire control system, separate ammunition storage in a blow-out compartment, and 120mm main gun. Extensive improvements have been integrated into the latest M1A2 SEPv3 configuration. These improvements include improved digital systems, increased electrical power margin to support demands of future technologies, line replaceable modules (LRM) to reduce operational support costs, ammunition data link to support new tank main gun rounds, and an auxiliary power unit (APU). M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Tank components considered to contain sensitive technology in the proposed sale are as follows:

a. Export Thermal Imaging System (TIS) and Export Commander's Independent Thermal Viewer (CITV): The TIS and CITV constitute a target acquisition system which, when operated with other tank systems, gives the tank crew a substantial battlefield advantage over adversary. The TIS provides the Abrams M1A2 crew with the ability to effectively aim and fire the tank main armament system under a broad range of adverse conditions. The TIS can be operated and viewed by the tank gunner or tank commander and is the main sighting system for the tank or main gun (cannon). The CITV provides the same target acquisition system as the TIS but through a separate system that can be controlled and operated independent of the TIS.

b. Special Armor (FMS-released version of special armor): Major components of special armor are fabricated in sealed modules and in serialized removable subassemblies.

c. 120 millimeter (mm) Main Gun (Cannon) and M256 Gun Barrel: The Abrams 120mm main gun system is composed of a 120mm smoothbore gun (cannon), also referred to as the M256 gun barrel, manufactured at Watervliet Arsenal. It can fire armor-piercing fin-stabilized discarding sabot (APFSDS), other warheads, and combustible cartridge case ammunition.

d. AGT-1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System: The use of AGT-1500 gas turbine propulsion system in the M1A2 is a unique application of armored vehicle power pack technology. The hardware is composed of the AGT-1500 engine and transmission.

e. Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station—Low Profile (CROWS-LP) (M153A2E1): The CROWS-LP allows for remote operation of the M2HB, M2A1, M240B, and M240 machine gun systems.

f. Ammunition Data Link (ADL): The ADL consists of hardware, electronics, and software. The ADL is required to effectively fire the latest generation of "smart" 120mm main gun ammunition. The ADL transmits data to main gun smart ammunition to increase its capability and effectiveness.

g. Driver Vision Enhancer: The AN/VAS-5 Driver Vision Enhancer—Abrams (DVE-A) and Rear-View Sensor System (RVSS), M88 (DVE-CV), and JAB (DVE & RVSS) are uncooled thermal imaging systems. The DVE-A (CV) and RVSS allow for tactical vehicle movement in support of operational missions in all environmental conditions (day/night and all weather) and provides enhanced driving capability during limited visibility conditions (darkness, smoke, dust, fog, etc.).

h. AN/PSN-13 Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver (DAGR): The DAGR is a handheld GPS receiver used by the U.S. Army and select foreign military services. DAGR is a military-grade, dual-fre-

quency receiver and has the security hardware necessary to decode GPS band signals. The DAGR is a handheld GPS receiver which utilizes Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) security. It is used for the Abrams Tank, the M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lifting Extraction System (HERCULES) Combat Recovery Vehicle, and the Joint Assault Bridge.

i. GPS with M-Code capability: M-Code is designed to enhance military position, navigation, and timing capabilities. M-Code is designed with improved resistance to existing and emerging threats to GPS, such as jamming and spoofing (i.e., detecting and rejecting false signals).

j. AN/PRC-158: The AN/PRC-158 is a multi-band handheld radio. It is a portable, compact, tactical, software-defined combat-net radio manufactured by L3Harris Corporation. It is used for the Abrams Tank and the M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicle.

k. PVS-14 Night Vision Monocular: The PVS-14 Night Vision Monocular is a rugged, lightweight, multi-purpose night vision device that has repeatedly proven itself in combat. The PVS-14 can be used as a handheld device or mounted on a head harness.

2. M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicle: The M88A2 HERCULES is designed to recover damaged Abrams M1 Main Battle Tanks from the battlefield. The vehicle can extricate M1s and other combat vehicles that have become bogged down or entangled and can additionally repair or replace damaged parts under fire. The M88A2 main winch is capable of 70-ton single line recovery and a 140-ton 2:1 recovery when used with a 140-ton pulley. The A-frame boom of the M88A2 can lift 35 tons when used in conjunction with the spade down. The spade can be used for light earth moving and to anchor the vehicle when using the main winch. The M88A2 employs an Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) to provide auxiliary electrical and hydraulic power when the main engine is not in operation; the APU can also be used to start other vehicles.

3. M1110 Joint Assault Bridge (JAB): The M1110 JAB is a fully tracked armored Combat Engineer System designed to provide assault bridging capabilities to armored forces. The JAB System consists of an M1A1 Abrams chassis (with A2 heavy suspension) and a hydraulic bridge launch mechanism that will launch and retrieve the Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge (HASB).

4. M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicle: The M1150 is a tracked, Combat Engineer System designed to breach mine fields and complex obstacles and provide in-stride breaching capability. It provides crew protection and vehicle survivability while having the speed and mobility to keep pace with the maneuver force.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Bahrain can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for re-

lease and export to the Government of Bahrain.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0S-23. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 09-53 of October 26, 2009.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0S-23

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A)), (AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Morocco.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 09-53; Date: October 26, 2009; Military Department: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On October 26, 2009, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 09-53, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of three CH-47D CHINOOK Helicopters with 6 (2 per helicopter) T55-GA-714A Turbine engines, 2 spare T-55-GA-714A Turbine engines, 4 AN/ARC-201E Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems (SINGARS), mission equipment, communication and navigation equipment, ground support equipment, spare and repair parts, special tools and test equipment, technical data and publications, site survey, U.S. government and contractor technical and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated total case value was \$134 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$63 million of this total.

On February 8, 2022, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 0L-21 of the inclusion of one (1) additional T-55-GA-714A engine (spare) (MDE). The estimated total value of the new items

was \$.95 million but did not cause an increase in the estimated total program cost. The estimated total case value remained \$134 million with MDE remaining \$63 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of an additional three (3) T-55-GA-714A engines (spares) (MDE). The estimated total value of the new items is \$4.2 million but will not cause an increase in the estimated total program cost. The estimated total case value will remain \$134 million with MDE remaining \$63 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed sale will support Morocco's ongoing effort to sustain its current fleet of CH-47D aircraft, enabling its armed forces' ability to maintain regional stability and security.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 19, 2024.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-56, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Morocco for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$260 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-56

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Morocco.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$180 million.
Other \$80 million.
Total \$260 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Six hundred twelve (612) Javelin FGM-148F Missiles (includes twelve (12) Fly-to-Buy Missiles).

Two hundred (200) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLUs).

Non-MDE: Also included are missile simulation rounds; Javelin support equipment; hand and measuring tools; books and publications; power plus distribution equipment; component parts and support equipment; life cycle support and other technical assistance; gunner training; ammunition officer's training; System Integration and Check Out (SICO); maintenance training; Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions (TAGM); and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (MO-B-UUG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 19, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Morocco—Javelin Missiles

The Government of Morocco has requested to buy six hundred twelve (612) Javelin FGM-148F missiles (includes twelve (12) fly-to-buy missiles) and two hundred (200) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLUs). Also included are missile simulation rounds; Javelin support equipment; hand and measuring tools; books and publications; power plus distribution equipment; component parts and support equipment; life cycle support and other technical assistance; gunner training; ammunition officer's training; System Integration and Checkout (SICO); maintenance training; Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions (TAGM); and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$260 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa.

The proposed sale will improve Morocco's long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to meet its national defense requirements. Morocco will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be the Javelin Joint Venture between Lockheed Martin in Orlando, FL, and RTX Corporation in Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Govern-

ment or contractor representatives to Morocco.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-56

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Javelin Weapon System is a medium-range, man portable, shoulder-launched, fire and forget, anti-tank system for infantry, scouts, and combat engineers. It may also be mounted on a variety of platforms including vehicles, aircraft, and watercraft. The system weighs 49.5 pounds and has a maximum range in excess of 2,500 meters. The system is highly lethal against tanks and other systems with conventional and reactive armors. The system possesses a secondary capability against bunkers.

2. Javelin's key technical feature is the use of fire-and-forget technology which allows the gunner to fire and immediately relocate or take cover. Additional special features are the top attack and direct fire modes, an advanced tandem warhead and imaging infrared seeker, target lock-on before launch, and soft launch from enclosures or covered fighting positions. The Javelin missile also has a minimum smoke motor that decreases the chance of it being detected on the battlefield.

3. The Javelin Weapon System is comprised of two major tactical components, a reusable Light Weight Command Launch Unit (LWCLU) and a round contained in a disposable launch tube assembly. The LWCLU incorporates an integrated day/night sight that provides target engagement capability in adverse weather and countermeasure environments. The LWCLU may also be used in a stand-alone mode for battlefield surveillance and target detection. The LWCLU's thermal sight includes an advanced Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor. To facilitate initial loading and subsequent updating of software, all on-board missile software is uploaded via the LWCLU after mating and prior to launch.

4. The missile is autonomously guided to the target using an imaging infrared seeker and adaptive correlation tracking algorithms. This allows the gunner to take cover or reload and engage another target after firing a missile. The missile has an advanced tandem warhead and can be used in either the top attack or direct fire modes (for target under cover). An onboard flight computer guides the missile to the selected target.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Morocco can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Morocco.

HARRIET TUBMAN DAY 2024

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, as we celebrate the history and contributions of women this month, I rise today to commemorate the legacy of one of our Nation's—and my beloved State of Maryland's—most iconic figures, Harriet Tubman.

Congress began officially recognizing March 10 as Harriet Tubman Day in 1990, and I am always grateful to speak to her accomplishments. Throughout her life, she served as an abolitionist, soldier, spy, and most famously, as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

I would like to reflect on her contributions to human rights, civil rights, and women's rights in our Nation and to renew my commitment to addressing the shameful legacy of slavery in Maryland and across the U.S.

Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross to enslaved parents in Bucktown, MD, in 1822. After emancipating herself, she dedicated her life to the advancement of freedom and the fight against slavery. Araminta adopted the name "Harriet" at the time of her marriage to John Tubman, a free Black man, around the year 1844.

