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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, yesterday, millions witnessed a full solar eclipse. Many resonated with the sentiments of the Psalms that the heavens declare Your glory and the skies show forth Your handiwork. Your hand guides through the boundless skies the flight of water fowl. Let that same hand take us away from the self-sufficiency that ignores our need for You. Lord, make our hearts receptive to Your plans.

Today, bestow upon our lawmakers special gifts of wisdom and understanding that they may uphold what is right and follow what is true. Increase their faith, strengthen their judgment, and quicken their zeal for integrity and honor.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan M. Bazis, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, former President Trump reminded the entire country that, if there is anyone to blame for the annihilation of Roe v. Wade and the gro-

tesque reversal of women's personal freedoms, it is Donald Trump and the Republican Party.

On Truth Social, yesterday, the former President said he was "proudly the person responsible" for putting radical jurists on the Supreme Court for the explicit purpose of overturning Roe.

Let me repeat that so all of America knows the real truth.

Former President Trump said, yesterday, he was "proudly the person responsible" for putting radical jurists on the Supreme Court for the explicit purpose of overturning Roe.

Does anyone think that, should Trump become President again, he won't try again to add even more extreme jurists to the bench so he can continue his assault on women's reproductive freedoms?

To this day, Donald Trump continues to boast of his extreme views on the right to choose, and we all remember his support for a national abortion ban. No matter how much he might want people to forget, people won't.

The president of the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, a major anti-abortion rights group, reminded everyone, yesterday, that they will still support Donald Trump because, when push comes to shove, they know, should former President Trump return to office, he will continue supporting a Federal abortion ban and continue to erode women's rights. After all, this is the Donald Trump who, when he was President in the past, said women who seek reproductive care deserve to be punished. That is what he said: They deserve to be punished.

And that is the bottom line. If Republicans get into power, they will not hesitate to push for a national abortion ban. Many Republicans in both Chambers have been on record supporting a national abortion ban for years. A national abortion ban, for instance, was included in the Republican Study Committee budget released just 2 weeks

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



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ago—an organization that counts the majority of House Republicans, including their leadership, as members. So Republicans cannot hide from this.

Republicans know that their views are dangerously out of step with the public. Here in Congress, Republicans have claimed to support access to IVF and paid lip service to supporting women's access to reproductive services. But Americans know actions speak louder than words. Not 1 month ago, Senate Republicans blocked legislation to preserve IVF, and Speaker JOHNSON has publicly opposed Federal action protecting it.

So Republicans and Donald Trump can try to hide their anti-abortion records all they want, but the American people will see right through it today, tomorrow, and in November.

UKRAINE

Now, Mr. President, on Ukraine, 775 days since Vladimir Putin began his illegal invasion, the war in Ukraine now stands at a bitter and decisive stalemate. Russian forces today control about 20 percent of Ukrainian territory. As one recent headline from the Washington Post put it, "With no way out of a worsening war, Zelensky's options look bad or worse."

Now, let's be very clear about one thing: The tide of the war is shifting against Ukrainians not because they are giving up, not because they aren't brave enough, or because they are somehow inferior to Russian soldiers. They are not; they are superior. No. Ukraine is losing ground on the war because it is running out of the tools it needs to wage war to begin with. Ukrainians are low on ammo, on soldiers, on weapons, on anti-aircraft defenses.

And let's be blunt: The biggest reason Ukraine is losing the war is because, here in the U.S. Congress, the hard right has paralyzed the U.S. House of Representatives from taking necessary action. That is it, plain and simple—no ifs, ands, or buts.

It has now been 56 days since the Senate passed a national security supplemental package with robust military aid to help Ukraine. It passed with just about every Democrat and close to a majority of Republicans voting for it. This package could mean the difference between victory and defeat for Ukrainian fighters. In fact, President Zelenskyy himself said as much when he spoke to the Senate in December.

But sadly, alarmingly, tragically, Speaker JOHNSON has sat on his hands for nearly 2 months now as the supplemental package collects dust in the House.

House Republicans have refused to move because an increasingly vocal pro-Russian, pro-Putin minority seems to be running the show within their ranks—a contingent that takes its marching orders directly from Donald Trump. As one former House GOP Member called them, they are like the "Putin wing" of the Republican Party.

The Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee re-

cently said in an interview that Russian propaganda has now "infected a good chunk of my party's base." That is a Republican talking about what has happened to the base—the hard-right base of his party.

Even the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee admits that some within his own party are becoming evangelists of Russian propaganda. As he said just a few days ago, "We see directly coming from Russia attempts to mask communications that are anti-Ukraine and pro-Russia messages, some of which we even hear being uttered on the House floor."

That is what the Republican chair of the House Intelligence Committee said: We are hearing pro-Russian messages being uttered on the House floor.

Ronald Reagan is rolling in his grave. Speaker JOHNSON has to decide for himself whether or not he will do the right thing for Ukraine and for America or if he will allow MAGA Republicans and the Putin wing of the Republican Party to hand Vladimir Putin the victory he seeks.

History, Speaker JOHNSON, is watching. History is looking right over your shoulder. Do the right thing.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. President, on student debt, this week, President Biden announced a new executive action to relieve the burden of student debt for another 30 million Americans—30 million Americans—a little less than 1 out of 10 of our population. When you count their families and spouses, it is even more. The President's new student debt plan is great news for everyone, particularly for borrowers in communities of color, who are disproportionately impacted by the student debt crisis.

For too long—far too long—the burden of student debt has held borrowers of color back from reaching the middle class and beyond. President Biden's plan will deliver much needed relief for these borrowers and many more and give them all the chance at achieving the American dream.

Democrats will continue to do everything in our power to lower costs and make college more affordable for everybody.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Now, Mr. President, on CHIPS—the chip program—last week, Americans learned that the economy added a whopping 300,000 jobs in the month of March, blowing past most expectations and proving, yet again, that under Biden and Democrats, the economy is on the right track. Our economy has now added a record 15 million new jobs—15 million new jobs since President Biden took office—the greatest turnaround of any President in all of our history. Last year alone, the economy created more jobs than in any year of the Trump administration.

Across the country, manufacturing and job creation is surging. Just yesterday, the President and Secretary Raimondo announced a preliminary deal with the TSMC Arizona company

to provide billions in Chips and Science incentives that will support over \$65 billion in private investment to build three leading-edge chip fabs in Arizona.

So let the good news ring from coast to coast: The Chips and Science Act, which I worked hard on to pass here in the Senate, along with Senator YOUNG—bipartisan—is delivering on its promise to create jobs, increase innovation, bring manufacturing back to America, and revive forgotten corners of the country.

Just like the announcements of GlobalFoundries, Intel, and others, this week's announcement means new jobs and new economic activity are on their way. And there is yet more to come with further investments in projects like Micron's proposed \$100 billion project in Upstate New York.

With the Chips and Science Act—along with the infrastructure law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the American Rescue Plan—we Democrats made historic investments in American manufacturing and workers, and it is now clear—very clear—that these investments are paying off even more largely than most people thought.

So while House Republicans spend a lot of energy attacking women's choice, calling for cuts to Social Security, and raising the retirement age, Democrats are proud of what we have done. We have created jobs; we have lowered costs, and we are bringing manufacturing—good manufacturing, good-paying jobs—back to our shores.

So thank you to my colleagues who worked with me on Chips and Science, including Senators KELLY, BROWN, CANTWELL, WYDEN, WARNER, and many more. There is a lot of work to do. The economy still needs help, and we can't let up. But America is certainly headed in the right direction.

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, while the Senate was away from Washington, we received some sobering reminders about the challenges facing America and our friends in a dangerous world and about how to meet them.

In Gaza, innocent people continue to suffer with the cowardice and hateful violence of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Just last week, as Israel continued the difficult, necessary, and existential work of eliminating the terrorist threat, the tragic consequences of this war were brought once again into focus. The misidentification that led to

the deaths of seven aid workers in an IDF strike was a gut-wrenching reminder that even when a sovereign nation exercises the utmost restraint in the face of enemies to use violence as a first resort, even as our ally Israel takes great pains to minimize casualties among the innocent civilians who its enemies exploit at every turn, war is still hell. And for people in Gaza over the past 17 years since Hamas seized control, life has been its own sort of hell as well.

For years, the supposed authorities in the enclave have spent their time burrowing under the homes and mosques of innocent families and the schools of innocent children. They have used concrete and building supplies intended for civilians to build military bunkers instead. They have brazenly stolen the humanitarian aid their civilian subjects depend on. They have thrown Palestinians loyal to the political rivals off of buildings, and they have continually traded innocent lives for one more day to wage a war on Israel.

Iran's terrorist proxies in Gaza are responsible for the horrors of this war. Their hatred for Jews—and refusal to acknowledge the existence of the Jewish State of Israel—is the reason for this pain and suffering of the last 6 months.

America cannot afford to lose moral clarity about the conflict. But I am afraid that too many of our leaders are. President Biden expressed outrage at last week's deadly accident—an event his own administration acknowledges was a tragic accident—which begs the question of whether he is also outraged at the way Israel's terrorist aggressors violate international law by turning hospitals and schools into fighting positions.

Instead of welcoming Israel's swift investigation and efforts to hold personnel accountable for their mistakes—accountability that has been sorely lacking during President Biden's own administration—the President caved further to domestic political pressure.

He indulged his radical base and called for an immediate cease-fire. He embraced an alternate reality in which cease-fire wasn't exactly the state of play that Hamas exploited on October 7. A fantasy world in which leaving Hamas intact doesn't lead to further terrorism against Israelis and Palestinians alike. Unfortunately, the Democratic party has become unmoored from a long tradition of bipartisan support for Israel.

According to one headline this week:

Democrats fear Netanyahu may have undermined Biden's image among voters.

Apparently, the leftwing activists who can't seem to distinguish between terrorism and self-defense aren't just calling the shots at the White House but also on the President's reelection campaign. They don't seem to care that it isn't just a sovereign ally's leader they disagree with, but the over-

whelming majority of Israeli public who believe Hamas must be defeated.

Meanwhile, President Biden is reportedly taking a cue from the odious Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and considering labeling goods from Israel's settlement communities in order to ramp up the pressure on the Israeli Government.

Of course, this sounds like child's play alongside the claim of one of our own Senate colleagues made just yesterday, that on legal grounds, Israel's campaign against Hamas is genocide.

What on earth should other friends of America think when they see the way we treat allies under attack? How should they square the Biden administration's pledge to support Ukraine's defense “as long as it takes” with support for Israel that is, apparently, as soft as the will of the most radical elements of the Democratic Party?

This cannot be the message America sends to the world. Leadership means standing up for America's interests—from the Indo-Pacific to Europe to the Middle East—even when the most active members of one's political base aren't willing to.

Right now, Congress has an opportunity to model this obligation for a President who clearly doesn't understand it. The House has an opportunity to pass the national security supplemental, and America has an opportunity to show our allies and partners that they can count on our support and show our adversaries that they can count on our relentless intention.

NOMINATION OF ADEEL ABDULLAH MANGI

Mr. President, now on another matter, I have spoken repeatedly about Adeel Mangi, the nominee to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals: both his shocking ties to anti-police and anti-Israel radicals and Democrats' increasingly frantic efforts to whitewash them.

Nineteen different law enforcement groups have written in opposition to this nominee. As the senior Senator from Nevada noted:

Mr. Mangi's affiliation with the Alliance of Families for Justice is deeply concerning. This organization has . . . advocated for the release of individuals convicted of killing police officers.

No wonder law enforcement is aggravated.

But rather than confronting this blue wall of opposition honestly, some of our Democratic colleagues have taken to weaving conspiracy theories.

The junior Senator from Rhode Island came to the floor recently to explain that this is all part of a vast scheme orchestrated by a lawyer named Leonard Leo. Apparently, Mr. Leo not only controls police unions from Hawaii to New York, but his reach is so insidious that the Zionist Organization of America is apparently taking orders from a Roman Catholic. With shadowy influence like that, it is no wonder my friend from Rhode Island is terrified of Mr. Leo. Perhaps we should cut to the chase and ask Mr.

Leo who killed JFK or where he has been hiding Elvis all these years.

Well, there is one thing even my friend from Rhode Island would have to admit that Mr. Leo does not control, and that is Adeel Mangi's Senate judiciary questionnaire. To see Mr. Mangi's radical associations, one must look no further than that document. They are right there on the page.

Of course, both in his questionnaire and in his hearing, Mr. Mangi hid the full extent of his relationship with the anti-Semitic director of the terror-endorsing Rutgers center. He also hid the full extent of his paid work for causes Democrats find truly odious, like pharmaceutical innovation and fossil fuel consumption.

If there is any covert operation at work here, it is Mr. Mangi's, and our Democratic colleagues would be wise to figure out what else he is hiding. Indeed, the situation for this nomination has become so dire that Mr. Mangi took the almost unprecedented step of writing to the junior Senator from New Jersey to disclaim any real knowledge of an organization on whose advisory board he sits. Mr. Mangi tried to justify his association with cop-killing domestic terrorists by claiming ignorance of the full extent of AFJ's radicalism. It is the same see-no-evil excuse he attempted for his moral and financial support for the anti-Semitic center at Rutgers. Is this the defense of an aspiring appellate judge—that he was ignorant and careless?

My colleague from Rhode Island says Mr. Mangi is “as well trained and intelligent as any candidate who has ever come before the Judiciary Committee.” My legal training is well behind me, but I am quite sure that it included basic due diligence. He may have “the dignity and decorum of an Oxford don,” but an Oxford don knows to check his sources.

There are only two explanations: Either Mr. Mangi is so careless that he repeatedly neglected to conduct the simplest due diligence before joining advisory boards of radical groups or he joined these groups intentionally. Either one makes him unfit for this lifetime appointment.

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.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, tomorrow afternoon, the House of Representatives will transmit Articles of Impeachment against Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas to the U.S. Senate. And the Democrat leader? Well, by all accounts, the Democrat leader will move to sweep the articles and the border security crisis that they represent

under the rug by immediately dismissing the charges. It is not particularly surprising given Democrats' history of minimizing the crisis at our southern border, but it is disappointing nonetheless.

The House of Representatives has put forward serious charges, along with evidence to support those charges, and it is not too much to ask that the Senate take this matter seriously and explore these charges before dismissing them.

In a courtroom, a case is not dismissed without the court taking the time to examine the facts, and the Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, should be no different. The Senate should have a full trial and take the time to examine whether Secretary Mayorkas's actions warrant a conviction. Then the Senate should be able to vote guilty or not guilty.

One thing is absolutely clear, and that is that Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden have presided over the worst border crisis on record. We have had 3 successive years of record-breaking illegal immigration under President Biden. Now, let that just sink in for a minute. We have had 3 successive years of recordbreaking illegal immigration under President Biden. Fiscal year 2021 saw a record-breaking 1,734,686 migrant encounters at our southern border. Then fiscal year 2022 broke that record, and then fiscal year 2023 broke that record. If the current trajectory continues, it is likely that fiscal year 2024 will break the record yet again.

While there are always various factors that affect the flow of migration, there is a reason that President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have presided over 3 successive years of record-breaking illegal immigration, and that reason is the weak border security policies of the Biden administration.