Tubman and her husband continued to live in Dorchester County until her escape from slavery in 1849, at the age of 27. She would courageously return to make over 13 dangerous trips to lead nearly 70 enslaved people seeking freedom, repeatedly risking her life in pursuit of our Nation's highest aspirational ideal.

Tubman became known as the "Moses of her people" by African-Americans and White abolitionists. She was perhaps the most famous and most important conductor in the network of resistance known as the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman's legacy extends past the Underground Railroad.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman served the Union Army, tending to wounded soldiers as a nurse and scouting into Confederate territory as a spy. She helped orchestrate the Combahee River raid in South Carolina that freed over 700 enslaved men, women, and children. After the war's end, Harriet focused her efforts on women's suffrage. In 1896, she was one of the first guest speakers for the National Association of Colored Women. She also established one of the first incorporated homes for aged African-Americans. In 1903, she bequeathed the home to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Auburn, NY.

Harriet Tubman made an indelible impact on my State and our Nation's history, and I am proud to have played a role in memorializing her story to future generations. I worked to secure the authorities and funding for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway, which tells the story of her life in Dorchester and Caroline Counties, and for the Harriet Tubman Underground National Historical Park.

The National Park Service administers the national historical park cre-

ated by Congress in December 2014 and the national monument authorized by President Obama in 2013 as a single unit and works in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, and the State of Maryland, which owns and manages the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, to commemorate and interpret Tubman's remarkable story. Visitors can access the marshlands, largely preserved since her time, at the visitor center and nearby refuge.

This year commemorates the seventh anniversary of the opening of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, which welcomed its first visitors in 2017. In its inaugural year, it surpassed expectations by attracting nearly 100,000 visitors from across the United States and over 70 countries. Within the visitor center, visitors encounter exhibits recounting Tubman's remarkable journey, set amidst landscapes and waterways meticulously preserved to reflect the environment she experienced over two centuries ago as an enslaved child, young woman, and seeker of freedom. The visitor center serves as an orientation hub to the national monument and historical park and an entry point to the expansive Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway.

Along this route lie significant sites such as the Brodess Farm, where Tubman spent her childhood, the Bucktown General Store, where she defiantly resisted her captors as a young girl, and various other locations integral to the Underground Railroad in Dorchester, Talbot, and Caroline Counties.

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park centers her life's work not in physical structures, but instead through the landscape in Tubman's native Dorchester County, which we must defend against the social and ecological hazards of climate change. While climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale. Dorchester County's low-lying landscape of tidal marshes, narrow peninsulas, and country roads linking isolated communities is threatened by sea level rise and land subsidence.

Over half of the county lies in the 100-year floodplain, much of it in the tidal floodplain; even minor storms and routine high-tide events can flood vast portions of the county. In addition to flooding, saltwater intrusion threatens the failure of rural septic systems and damage to roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure.

Climate-driven changes to the coastal ecosystem are also making it harder to earn a living through the primary local sources of income: agriculture, forestry, and the seafood industry. Local communities are at the frontline of adaptation, and initial social inequality causes the disadvantaged groups in those communities to suffer disproportionately from the adverse ef-

fects of climate change, resulting in greater subsequent inequality. Dorchester County is no exception. After the Civil War, freedmen and women settled the land, which was often less arable and, therefore, more affordable. Today, the county has a population of 32,000, 26 percent of whom are Black. Black individuals are almost twice as likely to be unemployed or live below the Federal poverty level as their White neighbors, attributable to systemic racism that has roots in Harriet Tubman's time of enslavement.

The Union of Concerned Scientists developed a Climate Equity Tool to identify communities that face conditions that heighten their vulnerability to harm and are therefore high-risk environmental justice areas, including Dorchester County. UCS projects that the county will see a 6-inch rise in sea level by 2030 and 13-inch rise by 2045.

Cities and towns on the Eastern Shore and around the world have been focusing on solving their climate problems. They are working to build flood defenses, plan for heatwaves and higher temperatures, install water-permeable pavements to better deal with floods and stormwater, and improve water storage and use. Dorchester County has a flood mitigation plan that identifies projects to protect resources at risk of being lost, including historic and cultural sites. However, implementation of such plans requires significant funding.

It is essential that Congress enhances the resilience of vulnerable communities in Dorchester County and across the Eastern Shore—and the Nation—whose residents have been forced to manage periodic flooding and other climate impacts in relative social and political isolation.

Frontline communities in Dorchester and neighboring Eastern Shore counties with strong historical and cultural ties require sufficient Federal financial and technical assistance now to help plan for the future and make choices about how best to protect themselves from tidal flooding, saltwater intrusion, and coastal disasters. Environmental justice is an essential component to carry on the anti-racist work that Harriet Tubman pioneered. The Inflation Reduction Act includes over \$125 million in debt relief and assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who have faced disproportionate impacts from the pandemic as a result of longstanding discrimination. These provisions present only a small down payment on the types of investments needed to address inequality and have yet to squarely address climate change.

The local communities on the Eastern Shore that served as Harriet Tubman's training ground in resistance are rarely credited for their outsized influence on Maryland's maritime industry, culture, and environment. We must do better to enshrine their place in our historical consciousness and provide their local communities with the tools

necessary to prepare for climate change.

I am grateful for the opportunity to showcase the exceptional efforts of one particular Marylander and honor her by pursuing climate and environmental justice policies. Harriet Tubman held steadfast to her convictions, daring to envision a nation where freedom was truly universal. Her unwavering bravery led her to risk her life for the betterment of our Nation. Her courage, conviction, and determination serve as a profound source of inspiration for us all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DANIEL NOLAN

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Daniel “Dan” Nolan, a courageous firefighter and dedicated public servant, inspiring community leader, and dear friend to so many—including myself. Reflecting the enormous loyalty and love felt for him across the community—indeed, our State—thousands of mourners attended calling hours last Friday in Wethersfield, where I joined in thanking his beautiful family for sharing him with us.

Born in Hartford, CT, on July 29, 1962, Dan joined the military upon graduating from Windsor High School in 1980 and served in the Army National Guard for 38 years. Dan quickly rose to the rank of captain and was deployed three times—to Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In Iraq, Dan was detached to the 130th Combat Engineer Battalion from Puerto Rico, where he performed route clearance missions to clear improvised explosive devices—IEDs—from the streets of Baghdad. While in Afghanistan, Dan served as commander of the 246th Fire Fighting Detachment at Forward Operating Base—FOB—in Zabul. Dan led over 300 outside the wire missions and was the recipient of many commendations including the Combat Action Badge and the Bronze Star. Always looking to help others, Dan also developed his own community outreach programs in Afghanistan to provide food, clothing, shoes, and toys to needy local villagers.

Dan was a second-generation firefighter, first joining the Hartford Fire Department in 1984. He rose to become deputy chief of training and was one of the many Hartford firefighters who served at Ground Zero following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Dan is remembered with deep affection by his fellow firefighters for his leadership, bravery, and encyclopedic knowledge and expertise in the firefighting profession.

Dan was a longstanding active member of his local community. He was a lifelong member of the Irish American Home Society in Glastonbury and was a prominent leader of the Irish History Committee and the annual Hartford St.

Patrick’s Day Parade. He was also involved in countless charitable organizations, most notably Amy’s Angels, as well as Lea’s Foundation for Leukemia Research, where he served on the board of directors since its inception in 1998.

So many of the remembrances offered by people close to Dan reflect a common theme: “He was always trying to help people.” One friend recalls working as a server at a local restaurant where Dan was a regular and always asked to put someone else’s bill on his tab. A barber who cut Dan’s hair every few months shared that he always arrived with advice about scholarships or access to veteran benefits. A neighbor remembered Dan helping her move into her new house amid frigid temperatures and snowfall.

My friendship with Dan deepened when I worked closely with him during his years-long effort to bring his translator Mohammad and his Afghanistan family to the United States. Dan showed boundless, tireless compassion and persistence in this endeavor. Every week, or even more often, Dan would check on Mohammad’s case. Dan refused to relent, and Mohammad and his family arrived in Connecticut at the end of last Veterans’ Day weekend. Dan’s determination and resolve are an enduring tribute to the difference that one person can make in the lives of others.

Dan was truly an extraordinary man who touched so many lives so positively and enduringly. He was also a deeply humble man, who delighted in crediting others for his own contributions. His good deeds speak more eloquently than my words. I treasured my friendship with Dan and will forever admire his incomparable compassion and courage. My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to his family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Jill, his stepdaughter Raven, his siblings and aunt, as well as his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and loyal friends. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Dan’s life and legacy, both large and lasting.●

RECOGNIZING LACLEDE COUNTY, MISSOURI, AND THE CITY OF LEBANON, MISSOURI, ON 175TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 175th anniversary of the organization of Laclede County, MO, and its county seat, Lebanon.

As America expanded westward in the 1800s, Laclede County and Lebanon served as a crossroads. On February 24, 1849, the city and county were established. Pierre Laclede, a French fur trader and the founder of St. Louis, MO, is the county’s namesake. The region witnessed the rapid change ushered by innovated modes of transportation like the railroad and later the highway system, including the famous Route 66 in the 1920s. Today, I-44 traces

a similar route in this area and Laclede County continues as an intersection between time periods of history.

The citizens in Laclede County, which include the cities and villages of Conway, Lebanon, Richland, Evergreen, Phillipsburg, and Stoutland, maintain their commitment to preserve the community’s history for future generations. The county is proud to be the hometown of prominent figures like Jim Bohannon, a renowned radio news and talk show host, Michael S. Hopkins, an esteemed NASA astronaut and Air Force colonel, and Betty Wagoner, a professional baseball player for the South Bend Blue Sox. Today, Laclede County is home to more than 36,000 proud Missourians, and more than 14,000 of that number reside in the city of Lebanon.