From the day he took office, when he rescinded the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border, President Biden made it clear that border security was at the bottom of his priority list. Over the 3 years since, he and Secretary Mayorkas have turned our southern border into a magnet for illegal migration, from repealing effective border security policies from the Trump administration to abusing our asylum and parole systems, which are now providing temporary amnesty to hundreds of thousands of individuals here illegally.

Under U.S. immigration law, parole, which is the temporary release into the country of an individual for an extenuating reason, is meant to be used on a case-by-case basis only for "significant public benefit," like appearing as a witness in a trial, or "urgent humanitarian reasons," like a medical emergency. But under Secretary Mayorkas, the Biden administration has created a system of mass parole, with groups being approved en masse for release into the country. In fiscal year 2023, the Biden administration paroled 22

times—22 times—as many individuals per month from southwest border ports of entry as did the Trump administration.

Meanwhile, on the asylum front, President Biden's decision to implement a mobile app, CBP One, for filing asylum claims has helped result in hundreds of thousands of individuals taking up residence in our country, often for years, many of whom are unlikely ever to be approved for asylum.

Needless to say, the number of individuals flooding across our southern border under President Biden and Senator Mayorkas is a logistical nightmare. The Border Patrol is stretched thin, and U.S. cities at the border and across the country are being overwhelmed by the number of migrants. But even more than that—even more than that—this is a national security crisis.

Our country cannot be secure while we have 2½ million individuals a year pouring across our southern border. And that is not even counting the hundreds of thousands of known "got-aways"—individuals the Border Patrol saw but were unable to apprehend—the number of which, the Chief of the Border Patrol recently noted, is keeping him up at night.

Even some Democrat Senators here in the Senate have acknowledged that the crisis at our southern border has to be addressed, so I don't think it is too much to ask that we look seriously at the charges the House has brought against one of the chief architects of the Biden administration's lax border security regime, an individual so disconnected from the reality of the situation we face that he has repeatedly publicly asserted that the border is secure in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Unfortunately, I suspect the Democrat leader will continue his plan to sweep these charges under the rug. And with the President and Senator Mayorkas's demonstrated unwillingness to use the power of their offices to stem the flow of illegal migration, year four of the Biden-Mayorkas crisis will continue.

I yield the floor.

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

VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, time is running out. Time is running out for Vladimir Kara-Murza.

I was just at an event across the street with Vladimir Kara-Murza's wife Evgenia and their children. It was a bipartisan meeting of House and Senate Members and interested citizens. We all agree Secretary of State Blinken must secure the release of this U.S. permanent resident and Russian political prisoner, Vladimir Kara-Murza, before it is too late because, as I said, time is running out.

In the spring of 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza spoke the truth about Russia's evil invasion of Ukraine. The Putin regime

responded by arresting Mr. Kara-Murza and sentencing him to 25 years in jail for speaking the truth.

Only a corrupt regime would make it a crime to express an opinion to speak the truth. But that is what Vladimir Putin has done. He has arrested an innocent person and put him in jail for speaking the truth.

It has been a year since I led a bipartisan group of 81 lawmakers in an appeal to the Secretary of State—this same Secretary of State Blinken. It was the first anniversary of Mr. Kara-Murza's imprisonment. We urged the administration, on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, to label Vladimir "unlawfully and wrongfully detained."

We asked for that designation because that title is more than just words under the statute. It would prioritize Mr. Kara-Murza's case at the State Department, and it would unlock new tools for our negotiators to act with speed and success to get him released. And he needs that speed.

Since we last wrote the Secretary about Mr. Kara-Murza, nothing has changed; nothing has changed, that is, except his decreasing health and increasing danger.

Mr. Kara-Murza's family has grave concerns that he may not survive much longer. So we are talking about the life of this permanent U.S. resident. Before this prison term, the Russian dictator, Putin, had tried twice to assassinate Mr. Kara-Murza by poisoning him. He was indeed poisoned. And although Vladimir survived each attempt, the efforts succeeded in weakening his body.

And then when Alexei Navalny recently died mysteriously in a Russian prison, Mr. Vladimir Kara-Murza became the most prominent imprisoned democracy advocate still alive in Russia. The target on his back has now grown bigger, so it is all the more important that Vladimir be freed.

This week we reach the second anniversary of Mr. Kara-Murza's incarceration. This week, I am leading dozens and dozens of my congressional colleagues in another bipartisan, bicameral request to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. I encourage even more Members to sign on to this letter before we send it to the Secretary later this week.

For 2 years, despite the danger, despite the imprisonment, Mr. Kara-Murza has not been silenced. He refuses to be silenced. Every so often, from behind prison bars, he is able to tell the world his thoughts through newspaper columns, for example.

The world has benefited from his words. No jail cell or word limit has been able to stifle Vladimir Kara-Murza's advocacy. He put it well recently. Last month, from prison colony No. 7 in Siberia, he wrote, "Sometimes the most powerful tool of all is simply telling the truth."

Telling the truth in Russia apparently gets you a 25-year sentence. It

takes courage to tell the truth in Russia. Let's stand with Mr. Kara-Murza as he tells the truth.

Many of us have worked with him. I consider him a friend. I admire him. He is certainly a friend of this body and of this free Republic. Let's stand with Kara-Murza now.

We have come to know his wife and children who are U.S. citizens. Let's stand with them now as they work for his freedom.

For the second year in a row, we call on Secretary of State Antony Blinken to designate Mr. Vladimir Kara-Murza as "wrongfully detained." We call on Secretary Blinken to secure his release, reunite him with his family, keep his freedom-loving voice from being extinguished. Save his voice while we still can.

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.

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

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, Senator STABENOW be permitted to speak for 5 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to address the urgent need to support the people of Baltimore in the wake of the tragic Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse.

This is near and dear to my heart because of the 35W bridge collapse, and I am well-aware of the response of Congress at that moment many years ago, and I think it is relevant to some of the discussions that have come out of the Baltimore bridge collapse. I thought I would share them with my colleagues today.

First, my heart is with the entire city of Baltimore, especially the families and loved ones of the six workers who died and the workers still trapped on the boat that struck the bridge. I know our colleagues Senator CARDIN and Senator VAN HOLLEN are working around the clock to support the victims' families. President Biden was just at the bridge and has pledged his support to get this rebuilt and to open the port and to do everything necessary. And we must stand with them.

I thank the heroic first responders, the Coast Guard, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the Maryland officials, including, of course, Governor Moore, who acted swiftly and made sure that lives were saved. Yes, you think about the story of the immediate response to the mayday and the first responders in the middle of the night who made sure other cars didn't get on that bridge. You also think of

the Governor there the next day making sure people knew what had happened and what their plans were.

I am thankful for the efforts of brave workers leading the cleanup process, which we know poses serious risks to their safety. The Key Bridge wasn't just a way to get from Hawkins Point to Sparrows Point. It was a unifying force for the people of Baltimore from all walks of life. As one longtime resident, a doctor and son of immigrants, put it:

Every single Baltimorean felt that bridge fall down. That's our London Bridge. That's our Golden Gate Bridge. It was like a friend constantly saying hello to me in the morning . . . The bridge was a lifeline to schools and work . . . It was a bridge to the American Dream.

In addition to the devastating human tragedy of the collapse, the lack of a bridge that carried over 31,000 vehicles across the river every day will have economic repercussions, and we know it now. It is a major artery for the city and critical point of access for the Port of Baltimore, which handles more cars and trucks than any other port in our country, supporting more than 15,000 jobs and indirectly supporting 140,000 more. Every day that port is closed could cost our economy up to \$15 million. That is why we have no time to waste. Baltimore's recovery and our entire economy depend on us stepping up and working together.

Here is our story in Minnesota and why it is relevant. On August 1, 2007, in the middle of the most beautiful day both here in Washington and in Minnesota, the eight-lane I-35W bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River. It took the lives of 13 people and injured many more. Just like in Baltimore, it would have been so much worse if those first responders had fled away from danger but fled to it. They literally didn't know in Minnesota what had happened.

In Baltimore, you could see a ship had hit it. But in Minnesota, we didn't know what had happened. But they ran into those waters of the Mississippi River and got survivors out and helped people. Our bridge actually carried more traffic than Baltimore—over 140,000 vehicles a day. It was eight blocks from my house. It was a bridge that I would take all of the time to bring our daughter to visit her friend. As I said that day when it happened, a bridge just shouldn't fall down in the middle of America; but when it does, we rebuild it.

Here are the heroes very similar to what you see in Baltimore: Shannon Hanson, the off-duty Mississippi firefighter diving in and out of the water searching for survivors up and down the river; Paul Eickstadt, the Taystee truck driver who veered off the bridge to save a schoolbus full of kids and then burned to death in his truck, which caught fire because of how he avoided that schoolbus; Jeremy Hernandez, the worker on that schoolbus. It was a bus of kids that were at a sum-

mer program. That bus, which they call the "miracle bus," was just hanging on the edge of the bridge. Instead of running off that bridge, he got every single kid off that bridge to safety by kicking open the emergency door and, one by one, getting those 52 kids off the bus.

Our job in Washington was, yes, to go there and stand with our first responders. And the minute we got there, the next morning, former Senator Coleman, Republican Senator, and I saw the emergency work. We had big billboards up everywhere within 12 hours telling people where to drive and how the traffic was diverted. But our job was to rebuild the bridge, to get the funding immediately to get it done. We worked together.

And within 2 days after that bridge collapsed, I came here and got a waiver of the cap of how much money could be spent on a bridge like that. It was a record. We got the waiver done. Everyone joined with us in the Senate. As I look at what was my chair over there as a freshman Senator, I remember the procedural hiccups involved in all of this, and I remember deciding my best bet was sit in my chair and say I wouldn't leave until it got done. And when the Senate started one morning, Senator DURBIN came over to me and said as they were saying the prayer: Somehow, I think you are here to do more than pray. And I said: Yes, I am not going to get up from this chair until we get this done.

He helped me to get that bridge done and include it in a major bill we had pending at the time, which was fortunate. So we got the funding immediately.

President Bush went back to the bridge several times. We were able to get it done. Not one Senator in this Chamber or one House member in this Congress played a blame game. Everyone saw it as the tragedy it was. They knew there would be investigations. They didn't mess around just because it was in a purple State—our State—or a blue State or a red State. We all came together to get it done.

And that bridge got built in record time—339 days from start to finish. Thirteen months later, an eight-lane highway, a humongous bridge—the most traveled-on bridge in the State of Minnesota—got done.

Rebuilding and recovering from the Key Bridge collapse demands that same bipartisan collaboration. The day of the collapse, President Biden said he would "move Heaven and Earth" to reopen the port and rebuild the bridge as soon as humanly possible. It is on Congress to help.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee to get to the bottom of what caused this collapse, but I also stand ready to support Senators CARDIN and VAN HOLLEN as they work to secure the funding to rebuild the bridge. I call on all of our colleagues to join us and not mess around.

In Minnesota, we stand with the people in Maryland, where the lights on our own I-35W bridge were lit in Maryland State colors of red, white, yellow, and black immediately after the collapse.

There is plenty of time for investigations and what went wrong with that large, large ship. That is happening right now. But the immediate focus of our country, because of the economic repercussions not only on Baltimore but on the entire country, is to get this rebuilt and to call people out when they are just trying to play politics with it and say things that are completely inappropriate when six people died on the bridge.

It wasn't that long ago that the I-35W bridge collapsed and our colleagues joined with us. Many of the people in this Chamber are still here. We need to do the same now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, before my friend from Minnesota leaves the floor, I want to thank her for her comments and say all of us stand with Baltimore.

I can't imagine people playing politics with something like this. It is such a tragedy that could happen and has happened to all of us in our States. This is what we are here to do is to work together to try to address and solve problems and help rebuild when that is necessary.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. WHITE

Mr. President, I rise today to strongly support the nomination of Robert White, who President Biden nominated to serve as the U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. Senator PETERS and I were very honored to recommend him. We will be voting on him today.

Mr. White has spent his career upholding the rule of law and keeping our communities safe. Since 2018, he has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, handling civil and criminal cases involving violent crime and healthcare fraud. That has been very bad news for criminals.

Mr. White helped lock up six members of one of Detroit's most violent gangs who were terrorizing a neighborhood and committing crimes, including a murder, shootings, robberies, and drug dealings. In 2022, Mr. White successfully prosecuted a Canadian truck driver who tried to drive across the U.S. border with 313 pounds of cocaine hidden in his semitrailer.

Mr. White began his career as a prosecutor in the Western District of Texas where he focused on fighting transnational organized crime, including Mexican cartels. And he did a very good job.

He was named the Outstanding Federal Attorney of the Year in 2017 by the El Paso Bar Association. In 2018, he was recognized by the FBI for his outstanding skills as a prosecutor. In 2020,

he received an award for excellence from the Council of the Inspectors General. And last year, the Homeland Security Investigations office in Detroit named him Prosecutor of the Year.

It is no surprise that the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. White as "well qualified."

In February, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed Mr. White's nomination through the Senate committee on a bipartisan basis by a vote of 14 to 7.

Democrats and Republicans agree he is the right person for the job. He is an outstanding nominee, and his experience will serve the people of the Eastern District well.

I urge my colleagues today to support his confirmation.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF SUSAN M. BAZIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Bazis to the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska.

Judge Bazis's deep ties to Nebraska and experience in the courtroom as a litigator and on the bench have prepared her to serve as a U.S. District Judge. A graduate of the University of Nebraska and Creighton University School of Law, Judge Bazis worked as a Douglas County public defender and later in private practice, including as a solo practitioner. Over the course of her legal career, she tried approximately 675 cases to verdict in front of administrative hearing officers and approximately 150 cases to verdict in courts of record.

In 2007, Judge Bazis was appointed to serve as a Douglas County Court judge, presiding over criminal, civil, probate, and protection order matters. Since 2017, she has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Nebraska. In over 15 years on the bench, she has presided over 550 cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

Judge Bazis has the strong support from her home State Senators, Mrs. FISCHER and Mr. RICKETTS. In addition, she was unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. Judge Bazis's significant courtroom experience as a litigator and as a jurist will ensure that she will continue to be an asset on the federal bench.

I urge my colleagues to support Judge Bazis's nomination.

VOTE ON BAZIS NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Bennet	Hirono	Risch
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Blumenthal	Johnson	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Rubio
Butler	Kennedy	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Capito	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Lee	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Lummis	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cornyn	McConnell	Thune
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tillis
Crapo	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Ernst	Murphy	Warren
Fischer	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wicker
Grassley	Paul	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	Young

NAYS—21

Boozman	Cruz	Mullin
Braun	Daines	Schmitt
Britt	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Budd	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	Vance

NOT VOTING—1

Fetterman

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will immediately be 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. 542, Robert J. White, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Robert J. White, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—58

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

NAYS—42

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The clerk read the nomination of Robert J. White, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:20 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

NOMINATION OF ADEEL ABDULLAH MANGI

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, one of my highest priorities has been the confirmation of judges to fill vacancies on the Federal bench.

Since the beginning of the Biden administration, the Senate has confirmed over 191 highly qualified, independent, and evenhanded jurists to the Federal bench. It is my belief that there will be a total of 193 in just a matter of days. They represent the best of our legal system—demographically and professionally diverse judges who respect the rule of law, adhere to precedent, and

above all, answer only to the Constitution. We should add another nominee to that list—Adeel Mangi—who has been nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

What an amazing resume. Mr. Mangi is eminently qualified. He graduated from Oxford and Harvard Law School. He spent more than 20 years in private practice at one of the top law firms in the United States. He focuses his practice on commercial litigation. Mr. Mangi has served as counsel of record in more than 30 matters before Federal appellate courts as well as eight amicus briefs submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court. He has gone above and beyond in his pro bono practice, devoting more than 4,000 hours to representing clients in religious discrimination, asylum, and employment discrimination cases.