Both Laclede County and Lebanon hold great significance to the State of Missouri, and I hope the region continues to thrive for many years to come.●

RECOGNIZING EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY, THE EAGLECAM CUBESAT CAMERA SYSTEM, AND THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the EagleCam CubeSat Camera System, and the students and faculty who are tirelessly working on this project. EagleCam is a camera attached to the Odysseus Lunar Lander with the goal of capturing the world’s first third-person views of a spacecraft landing on the Moon and is the first university-built payload on the Moon.

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University EagleCam Roster includes:

Shania Melton, Vikas Patel, Emelia Kelly, Sam Horine, Daniel Posada, Daniel Lopez, Roberto Cuellar, Chris Hays, Alex Sholl, Bella Ruiz, Adrian Moraga, Taylor Yow, Joe Nicolich, Andrew Ankeny, Mohammed Etfendi, Jarred Jordan.

Jayaprakash Shivakumar, Grace Robertson, Hudson Merrick, Aryan Malik, Madhur Tiwari, Tim Cole, David Zuehlke, Dalton Korczyk, Noemi Miguez, Kevin Pepin, Justin Parkhurst, Sabrina Yepez, Dr. Troy Henderson, Dr. Eduardo Rojas, Dr. Ilhan Akbas, Dr. Jennifer Smith.

I congratulate everyone involved in this project and encourage them to continue building on their success as the United States continues its mission to once again put men on the Moon.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 766. An act to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

H.R. 4723. An act to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6260. An act to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6261. An act to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6306. An act to direct the Secretary of State to avoid or minimize the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6602. An act to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process.

H.R. 6610. An act to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:20 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. 1278. An act to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Rosa Parks Federal Building", and for other purposes.

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

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4723. An act to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6260. An act to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 6261. An act to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 6306. An act to direct the Secretary of State to avoid or minimize the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6602. An act to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 6610. An act to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 7024. An act to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incen-

tives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 20, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1278. An act to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Rosa Parks Federal Building", 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-3777. A communication from the Director of Congressional Research, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 4.7 Rev 4, 'General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3778. A communication from the Supervisor, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3779. A communication from the Chair of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Congressional Budget Justification for fiscal year 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3780. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Integrated Science Strategy for Assessing and Monitoring Water Availability and Migratory Birds for Terminal Lakes Across the Great Basin, United States"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3781. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY24 Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3782. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY24 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants (Community-Wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes)"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3783. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY24 Guidelines for Brownfield Cleanup Grants"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3784. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY24 Guidelines for Technical Assistance to Existing and Potential Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant Recipients"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3785. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3786. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "South Carolina; Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (FRL No. 10507-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3787. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 11558-03-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3788. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Revisions; California; Sacramento Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 11585-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3789. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; 2015 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment New Source Review Permit Program Requirements and Rule Revision for Jefferson County" (FRL No. 11644-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3790. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Single Source Order for PAK Solutions" (FRL No. 11679-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3791. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List" (FRL No. 11725-02-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3792. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Gasoline Distribution Technology Reviews and New Source Performance Standards Review for Bulk Gasoline Terminals" (FRL No. 8202-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3793. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program; Program Guidance for States and Territories"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3794. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Underground Injection Control Class VI Wells Program Grant Implementation Document"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3795. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Gulf Hypoxia Program FY 22 Guidance for State Cooperative Agreements"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Chesapeake Bay Program Office Fiscal Year 2023 Request for Applications for Small Watershed Grants Program and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Program Funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Healthy and Resilient Gulf of Mexico 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3798. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elective Payment of Advanced Manufacturing Investment Credit" (RIN1545-BQ75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3799. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elective Payment of Applicable Credits" (RIN1545-BQ63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3800. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Utility Storm Remediation" (Rev. Proc. 2024-15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3801. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Early Alert: Part B Payment Amount for Tezpire Included a Noncovered Self-Administered Version in 2023"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3802. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare Part B Spending on Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests in 2022"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3803. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Final-

izing Medicare Rules under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 for Calendar Year 2023"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3804. A communication from the Supervisory Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New York 1332 Waiver Approval and Specific Terms and Conditions" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3805. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modifications to Performance Standards During Natural Disasters and Other Calamities" (RIN0970-AC95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3806. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2023 and Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2024-2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3807. A communication from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "March 2024 Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3808. A communication from the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to deploying a security force of military personnel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to strengthen United States embassy security; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3809. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, a semi-annual report relative to telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba during the period from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3810. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3811. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Addition to List of Proscribed Countries" (RIN1400-AF80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3812. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Qatar and the UK in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-055); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3813. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export

Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Norway in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-058); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3814. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Timor-Leste in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-050); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3815. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Mexico in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-059); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3816. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Mexico in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-003); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3817. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada and the UK in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-065); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CARDIN for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Erik John Woodhouse, of Virginia, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador.

Nominee: Erik John Woodhouse.

Post: Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, State Department.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Self (most donations made via ActBlue): \$250, Oct. 20, 2020, Biden Victory Fund; \$250, Oct. 20, 2020, Biden Victory Fund; \$1,000, July 13, 2020, Biden Action Fund; \$250, June 23, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, May 20, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, May 13, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, May 6, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Apr. 29, 2020, Biden for President; \$250, Apr. 28, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Apr. 22, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Apr. 15, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Apr. 8, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Apr. 1, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Mar. 25, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Mar. 18, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Mar. 11, 2020, Biden for President; \$25, Mar. 4, 2020, Biden for President;

\$50, Mar. 4, 2020, Biden for President; \$50, Feb. 17, 2020, Pete for America (Win the Era PAC); \$100, May 24, 2020, All Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support John Blair; \$100, May 21, 2020, All Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support John Blair; \$100, Mar. 4, 2020, All Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support John Blair; \$100, Oct. 20, 2020, Montanans for Bullock; \$100, Oct. 20, 2020, Jaime Harrison for US Senate; \$100, Oct. 20, 2020, Katie Porter for Congress; \$100, May 21, 2020, Evelyn for NY; \$25, Oct. 4, 2020, Sister District Project; \$25, Sept. 4, 2020, Sister District Project; \$25, Aug. 4, 2020, Sister District Project; \$25, July 4, 2020, Sister District Project; \$25, June 4, 2020, Sister District Project; \$25, May 4, 2020, Sister District Project; \$25, Apr. 4, 2020, Sister District Project; \$25, Mar. 4, 2020, Sister District Project.

Spouse (most donations made via ActBlue): Evagelia Tavoulareas, \$28, Feb. 2, 2020, Warren for President; \$50, Aug. 29, 2022, Josh Riley for Congress.

Robert William Forden, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Nominee: Robert William Forden.
Post: Cambodia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Self: None.
Spouse: None.

Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

Nominee: Michael Francis Sfraga.

Post: Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Mike Sfraga: \$2,900, June 6, 2022, Lisa Murkowski.
Evelyn Sfraga: None.

Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3982. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Expanding Access to Local Foods Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr.

MERKLEY, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3983. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a grant program to increase capacity for providing abortion services and other sexual and reproductive health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3984. A bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3985. A bill to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3986. A bill to establish a private right of action against a person who sends unsolicited visual depictions of sexually explicit conduct; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3987. A bill to protect stateless persons in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 3988. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify rules for grantor trusts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3989. A bill to prohibit defense contracting with companies that employ lobbyists who represent Chinese military companies or human rights abusers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 3990. A bill to provide subsidized summer and year-round employment for youth who face systemic barriers to employment and viable career options and to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3991. A bill to expand the scope of the Do Not Call rules under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act to include all telephone subscribers, and to expand the private right of action for calls in violation of those rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3992. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Small Business Administration from directly making loans under the 7(a) loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3993. A bill to require the Bureau of Prisons to issue identification documents to prisoners being released from Federal custody, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 3994. A bill to authorize and encourage the United States Agency for International Development to pursue a model of locally led development and humanitarian response and expanded engagement with local partners and to increase its local partner base; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 3995. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to create evidence-based student success programs designed to increase participation, retention, and completion rates of high-need students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3996. A bill to enhance the work of the North Pacific Research Board; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3997. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 3998. A bill to provide for the permanent appointment of certain temporary district judgeships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3999. A bill to require mandatory review of performance improvement plans during tenure and promotion appraisal process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4000. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4001. A bill to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. REED, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4002. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 4003. A bill to require employers to provide paid annual leave to employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KAINE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS,

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 4004. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 4005. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an investment credit for certain domestic infant formula manufacturing projects and to allow a domestic production credit for certain infant formula; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4006. A bill to reauthorize programs of the Economic Development Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 4007. A bill to direct the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 4008. A bill to authorize workforce development innovation grants for the implementation, expansion, and evaluation of evidence-based workforce programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. Res. 602. A resolution designating March 16, 2024, as “National Osceola Turkey Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 603. A resolution designating April 2024 as “National Native Plant Month”; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. HYDESMITH, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 604. A resolution designating March 21, 2024, as “National Women in Agriculture Day”; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 605. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and its critical role in improving the dental, oral, and craniofacial health of the United States through research, training, and the dissemination of health information; considered and agreed to.

International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S. 1008

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1008, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard with respect to rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct civilization and identity, and for other purposes.

S. 1400

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

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 2023

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2023, a bill to amend the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act and the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to further plant cultivar and animal breed research, development, and commercialization, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 160

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 160, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 618

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 618, a bill to establish the United States Foundation for

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 598. A resolution expressing support for the Senate to work alongside the Congressional Black Caucus to build the Black Wealth Agenda and outline the legislative priorities to achieve the Black Wealth Agenda; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 599. A resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BUDD):

S. Res. 600. A resolution recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 601. A resolution honoring the life, bravery, and memory of Sergeant Rose Ida Lubin; considered and agreed to.

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

S. 2036

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2036, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from changing energy conservation standards for distribution transformers for a certain period, and for other purposes.

S. 2180

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2180, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a small farm EQIP subprogram under the environmental quality incentives program, and for other purposes.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3126

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3126, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish or replace a headstone, marker, or medallion for the grave of an eligible Medal of Honor recipient regardless of the recipient's dates of service in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 3152

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3152, a bill to amend the Elementary

and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population.