Based on his record, you would think Mr. Mangi would be quickly confirmed, but I left out one fact on his resume: He is a Muslim American.

The treatment of this nominee before the Senate Judiciary Committee has reached a new low in many ways but also with historic echoes. More than 50 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall, who would become the first Black American to serve on the Supreme Court. In his confirmation hearing, Justice Marshall faced racist questions and McCarthy-like accusations that he was a Communist. If that sounds familiar, it is because Mr. Mangi—the first Muslim American nominated to the Federal appellate court—faced similar treatment at his hearing before our committee.

Committee Republicans subjected him to irrelevant, combative lines of questioning about the Israel-Hamas war. They even asked whether he celebrated the 9/11 terrorist attacks in his home. Think about that for a second: An American coming before the Senate Judiciary Committee, of the Muslim faith, is being asked if he celebrates the 9/11 anniversary in his home each year.

During the hearing and while under oath, Mr. Mangi unequivocally condemned anti-Semitism in all its forms and condemned any acts of terrorism no fewer than 10 times—10 times at one hearing. He also repeatedly denounced any form of hate or bigotry.

Any insinuation that Mr. Mangi is anti-Semitic or a terrorist sympathizer is rooted in anti-Muslim bigotry that has no place in our country or in Congress. The claims are simply false. He has represented a broad coalition of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, and other religious groups.

As Mr. Mangi said, it is “distinctly American for people of so many different faiths to come together in unity in this manner.”

What has been un-American has been the treatment Mr. Mangi has faced since his hearing. Republicans are trying to blame Mr. Mangi for statements by other people at events he didn't even attend and wasn't even aware of.

That is guilt by association. It is wrong. It is unfair.

Republicans have unfairly attacked Mr. Mangi for his nominal affiliation with the Alliance of Families for Justice. They falsely—falsely—claim that he supports “cop killers”—that he supports “cop killers.” That outrageous allegation could not be farther from the truth.

In Mr. Mangi's own words, he has “not represented or otherwise provided legal services to any individual convicted of killing a law enforcement officer.”

In addition, he has clearly stated:

I condemn any violence against law enforcement officers without equivocation.

As Mr. Mangi noted, it is “shocking and false” to suggest that he has sympathy for attacks on law enforcement.

On the other hand, during the Trump administration, Republicans voted unanimously to confirm two judges who had personally represented individuals who had killed police officers. Those individuals were entitled to their right to counsel—I am not arguing that point—but it just shows you how far they have gone in establishing a new standard—a totally unfair standard.

The treatment of Mr. Mangi by the Republicans puts their hypocrisy on full display. There cannot be one standard for Republican appointees and another for Democrats. Based on Mr. Mangi's actual record, more than 125 civil rights and human rights organizations support him—organizations representing more than 1 million Jewish Americans, including the National Council of Jewish Women and the Anti-Defamation League.

I want to say this point: After the terrible hearing that he was subjected to in the committee in December, the Anti-Defamation League volunteered a statement to our committee, which I read into the record, in defense of Mr. Mangi and in criticism of the harsh and unfair criticism of those at his hearing who blamed him for being anti-Semitic. Nothing could be further from the truth. These other organizations and ADL have openly supported his nomination and condemn the treatment he faced at his hearing.

In addition, Mr. Mangi has received the support of a number of law enforcement organizations, including the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and a bipartisan group of former New Jersey State attorneys general and U.S. attorneys.

Any judicial nominee should expect a close examination of his legal career before the committee. Since first being nominated, Mr. Mangi has been prepared for just that. However, he should not have to answer for baseless and bigoted attacks that do not accurately reflect him or his record in many different ways.

In a letter of support, retired Third Circuit Judge Timothy Lewis contrasted Mr. Mangi's experience as a

nominee to his own experience as one of only two Black judges nominated to the Federal appellate court by President George H. W. Bush. Judge Lewis noted that he was treated with respect by Republican Senators as well as Democratic Senators, who held the majority. Judge Lewis urged the Senate to treat Mr. Mangi with the same level of respect that he received.

He wrote:

If people from underrepresented communities believe they will be unfairly attacked, stereotyped, and rejected by the Senate, they are likely to think twice about being nominated, thus hindering efforts to make our courts look more like America.

Judge Lewis is right. I urge my colleagues to dismiss the smear campaign against Mr. Mangi and to support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BIDENOMICS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I were to choose a title for the remarks which I plan on making here briefly, I would call the title of these comments "The Case of the Vanishing American Paycheck."

Over the last few years, inflation has walloped family budgets. As we all know, prices have grown; they have grown again and grown some more, forcing people in Texas and all across America to scrimp and save just to try to get by. They have cut the number of trips to their favorite restaurant. They've made budget-friendly swaps at the grocery store by trading for less expensive items—maybe the store brand rather than your favorite brand. They have scrapped family vacations in favor of more affordable staycations. In many instances, they have had to make hard decisions between two competing, important expenses. For example, a couple of years ago, nearly 45 percent of Texans said they had to cut spending on basic necessities, including food and medicine, in order to pay their energy bill.

Polls continue to show that Americans believe they are even worse off today than they were 4 years ago, and it is easy to see why. Inflation is what has caused this basic shrinking of the great American paycheck. Real wages have fallen. Nominal wages seem to have gone up, but because of inflation, you actually have less purchasing power than you did 4 years ago. People who once lived comfortably are now living paycheck to paycheck.

Our Republican colleagues on the Joint Economic Committee recently analyzed economic data to determine just how much inflation is costing the average American family each month. They found that the average household in Texas is spending \$1,000 a month more today than they did in January of 2021 when President Biden was sworn into office—\$1,000 a month.

Biden economics, which, apparently, the President is so proud of that he has named his economic policies after him-

self—Biden economics is costing Texas families more than \$1,000 more each month, or \$12,000 in a year. On a monthly basis, that is up more than \$200 from a year ago—more than double the monthly inflation from 2 years ago.

Since President Biden took office, he and the leaders of his administration have tried to downplay the impact of inflation, but the American people aren't buying it. After all, the President gets to live in free government housing, otherwise known as the White House. He gets a nice fat paycheck each month. The President and the upper classes in America—the elites—are doing just fine. This kind of inflation doesn't change their lifestyles one bit; but for average Americans, it has a very real and negative impact.

For example, last week, the Wall Street Journal took a look at what \$100 could buy 4 years ago in the grocery store and compared that to what those same items would cost today. Four years ago, this grocery run would have cost you \$100. This includes many of the common items that families buy every week—bread and butter, eggs and milk, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, laundry detergent, dish soap, chicken, bread, and a whole lot more. This isn't a shopping trip for champagne and caviar; these are the basic grocery items that most people buy every single week to feed and provide for their families.

Over the past 4 years, though, the price of every single one of these items listed here has gone up. The cost of chicken, which is, frankly, a cheaper cut of meat than you might eat if you want to eat a steak on a rare occasion—well, you may have to trade down to chicken, but even chicken has gone up by 40 percent. The price of flour has gone up 43 percent, and sugar has increased 52 percent. A bottle of dish soap costs 46 percent more. Laundry detergent is 36 percent more, and a carton of eggs is up a whopping 63 percent.

Now, again, this probably doesn't affect President Biden. As I said, he gets to live in a very nice house at taxpayer expense, and he gets a big paycheck each month. He is doing just fine and so are most of the people who live in this area of the country; but where I come from and where the Presiding Officer comes from, there are a lot of people who are not part of that top 1 percent, who are experiencing the negative impact of Bidenomics and runaway inflation—the highest in 40 years.