S. 3194

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) 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. 3207

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3207, a bill to establish the Foundation for International Food Security to leverage private sector investments in order to improve agricultural productivity, build food systems to mitigate food shock, help alleviate poverty, reduce malnutrition, and drive economic growth in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3629, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to revise recidivist penalty provisions for child sexual exploitation offenses to uniformly account for prior military convictions, thereby ensuring parity among Federal, State, and military convictions, and for other purposes.

S. 3692

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3692, a bill to prohibit the use of algorithmic systems to artificially inflate the price or reduce the supply of leased or rented residential dwelling units in the United States.

S. 3722

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3722, a bill to require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.

S. 3751

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3751, a bill to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 3883

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3883, a bill to appropriate funds for the Office for

Civil Rights of the Department of Education.

S. 3930

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3930, a bill to provide downpayment assistance to first-generation homebuyers to address multigenerational inequities in access to homeownership and to narrow and ultimately close the racial homeownership gap in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3933

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3933, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

S. 3943

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3943, a bill to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, and for other purposes.

S. 3961

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3961, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight.

S.J. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 63, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act".

S.J. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 65, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter".

S. RES. 591

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 591, a resolution reaffirming the deep and steadfast partnership between, and the ties that bind, the United States and Canada in support of economic and national security.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3982. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Expanding Access to Local Foods Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I am introducing the Expanding Access to EAT Local Foods Act with Senators BROWN, BOOKER, WYDEN, BUTLER, WHITEHOUSE, KING, BLUMENTHAL, SMITH, SHAHEEN, WARREN, FETTERMAN, and WELCH. This bill would create a permanent grant program for State and Tribal governments to procure local foods for distribution to nearby hunger relief programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted national supply chains and highlighted the importance of resilient, local food systems. In response, the U.S. Department of Agriculture created the Local Food Purchase Cooperative Agreement, LFPA, Program, using nearly \$900 million in one-time funds. Through LFPA, USDA has awarded grants to State and Tribal governments to buy local foods for distribution to nearby feeding programs. LFPA provides as access to food for those in need, creates economic opportunity for local and underserved producers, farmers, and fishermen, and strengthens our food supply chains.

This program is making a positive impact in communities across the country. In my home State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has worked with the nonprofit Farm Fresh Rhode Island to purchase food from 95 local producers, distributing that nutritious, local food to over 65,000 Rhode Islanders.

However, unless codified in law, this program will end when the one-time LFPA dollars are fully expended. And without sustained investment, we will lose the resilient local food systems that the LFPA program has been able to create.

The EAT Local Foods Act prevents us from losing ground by creating a permanent program for States and Tribes to purchase food from producers within their State's geographic bounds or within 400 miles of the final delivery destination for distribution through the hunger relief system.

This is a win-win-win. First, the bill supports local economic development by providing local producers with access to the hunger relief market. By establishing a new, reliable stream of orders for small, beginning, and underserved farmers, ranchers, and fishers, the bill will give these businesses the financial security to invest and further expand. Second, the bill would strengthen our domestic agriculture

supply chain. By investing in local food distribution, the bill would help build local businesses that support durable and resilient local food systems. Third, the EAT Local Foods Act would help combat food insecurity by providing fresh, nutritious, local food to underserved communities, feeding more families and helping ease the strain on the hunger relief system.

I am pleased that the bill is supported by farmers, food hubs, coalitions, and business networks from across the country, including the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, the National Center for Frontier Communities, and the Wallace Center at Winrock International. In Rhode Island, the bill is supported by the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Farm Fresh Rhode Island, the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Food Policy Council, and Southside Community Land Trust. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and in working to include it in the farm bill.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3991. A bill to expand the scope of the Do Not Call rules under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act to include all telephone subscribers, and to expand the private right of action for calls in violation of those rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3991

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting American Consumers from Robocalls Act".

SEC. 2. EXPANDING SCOPE OF DO NOT CALL RULES AND PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 227(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "residential";

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "residential"; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking "residential"; and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "more than one telephone call within any 12-month period by or on behalf of the same entity" and inserting "a telephone call by or on behalf of an entity"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "up to".

(b) REVISED REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall revise the regulations prescribed under section 227(c) of the Communications

Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(c)) as necessary to implement the amendments made by subsection (a) of this section.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3997. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3997

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Innovation Act".

SEC. 2. APPROPRIATIONS FOR INNOVATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, and appropriated, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the following:

(1) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—For the National Science Foundation—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, \$9,741,000,000;

(B) for fiscal year 2026, \$10,460,000,000;

(C) for fiscal year 2027, \$11,213,000,000;

(D) for fiscal year 2028, \$12,019,000,000;

(E) for fiscal year 2029, \$12,886,000,000;

(F) for fiscal year 2030, \$13,817,000,000;

(G) for fiscal year 2031, \$14,817,000,000;

(H) for fiscal year 2032, \$15,891,000,000;

(I) for fiscal year 2033, \$17,043,000,000;

(J) for fiscal year 2034, \$18,280,000,000; and

(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF SCIENCE.—For the Office of Science at the Department of Energy—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, \$8,859,000,000;

(B) for fiscal year 2026, \$9,513,000,000;

(C) for fiscal year 2027, \$10,199,000,000;

(D) for fiscal year 2028, \$10,931,000,000;

(E) for fiscal year 2029, \$11,720,000,000;

(F) for fiscal year 2030, \$12,566,000,000;

(G) for fiscal year 2031, \$13,476,000,000;

(H) for fiscal year 2032, \$14,452,000,000;

(I) for fiscal year 2033, \$15,501,000,000;

(J) for fiscal year 2034, \$16,625,000,000; and

(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(3) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—For the Department of Defense science and technology programs—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, \$21,897,000,000;

(B) for fiscal year 2026, \$23,512,000,000;

(C) for fiscal year 2027, \$25,207,000,000;

(D) for fiscal year 2028, \$27,018,000,000;

(E) for fiscal year 2029, \$28,966,000,000;

(F) for fiscal year 2030, \$31,059,000,000;

(G) for fiscal year 2031, \$33,307,000,000;

(H) for fiscal year 2032, \$35,721,000,000;

(I) for fiscal year 2033, \$38,312,000,000;

(J) for fiscal year 2034, \$41,091,000,000; and

(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under

this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(4) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES.—For the scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Department of Commerce—

- (A) for fiscal year 2025, \$1,161,000,000;
- (B) for fiscal year 2026, \$1,247,000,000;
- (C) for fiscal year 2027, \$1,337,000,000;
- (D) for fiscal year 2028, \$1,433,000,000;
- (E) for fiscal year 2029, \$1,536,000,000;
- (F) for fiscal year 2030, \$1,647,000,000;
- (G) for fiscal year 2031, \$1,766,000,000;
- (H) for fiscal year 2032, \$1,894,000,000;
- (I) for fiscal year 2033, \$2,032,000,000;
- (J) for fiscal year 2034, \$2,179,000,000; and
- (K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(5) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE.—For the Science Mission Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—

- (A) for fiscal year 2025, \$7,885,000,000;
- (B) for fiscal year 2026, \$8,467,000,000;
- (C) for fiscal year 2027, \$9,077,000,000;
- (D) for fiscal year 2028, \$9,729,000,000;
- (E) for fiscal year 2029, \$10,431,000,000;
- (F) for fiscal year 2030, \$11,185,000,000;
- (G) for fiscal year 2031, \$11,994,000,000;
- (H) for fiscal year 2032, \$12,863,000,000;
- (I) for fiscal year 2033, \$13,796,000,000;
- (J) for fiscal year 2034, \$14,797,000,000; and
- (K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The term “Department of Defense science and technology programs” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Defense science and technology programs.

(2) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The term “National Science Foundation” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Science Foundation.

(3) OFFICE OF SCIENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—The term “Office of Science at the Department of Energy” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Energy Office of Science.

(4) SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE AT THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Science Mission Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate.

(5) SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—The term “scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes,

offices, and centers that make up the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16-0327-0-1-600)” the following:

“Appropriations under the American Innovation Act.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—

(1) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4000. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce legislation to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California.

This legislation would provide clarity that the Lytton Rancheria of California is able to place land into trust via the Department of the Interior’s standard land-to-trust process, 25 CFR part 151.

The Lytton Rancheria would like to place additional land into trust in order to build a proper homeland and provide housing for their members. The bill is needed to clarify that Lytton Rancheria is subject to the Indian Reorganization Act and, just like other Tribal governments, is able to put land into trust through the administrative process.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SENATE TO WORK ALONGSIDE THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TO BUILD THE BLACK WEALTH AGENDA AND OUTLINE THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES TO ACHIEVE THE BLACK WEALTH AGENDA

Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 598

Whereas 2022 data from the Federal Reserve System has showed that the racial

wealth gap in the United States has persisted into the 21st century, as the average per capita wealth for White people in the United States was \$284,310 compared to only \$44,100 for Black people in the United States;

Whereas access to high-quality education has been identified as a key factor in narrowing the racial wealth gap in the United States, yet extraordinary income inequality has diminished opportunities for families from low-income backgrounds;

Whereas educational segregation by income poses a threat to the promise of equal opportunities in education;

Whereas the failure of the Federal Government to effectively address growing inequality has resulted in decreased economic mobility rates in the United States and made the American dream more elusive, as evidenced by a decline in the fraction of children who earn more than their parents, primarily due to the growth in inequality;

Whereas the enduring legacy of Jim Crow laws, which aimed to lower economic progress of Black people in the United States through racial segregation, disenfranchisement, and limitation of geographic mobility, has left a lasting imprint on the socioeconomic standing of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Jim Crow laws directly targeted education and other areas of life, significantly hindering the pursuit of prosperity by Black people in the United States and contributing to the persistent economic divide;

Whereas homeownership in the United States, a critical avenue for wealth building, remains significantly less attainable for Black people compared to White people, with disparities in homeownership rates exceeding 30 percent in some cities, exacerbating the racial wealth gap and hindering the ability of Black families to accumulate and pass down wealth across generations;

Whereas homes in majority-Black neighborhoods in the United States are systematically undervalued compared to those in predominantly White areas, with the devaluation contributing to underfunded public services, including education, and perpetuating a cycle of economic disadvantage and inequality for Black people residing in these communities;

Whereas employment discrimination has resulted in higher unemployment rates and lower wages for Black people in the United States compared to their White counterparts, with Black workers being disproportionately represented in low-wage positions and underrepresented in high-wage executive roles;

Whereas the war on drugs and discriminatory criminal justice policies in the United States have led to mass incarceration of Black people at rates significantly higher than White people, disrupting families, limiting employment opportunities, and imposing financial burdens that hinder wealth accumulation;

Whereas systemic racism in healthcare has created disparities in access to quality care and outcomes for Black people in the United States, leading to higher healthcare costs and economic instability for affected families, further widening the racial wealth gap;

Whereas Black people in the United States face significant barriers in accessing financial services and capital, with a lower likelihood of loan approval and higher interest rates compared to White applicants, limiting opportunities for business ownership and investment;

Whereas, according to an analysis by Citi Group, disparities for Black people across the economic system of the United States from 2004 to 2024 have cost the economy \$16,000,000,000,000;

Whereas 14.4 percent of the population in the United States is Black, yet Black households hold only 4 percent of total household wealth compared to 84 percent held by White households;

Whereas unions significantly reduce racial wage gaps, and racial wealth gaps are generally smaller among union members as a result of the enhanced job protections that workers covered by a union contract enjoy;

Whereas the median non-union White family has more than \$7 in wealth for every \$1 held by the median non-union Black family, but that ratio is roughly half as large among union families where the median union White family has \$3.70 in wealth for every \$1 held by the median union Black family;

Whereas, in 2022, the median income for Black households in the United States was \$52,860 compared to a median income of \$81,060 for White households;

Whereas, according to economic data from the Federal Reserve—

(1) only 46 percent of Black households in the United States owned their home, compared to 75 percent of White households, a disparity on par with the 1960's; and

(2) the unemployment rate for Black workers in the United States is consistently twice as high as it is for White workers;

Whereas addressing economic disparities for Black people in the United States requires reimagining governmental and societal policies and practices, which have been rooted in discriminatory intent since the founding of the United States;

Whereas addressing the racial wealth gap in the United States must be a holistic effort concentrated across several policy principles, including entrepreneurship, financial services, affordable housing, workforce development, protecting and promoting civic participation, and reforming tax policy;

Whereas we must commit to growing the economy of the United States by creating legislative solutions that deconstruct barriers to economic opportunities for Black people and that build Black intergenerational wealth;

Whereas the Congressional Black Caucus believes it is of the utmost importance—

(1) to enact legislation that boosts equitable outcomes; and

(2) to coordinate a legislative agenda that cements positive changes and reinforces a commitment to preserving Black economic prosperity in the United States;

Whereas the Black Wealth Agenda will have an amplified impact on all policy areas where existing oppressive regulation prevents progress; and

Whereas, from removing barriers to quality healthcare for Black people in the United States, to addressing environmental justice issues for Black communities that continue to be on the frontlines of the climate crisis, it is clear that a holistic approach is critical to closing the economic divide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commits—

(A) to promoting Black entrepreneurship by expanding funding solutions, strengthening outreach to educate communities in the United States; and

(B) to reforming policies that have created obstacles to success for Black businesses;

(2) supports establishing forward-looking entrepreneurial goals and driving communities to the center of innovation in the 21st century by—

(A) creating opportunities in sectors such as—

(i) green energy;

(ii) technology; and

(iii) healthcare; and

(B) building a workforce to be an investment in a better future;

(3) asserts that systemic discrimination in the housing market in the United States has greatly contributed to the widening of the racial wealth gap and must be rectified;

(4) will create solutions to address the affordable housing crisis in the United States by increasing the supply of available housing, reducing housing costs generally, enhancing programs to support and protect renters, and enforcing anti-discrimination laws;

(5) supports initiatives to build the Black workforce and equip the Black community in the United States with the necessary tools to compete for stable jobs in every career and at every career level, including the ability to join a union and collectively bargain;

(6) recognizes that as Black people in the United States are overrepresented in minimum wage jobs, the Federal minimum wage must be updated to reflect inflation;

(7) acknowledges that additional necessary reforms addressing the economic disparity in the United States include improvements to career pathways programs, investing in historically Black colleges and universities, increasing the affordability of post high-school education, expanding access to apprenticeship and job skills training programs, and other solutions that maximize the potential of the Black workforce;

(8) supports the goal of expanding economic opportunity, equity, and wealth creation for Black people in the United States at every socioeconomic level, in every industry, and in every residential setting, with progress toward this goal—

(A) being monitored, evaluated, and enhanced by Federal agencies that have relevant programs and initiatives; and

(B) requiring that Black people in the United States be able to build a financially secure retirement;

(9) must support tax reform initiatives for Black families in the United States that—

(A) help secure retirement, end poverty, and increase homeownership affordability;

(B) sustain students, families, and the economy; and

(C) facilitate the accumulation of generational wealth; and

(10) must commit to creating equitable and balanced tax policy in the United States that levels the economic playing field, addresses wealth concentration, and advances opportunities for economic gain.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—PROTECTING THE IRANIAN POLITICAL REFUGEES, INCLUDING FEMALE FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS, IN ASHRAF-3 IN ALBANIA

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 599

Whereas, since October 2023, the Iranian regime has increasingly acted as the epicenter of terrorism in the region, from supporting proxies that vehemently oppose peace in the Middle East, to threatening commercial shipping and free trade in the Red Sea and from targeting American forces in the region, to providing missile and drones to rogue actors, all of which pose serious risks to regional peace and security and endanger the vital interests of the United States;

Whereas Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism today;

Whereas the Iranian people have rejected the regime ruling Iran through several

rounds of major demonstrations, engulfing all 31 provinces of Iran calling for change;

Whereas the Iranian regime has resorted to killing, torture, sexual violence, and imprisonment of protesters, and several thousand protesters since 2017 have been killed, and many more have been imprisoned;

Whereas the Iranian regime has been intent on eliminating the Iranian political refugees who survived Tehran's repression and were first based in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, in the mid-1980s;

Whereas, starting in 2012, the United States Government and the United Nations initiated the relocation of nearly 3,000 Iranian dissidents from Camp Ashraf, Iraq, where they were repeatedly attacked by the Iranian regime's proxies, and facilitated their gradual relocation in 2013, 2014, and 2015 to Albania;

Whereas the relocation of these Iranian political refugees to Albania from Iraq was completed in September 2016, and the refugees, a third of them women, are now residing in Ashraf-3 near Tirana in Albania;

Whereas, on April 19, 2016, before the relocation of the majority of the residents to Albania, in a letter to a European Parliament Vice-President, the Prime Minister of Albania wrote, "Albania is fully engaged and committed to ensure for the Iranian refugees all rights stipulated in the Geneva Convention 1951, in the European Human Rights Convention and in the whole international legislation.";

Whereas over 900 women and men of Ashraf-3 are former political prisoners who endured torture while in prisons and many of them are witnesses of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners and other political killings in Iran, among them eyewitnesses of crimes committed by Ebrahim Raisi;

Whereas these witnesses must be fully protected for potential testimonies before international courts investigating the 1988 massacre and other grave human rights violations in Iran;

Whereas, in November 2021, the Swedish Judiciary moved the whole court in Stockholm to Albania for two weeks to facilitate hearing testimonies of seven former Iranian political prisoners now residing in Ashraf-3, whose testimony was characterized as critical for a trial related to the 1988 massacre;

Whereas, in December 2023, a Swedish court confirmed the earlier ruling by the lower court of a life sentence for Hamid Noury, implicated in the 1988 massacre where he was an official in Gohardasht Prison;

Whereas the Iranian regime has stepped up terrorist attacks against its opponents and has used blackmail, terror threats, hostage-taking, sham judicial proceedings, and other means of intimidation against western nations to compel them to silence Iranian opponents living abroad;

Whereas, on several occasions, including in the last week of December 2023, the Iranian regime carried out large-scale cyberattacks against Albania to pressure the Government of Albania to undermine or end its hosting of Iranian political refugees;

Whereas experience has shown that any lack of decisiveness or concessions to Tehran only emboldens the Iranian regime for its destructive actions;

Whereas the Iranian regime has, over the past few months, stepped up threats against Ashraf-3, and given what the regime has done since October 7, 2023, far more vigilance on the part of the United States is required to ensure the complete protection and rights of Ashraf-3 residents in Albania;

Whereas, on December 12, 2023, the Iranian regime started sham trials in absentia for 104 veteran members of the Iranian Resistance, who, since years ago, have been primarily

based in Europe, including in Albania, to create a phony legal precedent against them and secure their extradition to Iran by misusing INTERPOL Red Notices, impose limitations, or set the stage for terror attacks against them;

Whereas the Iranian regime is doing its utmost through any means to prevent Ashraf-3 residents from speaking up against the regime;

Whereas the leadership role of women in Ashraf-3 has doubly heightened the Iranian regime's misogynous hysteria against the political refugees in Ashraf-3;

Whereas over 3,600 parliamentarians around the world and 125 former world leaders have expressed their support for Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan for the Future of Iran, which calls for the universal right to vote, free elections, a market economy, separation of religion and state, and advocates for gender, religious, and ethnic equality, a foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence, peace in the Middle East, and a nonnuclear republic Iran; and

Whereas, in sharp contrast to Iran's institutionalized misogyny, this Ten-Point platform has adequately addressed women's equality, including "complete gender equality in the realms of political, social, cultural and economic rights. An equal participation of women in political leadership, abolishment of any form of discrimination. The right to choose one's own clothing freely, the right to freely marry and divorce, and to obtain education and employment. Prohibition of all forms of exploitation against women under any pretext." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Iranian political refugees in Ashraf-3, in rejection of the Iranian regime's demands, must be afforded their fundamental rights of freedom of expression and assembly and legal political activities in Albania;

(2) the United States Government condemns the Iranian regime's threats and nefarious actions against the Government of Albania, including cyberattacks and threats against the Iranian dissidents in Ashraf-3 in Albania;