Well, overall, this trip to the grocery store would have cost \$100 4 years ago but, today, \$136.89. In only 4 years, the price of a pretty standard grocery run has increased by 36 percent. It is a pretty startling data point, but the truth is most individuals and families in Texas and around the country don't need to see the data to know that their standard of living has decreased because of Bidenomics and 40-year-high inflation.

Folks I represent come face-to-face with higher prices every day, and it is

not just at the grocery store, as we all know. Families are dealing with higher costs for electricity, for rent, for car insurance, for home insurance, and countless other everyday expenses. These costs invariably add up, and they are having a big impact on the financial health and welfare of the people of every State, including mine.

The challenges of inflation are even more severe for those living on a tight budget or a fixed income. Think about those folks living on their Social Security benefits or maybe a pension from a job they held for 30 or more years. Keeping up with rising costs just keeps getting harder and harder and harder because of the policies of the Biden administration.

As I mentioned, people try to manage their budget. They cut down on expenses and make more budget-friendly swaps at the grocery store, and they take on additional jobs. Many Americans have simply decided that, in order to keep up, they need to get another job. So many are performing more than one.

But for many families, that still isn't enough to pay the bills and keep the lights on. Folks are exhausting their savings just to keep up with expenses, and many have been left with no choice but to take on new debt.

Where do they do that? They reach into their wallet, and they pull out their credit card. They say: I don't have the cash to pay the bills. So I will just put it on my credit card.

The average credit card debt increased by 10 percent last year—10 percent. The average credit card balance is now more than \$6,500. In Texas, the average is even higher, more than \$7,000.

So people unable to meet their rising costs of living, because of inflation, simply have no alternative other than to borrow money on their credit card.

It is easy to assume that credit card debt is caused by excessive spending on nonessential items, but that is not always the case. Experian surveyed credit card holders to understand what is driving this big increase in credit card debt. Nearly 68 percent of respondents said they had recently experienced a significant increase in their monthly bills. Among them, 75 percent said their new or increased bills have impacted their ability to pay down their credit card balances. We all know credit cards carry a much higher interest rate than you pay on your mortgage or other forms of debt.

Of course, folks aren't just taking on new debt. They are also struggling to make payments on existing debt, including student loans. When borrowers take out a loan, they know they will need to repay it. That is the deal. It is a contract. It is a legally enforceable agreement. But inflation has made that exponentially more difficult for many student loan borrowers.

I recently read a news article about how borrowers are struggling to repay their loans, given the growing cost of

living. For example, a high school teacher in Pennsylvania had two master's degrees and owes more than \$300,000 in student loans. She said: "If I pay this five, six, seven hundred dollars this month, how am I going to afford to buy food for the family for the month—[or] for the week?" That is a familiar struggle for many families.

After the "pause" on student loan payments ended, the first payment was due in October of this last year. The Education Department said that roughly 40 percent of borrowers still have not made that payment by mid-November.

Inflation is about far more than groceries or gas prices. It is a cancer that eats away at our entire economy and the standard of living of 330 million Americans. Inflation impacts the cost of living—as I said, student loan payments, credit card debt, mortgage rates, housing affordability, retirement planning, market volatility, economic growth, and so much more.

This is exactly—this is exactly—what Republicans and many leading economists predicted when our Democratic friends went on not one but two partisan spending sprees during the pandemic. First came the American Rescue Plan, which included a long list of progressive social policies.

You remember, back during the pandemic, there were bipartisan efforts to help develop a vaccine and treatments to save lives. Those were bipartisan. And then there were also programs like the Paycheck Protection Program and others, which were bipartisan efforts to throw an economic lifeline to people during the pandemic.

But after that had largely subsided, our Democratic colleagues just could not give up spending more borrowed money. As I said, it was primarily in pursuit, on a purely partisan basis, of pursuing progressive social policies—backdoor funding for Planned Parenthood, a blank check for mismanaged union pension plans, money for "climate justice"—whatever that is.

Our colleagues tried to brand this liberal utopia of a bill as "pandemic relief," but the pandemic had largely subsided. But they saw, in the immortal words of one former Member of Congress—he said an emergency is a terrible thing to waste, and our Democratic colleagues simply couldn't give up and let go to waste the emergency of the pandemic, even though it had largely subsided. And what they chose to do, then, was to add \$2 trillion of spending to the debt and to an already volatile economy. It was like pouring gasoline on a fire. What do you expect?

As Democrats pushed this bill forward, they ignored warnings from leading economists that this level of spending could trigger inflation. There is more and more money in the economy chasing the same or fewer goods and services. So, naturally, prices go up.

Harvard economist Larry Summers even predicted this package could "set off inflationary pressures of a kind we

have not seen in a generation." He was exactly right.

We could not convince our Democratic colleagues to change course. Instead, they chose to double down. After the so-called "American Rescue Act"—a partisan spending bill of almost \$2 trillion—our Democratic colleagues said: Well, we are not through yet. They went on a second partisan spending spree and gave it an embarrassingly out-of-touch title. They called it the Inflation Reduction Act. The truth is, it was not an Inflation Reduction Act. It was an "Inflation Nonreduction Act." It misleadingly suggested that, somehow, we had to spend another \$740 billion to bring down inflation, when, actually, spending that more money—pouring that gasoline on the economic fire—actually made things worse.

This bill included even more liberal priorities, including hundreds of billions of dollars for climate projects. In total, the second partisan spending bill added \$740 billion.

It is no surprise that it certainly didn't do anything to reduce inflation. As I said, it made it worse. All it did was drive up costs for folks all across the country and add to the mountain of debt—now roughly \$35 trillion—that our grandchildren will inherit.

And now President Biden and many of our Democratic colleagues want to spend even more money. They are not done yet. They want to spend more money to address the problems created by their own unchecked spending habits.

As I mentioned a moment ago, student loans are a fact of life for many, many people. But rather than try to figure out how to work through this debt to help people actually meet their legal and moral obligations to repay the money that they borrowed, the President has proposed spending roughly another half a billion dollars to "forgive" student loans.

But everybody knows there is no forgiveness of the loan. You are just transferring that obligation from the person who borrowed the money and agreed to repay it back to everybody else—the taxpayers across America, many of whom either worked at a job and paid for their college, so they didn't have to borrow money, or else they didn't go to a 4-year liberal arts college. They went to a community college so they could pay the tuition costs and not have to rack up a bunch of debt. So, once again, the Biden administration has decided to pour more gasoline on the fire by effectively transferring that obligation to the taxpayer.

The bottom line is, under Democratic leadership, Texans and the lives of 330-plus million Americans have just gotten harder.

The average Texas household is spending \$1,000 more a month compared to when President Biden took office. As I said, they are grappling with higher costs for food, for energy, for housing, for insurance, and other basic expenses.

Here is the bottom line. For your \$100 package or cart full of groceries 4 years ago, now you are paying \$136.89 for that. That is probably the most real and dramatic and tangible impact on most Texans and most Americans.

When the American people look at inflation and what misguided government policies have done to make their lives harder and to reduce their standard of living, it is no surprise that they are turning pessimistic about the state of our economy—certainly, about their own economic circumstances.

In a recent New York Times poll, more than half the respondents rated the economy as "poor." That was the worst option they were given.

A Wall Street Journal poll found that nearly three-quarters of voters say inflation is headed in the wrong direction. Maybe you could just call that a statement of the obvious.

What is also obvious is that Biden economics and Biden inflation is wreaking havoc on family budgets, and it is clear that President Biden has absolutely no plan, other than to continue to spend more and more money—to pour more and more gasoline on the fire.