(3) the United States Government should take prompt and appropriate steps in accordance with international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to help the Government of Albania ensure and uphold all fundamental rights of Ashraf-3 residents within the framework of the above conventions, including the right to life, liberty, security, protection of property, and freedom of expression and assembly;

(4) the United States Government strongly opposes Iran's misuse of the INTERPOL Red Notices to impose restrictions or limitations or set in motion the extradition of Iranian dissidents to Iran; and

(5) the United States Government must continue close and regular cooperation with the Government of Albania and the residents of Ashraf-3 to ensure the complete protection and fundamental rights of Ashraf-3 residents.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DEBT AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 600

Whereas, in January 2024, the total public debt outstanding was more than \$34,000,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than \$659,000,000,000 on debt held by the public for fiscal year 2023;

Whereas, in January 2024, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was more than 123 percent;

Whereas, in January 2024, the debt owed per citizen was \$102,147 and \$265,582 per taxpayer;

Whereas the last Federal budget surplus occurred in 2001;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2023, Federal tax receipts totaled \$4,400,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled \$6,100,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of \$1,700,000,000,000;

Whereas the Senate failed to pass a balanced budget for fiscal year 2024 and failed to restore regular order to the legislative process by not allowing Senators to offer and debate amendments;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2031;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the combined Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2034;

Whereas improvements in the business climate in populous countries, and aging populations around the world, will likely contribute to higher global interest rates;

Whereas more than \$8,056,100,000,000 of Federal debt is owned by individuals not located in the United States, including more than \$1,050,000,000,000 of which is owned by individuals in China;

Whereas China and the European Union are developing alternative payment systems to weaken the dominant position of the United States dollar as a reserve currency;

Whereas rapidly increasing interest rates would squeeze all policy priorities of the United States, including defense policy and foreign policy priorities;

Whereas Federal spending on interest to service the national debt is now projected to exceed Federal spending on national defense in 2024 according to the Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook: 2024 to 2034 report;

Whereas, on April 12, 2018, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that "any Nation that can't keep its fiscal house in order eventually cannot maintain its military power";

Whereas, on March 6, 2018, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned: "Our continued plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a dire future threat to our economy and to our national security";

Whereas, on November 15, 2017, former Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta, Ash Carter, and Chuck Hagel warned: "Increase in the debt will, in the absence of a comprehensive budget that addresses both entitlements and revenues, force even deeper reductions in our national security capabilities"; and

Whereas, on September 22, 2011, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen warned: "I believe the single, biggest threat to our national security is debt"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the national debt is a threat to the national security of the United States;

(2) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irresponsible, and dangerous;

(3) commits to restoring regular order in the appropriations process; and

(4) commits to preventing the looming fiscal crisis faced by the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 601—HONORING THE LIFE, BRAVERY, AND MEMORY OF SERGEANT ROSE IDA LUBIN

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

S. RES. 601

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 602—DESIGNATING MARCH 16, 2024, AS “NATIONAL OSCEOLA TURKEY DAY”

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

S. RES. 602

Whereas wild turkey has been an important part of the history and family traditions of the United States;

Whereas wild turkey was on the table at the very first Thanksgiving, and turkey continues to be a mainstay during many holiday traditions;

Whereas wild turkey is a healthy, organic, and delicious source of lean protein;

Whereas, in the United States, turkey hunters have spent approximately \$76,900,000 per year since 1985 with an economic impact of \$128,700,000 annually;

Whereas Florida has a rich history of wild turkey hunting, management, and research;

Whereas Florida is home to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, which is the largest public-private partnership program in the United States for the maintenance of wild turkey habitat on wildlife management areas and other public lands open to hunting;

Whereas, since the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program began in 1994, upwards of 1,000,000 acres of upland habitat have received funding for turkey habitat management efforts;

Whereas, in the 2023 Florida spring wild turkey season, 25,056 hunters participated in turkey hunting, including 4,761 non residents of the Sunshine State;

Whereas, in Florida, revenue generated from the sale of wild turkey permits is used for conservation, research, and management of wild turkeys or promoting the cultural heritage of hunting;

Whereas turkey hunters are an important part of the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, and the money generated from the sale of turkey permits, which are a requirement for hunting wild turkeys in Florida unless exempt, allows the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to make significant contributions to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program each year;

Whereas Florida is home to 2 subspecies of wild turkey, the eastern wild turkey and the Osceola or Florida wild turkey;

Whereas the Osceola is 1 of 5 subspecies of wild turkey in North America;

Whereas the Osceola turkey exists only in peninsular Florida;

Whereas the Osceola subspecies of wild turkey is often perceived as mysterious and the most difficult to harvest because of its small geographic range and the often swampy habitat where it is found;

Whereas hunters in pursuit of all 4 subspecies of turkey in the United States, known as a “Grand Slam”, are required to hunt in Florida; and

Whereas March 2, 2024, is the opening day of turkey harvesting season in part of Florida, and March 16, 2024, is the opening day for the entire State of Florida: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 16, 2024, as “National Osceola Turkey Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Osceola Turkey Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 603—DESIGNATING APRIL 2024 AS “NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MONTH”

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 603

Whereas native plants are indigenous species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat;

Whereas there are more than 17,000 native plant species in the United States, which include trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers;

Whereas native plants help prevent flooding, drought, and erosion and can help restore damaged ecosystems;

Whereas native plants provide shelter as well as nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot;

Whereas more than 200 of the native plant species in the United States are estimated to have been lost since the early 19th century;

Whereas habitat loss and degradation, extreme weather events, and invasive species have contributed to the decline of native plants in the United States; and

Whereas native plants are essential components of resilient ecosystems and the natural heritage of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2024 as “National Native Plant Month”; and

(2) recognizes the benefits of native plants to the environment and economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 604—DESIGNATING MARCH 21, 2024, AS “NATIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE DAY”

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 604

Whereas the United States proudly recognizes agriculture as one of the most impactful industries of the United States and acknowledges the countless women who help agriculture prosper both in the United States and abroad;

Whereas there are more than 1,200,000 female agricultural producers in the United States, making up more than 1/3 of the agricultural producers in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, farms operated by women in the United States sold \$222,000,000,000 in agricultural products, accounting for 36 percent of the total agriculture sales in the United States for that year;

Whereas, in addition to leading farming operations, women working in agriculture make a difference across the United States in various commodity and industry fields, including research and development, manufacturing, sales and distribution, agricultural education, agribusiness, and advocacy, which extend benefits to individuals across the globe through the international trade of the United States;

Whereas the United States recognizes that women are vital in fostering the next generation of the agricultural workforce by promoting science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and agricultural education and entrepreneurial and community initiatives by serving as mentors for the 4-H Program, the National FFA Organization, the Cooperative Extension System, and numerous postsecondary agricultural science educator programs;

Whereas March is National Women’s History Month; and

Whereas female professionals, instructors, and leaders in the agricultural field should be celebrated for their efforts during National Ag Week, which takes place between March 17 and March 23, 2024: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 21, 2024, as “National Women in Agriculture Day”; and

(2) recognizes the important role of women in agriculture as producers, educators, leaders, mentors, and more; and

(3) encourages all citizens to—

(A) recognize women working in agriculture; and

(B) praise the significant positive impact those women have on the food resources and the agricultural workforce of the United States by encouraging and empowering women to—

(i) enter the agricultural field, which is a high-demand field of work;

(ii) cultivate opportunities to lead; and

(iii) feed a hungry world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 605—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH AND ITS CRITICAL ROLE IN IMPROVING THE DENTAL, ORAL, AND CRANIOFACIAL HEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES THROUGH RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND THE DISSEMINATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION

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

S. RES. 605

Whereas, in 1948, Congress and President Harry S. Truman created the National Institute of Dental Research as a component of the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this preamble as “NIH”), in response to an epidemic of tooth decay that adversely affected the oral health, overall health, and military readiness of the United States;

Whereas, on October 21, 1998, Congress changed the name of the National Institute of Dental Research to the National Institute

of Dental and Craniofacial Research (referred to in this preamble as “NIDCR”) to accurately reflect the support of NIDCR for both dental and craniofacial research;

Whereas NIDCR is the primary dental, oral, and craniofacial biomedical and behavioral research and research training organization in the United States, advancing fundamental knowledge about dental, oral, and craniofacial health and disease, disease prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies to improve overall health for all individuals and communities across the lifespan;

Whereas NIDCR is recognized by Congress, the NIH, oral health stakeholders, and the biomedical research community as a leader of the oral health research enterprise of the United States that supports research funding, management, and scientific training across the United States;

Whereas NIDCR performs interdisciplinary research and translates results from the laboratory to the clinic, by means of scientific excellence in laboratory, clinical, behavioral, translational, and population-based programs in support of the mission of the NIH, which is the premier biomedical research agency in the world;

Whereas NIDCR responds urgently to critical public health needs such as the COVID-19 pandemic, providing over \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2020 in grant supplements to study SARS-CoV-2, develop novel viral detection systems, and address critical needs of patients and oral health practitioners;

Whereas NIDCR collaborates with academic institutions, industry partners, and government agencies to disseminate information about discoveries to the public;

Whereas the researchers at NIDCR pioneered the use of epidemiology and preventive approaches to demonstrate that dental caries is an epidemic disease and community water fluoridation is a safe, effective, and economical way to prevent and reduce tooth decay;

Whereas NIDCR established—

(1) the Laboratory of Oral Medicine and the Laboratory of Microbiology and Immunology to conduct research on the causes, prevention, and treatment of periodontitis and other diseases of the soft tissues of the oral cavity;

(2) the Laboratory of Oral Biology and Physiology to conduct research on the cell biology of secretory tissues and proteins;

(3) the Mineralized Tissue Research Branch to investigate skeletal development and disorders;

(4) the Center for Integrative Biology and Infectious Diseases to investigate pain, tissue regeneration, oral cancers, autoimmune illnesses, salivary gland biology, and oral microbiota;

(5) the Center for Clinical Research to conduct clinical trials and practice-based research and to investigate clinical technologies, oral health disparities, and oral health for those with HIV/AIDS; and

(6) the National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse as a centralized public resource on oral health topics;

Whereas, in 2000, NIDCR established the NIDCR Patient Advocates Forum to enhance communication among patient groups and incorporate patient perspectives in research planning, and continues to maintain active engagement with the group;

Whereas NIDCR—

(1) launched the National Caries Program to prevent and reduce dental caries;

(2) created the Epidemiology and Oral Disease Prevention Program to investigate the national distribution of dental caries, periodontal diseases, and other oral diseases and disorders;

(3) launched the Research and Action Program to Improve the Oral Health of Older Americans and Other Adults at High Risk;

(4) established the first regional Dental Practice-Based Research Network, to investigate pressing clinical issues, including the association between bisphosphonates and osteonecrosis of the jaw, and methods for treating cracked teeth and tooth hypersensitivity; and

(5) launched the FaceBase Consortium to compile the biological instructions to build the human face and define the genetics underlying developmental disorders such as cleft lip and palate;

Whereas NIDCR—

(1) opened the first multidisciplinary pain clinic devoted exclusively to research;

(2) established major initiatives to support cutting-edge research on temporomandibular disorders (referred to in this preamble as “TMDs”);

(3) sponsored a technology assessment conference on the management of TMDs;

(4) launched the Orofacial Pain: Prospective Evaluation and Risk Assessment clinical study to examine risk factors that contribute to the development of TMDs;

(5) cosponsored the consensus study entitled “Temporomandibular Disorders: Priorities for Research and Care” to help inform approaches to advancing TMDs research and guide the development of evidence-based treatment and clinical management of patients with TMDs;

(6) established a TMD Multi-Council Working Group to develop a roadmap to strengthen the understanding of TMDs; and

(7) launched the national TMD Collaborative for Improving Patient-Centered Translational Research to advance research, training, and improved clinical care;

Whereas NIDCR sponsored a variety of scientific conferences, including Face of a Child, the first national, multidisciplinary meeting on children and oral health, and a consensus development conference, Dental Implants—Benefit and Risk, to examine available data, suggest future research, and draft guidelines for implant therapy;

Whereas NIDCR has made strategic investments in all areas of dental, oral, and craniofacial research, which has led to many scientific advances, including development of novel nanocomposites and self-healing dental restorative materials, the Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Tissue Regenerative Consortium, which was launched to develop methods for regenerating functional tissues of the human dental, oral, and craniofacial complex, and a NIDCR-sponsored symposium focusing on the Science and Development of Autotherapies;

Whereas, in 1999, NIDCR introduced its Strategic Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, supporting research to end oral health disparities and increase research and clinical workforce diversity, then funded 5 Centers for Research to Reduce Oral Health Disparities, which were among the first NIH centers focused on reducing health disparities;

Whereas, in collaboration with the Office of the Surgeon General, NIDCR supported the 2000 Oral Health In America: A Report of the Surgeon General, the first Surgeon General report dedicated solely to oral health, and, in 2021, released the Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges report, examining progress on the oral health of the United States and serving as a national call to action;

Whereas NIDCR released the NIDCR Strategic Plan: 2021–2026, which—

(1) articulates the vision of the NIH and identifies investments designed to diminish disparities and yield the greatest impact for those with dental and oral diseases;

(2) expanded collaborations and partnerships to accelerate new discoveries, including examining the nerves in the jaw and temporomandibular joint as part of the Restoring Joint Health and Function to Reduce Pain Consortium;

(3) launched the Practice-based Research Integrating Multidisciplinary Experiences in Dental Schools, to expand research training into dental school clinics equipping future oral health practitioners with the knowledge to carry out research; and

(4) released the Advancement of Head and Neck Cancer Early Detection Research initiative to develop biomarkers and novel technologies for early detection of malignant cells in order to halt oral cancer progression; and

Whereas NIDCR looks to the future of biomedical science by continuing to support, discover, and develop cutting-edge approaches to improve the dental, oral, craniofacial, and overall health of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (referred to in this resolution as “NIDCR”) and the critical role of NIDCR in advancing biomedical and behavioral research and the mission of the National Institutes of Health, the premier biomedical research agency in the world;

(2) commends NIDCR for its work to address the COVID-19 pandemic by investigating the transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 in dental settings, studying oral viral entry and infection, methods to prevent transmission, replication, and shedding, and supporting the development of the most promising treatments and vaccines; and

(3) declares that NIDCR is a vital, venerable, and essential component of the National Institutes of Health and the overall public health and science strategy of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I have 13 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 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, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

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, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.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, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 7024

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7024) to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to pro-

vide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I now ask for a second reading, and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 253, S. 1332.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1332) to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for our purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Direct support professionals play a critical role in the care provided to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing a wide range of supportive services on a day-to-day basis to promote independence, including—

(A) enhancing independence and community inclusion of these individuals, including through travel and recreation, visiting friends and family, shopping, or socializing;

(B) coaching and supporting individuals in communicating needs, achieving self-expression, pursuing personal goals, living independently, and participating actively in employment or voluntary roles in the community;

(C) providing assistance with activities of independent daily living (such as feeding, bathing, toileting, and ambulation) and with tasks such as meal preparation, shopping, light housekeeping, laundry, and home management; or

(D) supporting individuals at home, work, school, or any other community setting.

(2) Through the support of direct support professionals, individuals are able to lead self-directed lives within their own communities.

(3) Providers of home- and community-based services are experiencing difficulty hiring and retaining direct support professionals, with a national turnover rate of 43 percent, as identified in a 2021 study by the National Core Indicators, and full-time vacancy rates increasing by 94 percent between 2019 and 2021.

(4) High turnover rates can lead to instability for individuals receiving services, and this may result in individuals not receiving enough personalized care to help them reach their goals for independent living.

(5) A discrete occupational category for direct support professionals will help States and the Federal Government—

(A) better interpret the shortage in the labor market of direct support professionals; and

(B) collect data on the high turnover rate of direct support professionals.

(6) The Standard Occupational Classification system is designed and maintained solely for statistical purposes, and is used by Federal statistical agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

(7) Occupations in the Standard Occupational Classification system are classified based on work performed and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or training needed to perform the work.

(8) Establishing a discrete occupational category for direct support professionals will—

(A) correct an inaccurate representation in the Standard Occupational Classification system;

(B) recognize these professionals for the critical and often overlooked work that they perform for the disabled community, which work is different than the work of a home health aide or a personal care aide; and

(C) better align the Standard Occupational Classification system with related classification systems.

SEC. 3. REVISION OF STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, as part of the first revision of the Standard Occupational Classification system occurring after the date of enactment of this Act, consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals as a healthcare support occupation.

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

If, after carrying out section 3, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget decides not to establish a separate code for direct support professionals in the Standard Occupational Classification system, the Director shall, by not later than 30 days after the first revision of the Standard Occupational Classification system occurring after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives explaining the Office of Management and Budget’s decision.

SEC. 5. NO NEW FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; that the committee-reported title amendment be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1332), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The committee-reported amendment to the title was agreed to as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a

separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.”.

HELPING ELIMINATE LIMITATIONS FOR PROMPT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 348, S. 3648.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3648) to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 3648

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Helping Eliminate Limitations for Prompt Response and Recovery Act” or the “HELP Response and Recovery Act”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF OBSOLETE DHS CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS.

The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1394) is amended by striking section 695 (6 U.S.C. 794).

SEC. 3. REPORTS.

(a) COVERED PERIOD DEFINED.—*In this section, the term “covered period” means—*

(1) *with respect to an initial report required under subsection (b), the period between the date of enactment of this Act and the date of the report; and*

(2) *with respect to any succeeding report required under subsection (b), the period between the date of the most recent report and the succeeding report.*

(b) REQUIREMENT.—*Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date that is 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—*

(1) *reviews how the repeal under section 2 has—*

(A) *prevented waste, fraud, and abuse; and*

(B) *promoted taxpayer savings; and*

(2) *includes, with respect to a contract entered into or extended by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under urgent and compelling circumstances during the covered period for which the Administrator did not solicit bids—*

(A) *the number of those contracts;*

(B) *the subject of each contract;*

(C) *the amounts obligated by the Administrator for each contract;*

(D) *if applicable, the State benefitted by each contract; and*

(E) *if applicable, the name of the major disaster or emergency for which each contract was entered into or extended.*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill,

as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3648), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUSNESS OF WIDESPREAD HEALTH CARE WORKER BURNOUT IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH WORKFORCE WELL-BEING, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 18, 2024, AS THE INAUGURAL “HEALTH WORKFORCE WELL-BEING DAY OF AWARENESS”

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 567.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 567) recognizing the seriousness of widespread health care worker burnout in the United States and the need to strengthen health workforce well-being, and expressing support for the designation of March 18, 2024, as the inaugural “Health Workforce Well-Being Day of Awareness”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 567) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 28, 2024, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES AND THE SUPPORT IT PROVIDES TO MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 583.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 583) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the National League of Cities and the support it provides to municipalities across the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 583) was agreed to.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask unanimous consent that 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 7, 2024, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 601, S. Res. 602, S. Res. 603, S. Res. 604, and S. Res. 605.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 21; 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 Executive Calendar No. 117, Jose Rodriguez, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; further, that at 11:30 a.m. the motion to proceed to the vote by which cloture was not agreed to on the Rodriguez nomination be agreed to, the motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote be

agreed to, and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Rodriguez nomination, upon reconsideration; further, that if cloture is invoked, all time be considered expired at 2 p.m.; that following the confirmation vote, the Senate resume legislative session for the consideration of Calendar No. 340, S.J. Res. 62, that the motion to proceed be agreed to and the Senate immediately vote on passage of the joint resolution; that upon disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate resume executive session and resume consideration of the Schydlower nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SANDERS.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, we are currently witnessing one of the worst humanitarian disasters in modern history, and the United States is complicit. Anyone who turns on the television or opens a newspaper can see the unbelievable devastation now taking place in Gaza. We can see—if we choose to see—the images of starving, emaciated children. And that is because one of our closest allies, Israel—a country we have poured tens of billions of dollars into—has created a situation in which hundreds of thousands of people are slowly starving to death.