He has had 3 years to address inflation, 3 years to tamp down rising costs, which are a hidden tax on most Americans' income. He has had 3 years to return to the 1.4 percent inflation rate that he inherited—1.4 percent inflation when he inherited the office.

Sadly, he has proven himself either unwilling or incapable of addressing the crisis. I suspect he is, frankly, just oblivious to the crisis because it doesn't affect him, living in 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, collecting a large paycheck each month. It doesn't affect him one bit. But it affects hundreds of millions of Americans.

For the sake of families across the country who are still being crushed by the weight of inflation, we need a change in management. We need a change in direction because, as I said, the American people are not fooled. They know we are on the wrong course, and we need to correct that course come November.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from North Dakota.

(The remarks of Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MARSHALL pertaining to the introduction of S. 4081 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. HOEVEN. I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. WHITE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Robert Jerome White to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Born in Royal Oak, MI, Mr. White received his B.A. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law. After graduating from law school, he worked as an associate attorney at Ralph E. Meczyk and

Associates from 2010 to 2014. There, Mr. White worked on cases involving financial crimes, healthcare fraud, bank/mortgage fraud, firearms offenses, drug-trafficking offenses, and organized crime.

In 2014, Mr. White began serving as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Western District of Texas's El Paso Division. From 2015 to 2018, he served on the organized crime and drug enforcement task force. In 2018, Mr. White continued his service as assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Michigan. He has served as the lead attorney on the Detroit dark web task force, where he investigated and prosecuted cases relating to wire fraud, aggravated identity theft, drug trafficking, and money laundering. Mr. White has also served as the office's digital asset coordinator and presently serves in the white-collar crime unit. Throughout his career, Mr. White has tried approximately 15 cases to verdict in Federal court.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. White as "well qualified," and his nomination is strongly supported by his home State Senators, Ms. STABENOW and Mr. PETERS. He also received bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee.

I am proud to support his nomination.

VOTE ON WHITE NOMINATION

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

Mr. HOEVEN. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Ex.]

YEAS—58

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

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Crapo	Lankford
Blackburn	Cruz	Lee
Boozman	Daines	Lummis
Braun	Ernst	Marshall
Britt	Fischer	McConnell
Budd	Grassley	Moran
Capito	Hagerty	Mullin
Cassidy	Hawley	Paul
Cornyn	Hoeven	Ricketts
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cramer	Johnson	Rubio

Schmitt	Sullivan	Vance
Scott (FL)	Thune	Wicker
Scott (SC)	Tuberville	Young

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. 535, Ann Marie McIff Allen, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Laphonza Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Sheldon Whitehouse, Gary C. Peters, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, 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 Ann Marie McIff Allen, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, 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 Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Baldwin	Duckworth	Manchin
Barrasso	Durbin	Markey
Bennet	Ernst	Marshall
Blackburn	Fetterman	McConnell
Blumenthal	Fischer	Menendez
Booker	Gillibrand	Merkley
Boozman	Graham	Moran
Braun	Grassley	Mullin
Britt	Hagerty	Murkowski
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Budd	Hawley	Murray
Butler	Heinrich	Ossoff
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Capito	Hirono	Paul
Cardin	Hoeven	Peters
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Cassidy	Johnson	Ricketts
Collins	Kaine	Risch
Coons	Kelly	Romney
Cornyn	Kennedy	Rosen
Cortez Masto	King	Rounds
Cramer	Klobuchar	Rubio
Crapo	Lankford	Sanders
Cruz	Lee	Schatz
Daines	Lujan	Schmitt
	Lummis	Schumer

Scott (FL)	Tillis	Welch
Shaheen	Tuberville	Whitehouse
Sinema	Van Hollen	Wicker
Smith	Vance	Wyden
Stabenow	Warner	Young
Tester	Warnock	
Thune	Warren	

NAYS—2

Scott (SC)

Sullivan

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 2.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ann Marie McIff Allen, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the revised memberships on the twelve subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations for the 118th Congress be printed in the RECORD. The new assignments reflect my selection as chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA's selection as chair of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, both for the remainder of this Congress.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Senator Murray, as Chair of the Committee, and Senator Collins, as Vice Chair of the Committee, are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Heinrich (chair), Tester, Merkley, Baldwin, Manchin, Peters, Sinema, Hoeven (ranking member), McConnell, Collins, Moran, Hyde-Smith, and Fischer. (7-6)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Shaheen (chair), Reed, Coons, Schatz, Manchin, Van Hollen, Merkley,

Peters, Heinrich, Moran (ranking member), Murkowski, Collins, Capito, Kennedy, Hagerty, Britt, and Fischer. (9-8)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Senators Tester (chair), Durbin, Murray, Reed, Schatz, Baldwin, Shaheen, Murphy, Coons, Collins (ranking member), McConnell, Murkowski, Graham, Moran, Hoeven, Boozman, and Capito. (9-8)

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Senators Murray (chair), Tester, Durbin, Shaheen, Merkley, Coons, Baldwin, Heinrich, Sinema, Kennedy (ranking member), McConnell, Murkowski, Graham, Hoeven, Hyde-Smith, Hagerty, and Britt. (9-8)

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Senators Van Hollen (chair), Durbin, Coons, Manchin, Heinrich, Hagerty (ranking member), Boozman, Kennedy, and Rubio. (5-4)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Senators Murphy (chair), Murray, Tester, Shaheen, Baldwin, Peters, Britt (ranking member), Murkowski, Capito, Kennedy, and Hyde-Smith. (6-5)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Merkley (chair), Reed, Tester, Van Hollen, Heinrich, Peters, Sinema, Murkowski (ranking member), McConnell, Capito, Hoeven, Fischer, and Britt. (7-6)

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Baldwin (chair), Murray, Durbin, Reed, Shaheen, Merkley, Schatz, Murphy, Manchin, Capito (ranking member), Graham, Moran, Kennedy, Hyde-Smith, Boozman, Britt, and Rubio. (9-8)

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Senators Reed (chair), Murphy, Van Hollen, Fischer (ranking member), and Rubio. (3-2)

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Sinema (chair), Murray, Reed, Tester, Schatz, Baldwin, Heinrich, Manchin, Peters, Boozman (ranking member), McConnell, Murkowski, Hoeven, Collins, Rubio, Hagerty, and Fischer. (9-8)

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Senators Coons (chair), Durbin, Shaheen, Merkley, Murphy, Van Hollen, Schatz, Graham (ranking member), McConnell, Boozman, Moran, Rubio, and Hagerty. (7-6)

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Schatz (chair), Murray, Durbin, Reed, Coons, Murphy, Manchin, Van Hollen, Sinema, Hyde-Smith (ranking member), Collins, Boozman, Capito, Graham, Hoeven, Kennedy, and Moran. (9-8)

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 informa-

tion 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)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0S. 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 19-74 of May 7, 2020.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0S