The United States of America cannot—and must not—be complicit in this unspeakable tragedy. We cannot be complicit in starvation as a military strategy. We cannot be complicit in the physical and emotional destruction of an entire generation of beautiful Palestinian children.

For months, the United Nations and other aid organizations have warned about imminent starvation and possible famine in Gaza. And now that is exactly what is happening.

How did we get to this point? How have we—the Congress of the United States—allowed this situation to reach this point?

Nobody disputes that Hamas—a terrorist organization—started this war with its barbaric, brutal attack against Israel on October 7, which killed 1,200 innocent people and took more than 250 hostages.

And as I have consistently said, Israel had the right to respond to that

attack and go to war against Hamas. But it did not—and it does not—have the right to go to war against the entire Palestinian people, which is exactly what it has done and what it is doing right now.

Almost 32,000 Palestinians have been killed, and almost 74,000 have been wounded, two-thirds of whom are women and children. So 1.8 million Palestinians—80 percent of the population of Gaza—have been driven from their homes. Nearly 70 percent of the housing units and more than half of all buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed. Nothing has been spared—not refugee camps, not schools, not hospitals, not U.N. facilities. All have been bombed.

In the wake of the Hamas attack, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant declared a total siege of Gaza. He said:

We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly . . . There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed.

Well, he has kept his word. In many parts of Gaza today, there is no electricity or fuel. Hospitals have been destroyed, and water infrastructure has been made inoperable.

Israel has also blocked communications networks, making it impossible for humanitarian organizations to safely coordinate aid deliveries.

In this context, over 4 months ago in November, the U.N. first began to warn of severe shortages of food and water in Gaza—4 months ago—and of the imminent risk of starvation and possible famine. And aside from a brief pause in the fighting in late November which allowed aid to come in, very little has changed.

In December, the U.N. reported that Israel's blockade of food and water meant that a quarter of the population of Gaza—over half a million people—were one step away from famine.

In January, Senators VAN HOLLEN and MERKLEY went to the Rafah Crossing from Egypt to learn what was preventing humanitarian aid from getting into Gaza. They saw miles of trucks waiting, often for weeks, to be cleared by the Israelis.

They reported that trucks are unloaded and reloaded repeatedly. And if a single item is rejected, the entire cargo must start the weeklong process all over again.

And they heard about items being rejected for no reason, such as tents, medical kits, and water filters. In other words, our colleagues saw a process that was completely broken and no Israeli interest in fixing it, despite the profound humanitarian crisis that was developing.

It is difficult to look at these facts and not see, at worst, an intentional Israeli effort to starve the people of Gaza of what they need to survive and, at best—at best—a complete disregard for Palestinian lives.

And sure enough, in January, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said at a press conference that “we provide minimal humanitarian aid. . . . If we

want to achieve our war goals, we give the minimal aid.”

The situation, as a result, has continued to get worse and worse and worse. In the north, almost no humanitarian aid has gotten through in February. The Israelis rejected most U.N. attempts to deliver aid to the north and then began actually targeting the police who escort U.N. aid trucks. Amid the desperation of north Gaza, this has led to incidents in which hundreds of starving Palestinians, desperate to secure food, were shot by Israeli troops or trampled in the chaos.

For 3 weeks now, reports have emerged of people eating leaves and animal feed to try to stay alive, and the first long-feared reports are coming in of children dying from malnutrition and dehydration.

A few aid convoys are now getting through to the north. Under intense U.S. pressure, Israel has allowed about half—half—of the requested humanitarian missions to proceed in recent weeks. But that is still nowhere near enough to reverse months of starvation and stave off a wave of deaths from malnutrition, dehydration, and preventable diseases.

Earlier this week, the U.N. and other humanitarian NGOs released a new version of their most comprehensive assessment of the food crisis, called the IPC. I would just like to read the headline here.

Famine is imminent as 1.1 million people, half of Gaza, experience catastrophic food insecurity.

That is the headline. The report goes on to say that “extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality [are] imminent for more than two-thirds of the people in the north.” And that is a technical way of saying that more than 200,000 people are now starving to death and that if nothing changes, more than a million people could starve.

At least 31 people, including 27 children, have already died of starvation and dehydration. And the real total is much likely higher, as aid organizations and medical teams are unable to reach the hardest hit areas.

UNICEF said on Friday that nearly one in three children under 2 years of age in northern Gaza suffers from acute malnutrition.

We put billions and billions of dollars into Israel year after year. And today, nearly one in three children under 2 years of age in northern Gaza suffer from acute malnutrition.

Once a young child reaches that point, it is very difficult to reverse the process. The child's body consumes itself from within, and only through careful medical treatment can they be saved—treatment that is impossible without a functioning healthcare system, a system that certainly does not exist in Gaza today.

Let me repeat. We can hide our eyes. We can talk about a million other things. We can talk about this and that and everything else. But right now, the

reality is that tens of thousands of children are dying slow, painful deaths. And we are complicit in that reality.

All of this is preventable. As of yesterday, 1,200 trucks were waiting to enter Gaza—more than 800 of which were carrying food supplies. Hundreds and hundreds of trucks carrying food is sitting just a short distance from starving children. And yet the United States and other countries have had to resort to airdropping supplies. They are trying to find ways to deliver aid by sea. In other words, we have put billions of dollars of aid—military aid—into Israel, and we are now trying to figure out a way to get beyond Israel's blocking at the borders by dropping food in the air or coming in through the sea, all of which is very expensive and very inefficient.

These contortions are absurd. There is no reason as to why trucks should not be able to drive across the border into Gaza, including through crossings in the north.

Looking at the situation this week, the U.N. senior human rights official said that "Israel's continued restrictions on entry of aid into Gaza . . . may amount to the use of starvation as a method of war"—starvation as a method of war—"which is a war crime."

The President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the National Security Advisor—the whole U.S. Government—has been begging the Israeli government to change their approach for months now. Aside from opening one border crossing, there is nothing to show for all of that begging.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has taken the billions of dollars in military aid that American taxpayers have given him. He has taken our bombs and military equipment, and he has done exactly what he wants to do. We give him the money. We tell them what we think is right. He ignores us. He does what he wants to do.

Far from flooding the zone with aid—which has been the United States' position. We want to flood the zone with humanitarian aid, as is, in fact, necessary to avert mass death from starvation, dehydration and disease. The Israelis, this week, denied entry to Gaza for the head of UNRWA, the backbone of the humanitarian aid operation there.

Indeed, attacking UNRWA seems to be a primary concern of the Israeli Government. Tens of thousands of people are starving. UNRWA is trying to feed them, and the Israeli Government and its allies, like AIPAC, spend much of their time lobbying to defund UNRWA, the major organization which is feeding starving people.

Sadly, tragically, many Members of Congress seem to be happy to be part of this starvation caucus, happy to cut

funding for UNRWA and make it harder to get aid to Palestinians in the midst this crisis.

Mr. President, as you know, the Senate passed a supplemental bill prohibiting funding to UNRWA against my vote, and it seems likely that the House will soon pass an appropriations bill containing additional provisions to defund this agency.

Israel has said that 12 UNRWA employees were involved in the October 7 attack. These are serious charges, and they are being investigated in a serious way. UNRWA immediately fired the accused employees, and the U.N. launched an investigation, as it should. I should note, by the way, that Israel has refused to cooperate with the U.N. investigation.

UNRWA plays a critical role in getting desperately needed humanitarian aid to millions of Gazans, and it is essential to regional stability, not only in Gaza but in Jordan and in neighboring countries. Whatever the outcome of this investigation, you do not starve millions of people and hundreds of thousands of children because of the alleged actions of 12 UNRWA employees out of a workforce of 30,000.

We should remember, by the way, that the Israeli military has killed 171 U.N. staff since this war began. But somehow my colleagues here in Congress—or many of them—seem not to pay much attention to that.

I think that all over this country, there is a lot of anguish in the hearts and the souls of American people. Whether you are a conservative Republican, whether you are an Independent, whether you are a progressive, you do not want to see hundreds of thousands of children starve to death while food trucks sit a few miles away. I don't think there are many Americans who want to see that.

The American people do not want to see a situation in which a longtime American ally, Israel, is using U.S. weapons and equipment to block the delivery of U.S. humanitarian aid, which, by the way, is against the law. Any country that blocks American humanitarian aid, by law, should have its funding ended.

The American people, in my view, no matter what your politics may be, do not want to be complicit in the slaughter of small kids who are bombed to death while they sleep.

The American people, in my view, do not want us to continue funding Netanyahu's cruel war.

I think maybe it is time we start listening to the American people. In my view, when we listen to the American people, what we have to do is stop begging the Israeli Government to end this humanitarian disaster. We have to stop begging them, and we have to start telling them that if they want U.S. aid,

they are going to have to fundamentally change what they are doing.

The fact of the matter is—and no one disagrees with this—that if you want the kind of aid that is needed to prevent the starvation that is taking place, what you need is a massive process of sustained ground deliveries. That means many, many, many hundreds of trucks every single day getting into Gaza and going into the most desperate areas. If you want to feed people, that is the only way you can do it efficiently.

Israel must open the borders and allow the U.N. to deliver supplies in sufficient quantities throughout all of Gaza. Israel must stop military operations—cease fire—to allow that to happen.

The bottom line here is that the United States must make it absolutely clear to the rightwing, extremist Israeli Government led by Netanyahu that failure to open up access immediately, failure to allow starving children to get the food they need and the medical equipment they need will result in the complete shutoff of the full range of American assistance to Israel.

The American people are not stupid. They understand that you can't go around criticizing Netanyahu, attacking Netanyahu, doing this and doing that and then say: Oh, by the way, we were just kidding, because here is your check for \$10 billion to continue your military assault against the Palestinian people.

History will judge what we do right now. History will judge whether we stand with starving children, whether we uphold American values or we provide massive aid to a war machine that is operating in an unbelievably barbaric way.

Mr. President, the United States must make it clear: not another nickel for Netanyahu's war machine.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:59 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 20, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

EUMI K. LEE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

EDWARD SUNYOL KIEL, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.