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of Egypt
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 19-74; Date: May 7, 2020; Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description: On May 7, 2020, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 19-74, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of equipment to refurbish forty-three (43) AH-64E Apache attack helicopters. This included: eighty-eight (88) T700-GE-701D engines (86 remanufactured, 2 spares); forty-seven (47) AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAR-11 Modernized Pilot Night Vision Sensors (MTADS/PNVS) (43 remanufactured, 2 new, 2 spares); forty-five (45) AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (43 new, 2 spares); and ninety-two (92) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) (86 new, 6 spares). Also included were AN/AVR-2B Laser Detecting Sets, AN/APX-119 transponders, Identify Friend or Foe (IFF), AN/APN-209 radar altimeters, AN/ARN-149 Automatic Direction Finders, UHF/VHF radio, tactical AN/ARC-201E radio, APR-39 Radar Warning Sets, Improved Data Modems IDM-401, Enhanced Image Intensifiers EI2, Hellfire launchers M299, 2.75 inch 19 tube rocket launchers, M230 automatic guns, M230 spare gun barrels, MT06 initiators, cartridge actuated JAU-59, training devices, helmets, simulators, generators, transportation, wheeled vehicles and organization equipment, spare and repair parts, support equipment, tools and test equipment, technical data and publications, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support. The total estimated program cost was \$2.3 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$2.0 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies inclusion of the following MDE items: ninety-five (95) AN/ARC-231A (RT-1987) radios (not enumerated in the original notification); an additional ten (10) T700-GE-701D engines; and one (1) AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition

and Designation Sight/AN/AAR-11 Modernized Pilot Night Vision Sensor (MTADS/PNVS). Also included are AN/APX-123A Identify Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; KIV-77 Crypto Appliques; AN/PYQ-10 (C) Simple Key Loaders (SKL); and the Automated Communication Engineering Software (ACES) package. The estimated total value of the added items is \$150 million. The estimated total MDE value will increase by \$150 million to a revised \$2.15 billion. The estimated total non-MDE value will decrease by \$150 million. The total estimated case value will remain \$2.3 billion.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional items replace obsolete items which had not been included in the original notification, and because the aircraft that had been programmed to undergo remanufacture as part of this refurbishment received additional recent damage that required additional parts and support. The proposed articles and services will support Egypt's ongoing effort to modernize its armed forces and increase its capacity to detect threats and control its borders, contributing to the maintenance of regional stability and security. This will contribute to the Egyptian military's effort to update their capabilities and enhance interoperability with the United States and other strategic allies.

(v) Justification: 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 continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The AN/ARC-231A (RT-1987) radio is a multi-mode software defined radio providing line of sight very high frequency (VHF)/ultra high frequency (UHF) secure and non-secure voice and data communications over the 30,000-941,000 MHz frequency range and Satellite Communications (SATCOM) beyond line of sight secure and non-secure voice and data, including Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) communications over the 240-320 MHz frequency range on manned and unmanned aviation platforms. ARC-231A includes improved type-1 cryptographic algorithm and processing capabilities, Civil Land Mobile Radio, Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radios System (SINGARS) capabilities, HAVE QUICK (HQ), Second Generation Anti-Jam Tactical UHF Radio for NATO (SATURN) wave form, 8.33 kHz channel spacing for Global Air-Traffic Management (GATM) compliance, and capability for Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) wave-form through possible future hardware and software updates.

The AN/APX-123A Transponder is an IFF digital transponder set that provides pertinent platform information in response to an IFF interrogator. It provides this cooperative capability using full diversity selection, as well as Mode Select capability.

The KIV-77 is a Common Crypto Applique for IFF that provides Mode 4/5 capability.

The AN/PYQ-10 (C) Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a ruggedized, portable, hand-held fill device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring electronic key material and data between compatible end cryptographic units (ECU) and communications equipment. It supports both the DS-101 and DS-102 interfaces, as well as the Crypto Ignition Key, and is compatible with existing ECUs.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to other 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 26, 2024.

NOMINATION OF ANN MARIE McIFF ALLEN

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my full support for Judge Ann Marie McIff Allen—a native of my home State—to serve as United States District Court Judge for the District of Utah.

Judge Allen has had an impressive career as a prosecutor, public defender, private civil attorney, and general counsel for Southern Utah University, and she currently serves as associate presiding judge on Utah's Fifth District Court.

Furthermore, she has used her skills and talents to serve the community as a trustee of SUU, a commissioner on the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission, and a Rotarian. She earned her law degree from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University and, like me, studied English at BYU for her undergraduate education.

Judge Allen's record and qualifications make it clear that she is exceptionally qualified to serve on the Federal bench. She is an exemplary jurist and I have no doubt that she will serve our State and country with honor and integrity as a district court judge.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Judge Allen as United States District Court Judge for the District of Utah.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise to provide a brief statement on the nomination votes on April 8, 2024. Had I been here for the vote on Monday, April 8, 2024, I would have voted in "yea" on vote No. 115, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 534 Susan M. Bazis, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE FRANK HUGHES SCHOOL LIONS

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a real-life Cinderella story that occurred at the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Basketball State Championship. Despite an enrollment of just 93 students—one of the smallest high schools in the State—the Frank Hughes School Lions roared past the competition to become runners up in the Division I Class A tournament. The grit and determination of this team earned the praise of basketball fans across Tennessee—and for good reason: In the first three games of the playoffs, the team trailed their opponents by up to 19 points, only to come out victorious.

Described as the town's "heartbeat," this team was the pride of Clifton, TN,

which was evident at the State tournament. The darlings of the competition, Frank Hughes School had not qualified in 40 years. As the players took to the court, every person and business in the city rallied behind them. When they finished as State runners up and accepted their trophy, the fans roared in a reception only fit for champions. A journalist remarked that the State tournament had emptied the town of Clifton.

This success story is a testament to the incredible schools and small communities in Tennessee that are the heart of America. The Frank Hughes Lions showed that grit, determination, and no excuses will get you far in life. I congratulate the Frank Hughes Lions and the city of Clifton on a great year, and I look forward to their continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WOLFE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Robert "Bob" Wolfe of Concord as March's Granite Stater of the Month. Since 2000, Bob has welcomed and supported new refugees to Concord, and he has particularly focused on connecting refugee children with local sports leagues to help them fully immerse themselves into their new community.

Bob was inspired to start working with refugees 24 years ago, after he met a man from Sierra Leone who told him about the violence that he had left behind in his home country. Bob knew that he wanted to help refugees navigate their new country in any way that he could. Recognizing the extreme culture shock and language barriers that can prevent newly settled refugees from fully adjusting, Bob has assisted refugee families in Concord in many different ways, for example, by helping them to get houses and apartments, send their children to college, and get rides to immigration court.

One of the biggest ways that Bob helps refugee children settle in is by connecting them with recreational sports. He assists families in getting the right equipment and finding a sport that they enjoy. Although the kids are dealing with a new country, new language, and new way of life, playing a sport is something that everyone can understand and connect over.

Bob has built ties throughout the community over the years to help new refugees feel comfortable in their new home; he is always there to lend his help in whatever way that he can. Bob truly showcases the Granite State spirit of helping your neighbors and building a stronger community. I am proud to recognize Bob's boundless generosity to new Granite Staters.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Captain William Davis of Joplin, MO, for his service to the State of Missouri.

On March 8, 2022, the Joplin Police responded to a disturbance in the parking lot of the Northpark Crossing Shopping Center. As he attempted to flee, the perpetrator sadly killed Corporal Benjamin Cooper and Officer Jake Reed. The perpetrator shot at Captain Davis and Officer Rick Hirshey as they pulled up to the scene, seriously wounding Officer Rick Hirshey. Amidst these devastating events, Captain Davis courageously intervened to stop further harm.

It is because of Captain Davis's selfless action that this murderous rampage was stopped before further losses could be incurred. Captain Davis's bravery in the face of danger prompted him to be recognized as Public Safety Officer Hero of the Year in 2022. This nationwide celebration, hosted by the First Responder's Children's Foundation, is dedicated to first responder heroes who risk their lives every day in service to our communities.

Captain Davis is truly a Champion of Missouri. I am grateful for his commitment to keeping our communities safe and his willingness to face the dangers that arise. I wish him the best as he continues to grow in his career as a captain in the Joplin Police Department.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SAPP

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Joseph Sapp of Branson, MO, for his service to the State of Missouri.

On December 12, 2022, Branson Police Department Sergeant Abe Jones responded to a call about an altercation in progress in the parking lot of a Branson apartment complex. Sergeant Jones attempted to arrest the suspect, but the suspect repeatedly punched Sergeant Jones in the head. Joseph Sapp, a 19-year-old living in the apartment complex, immediately sprang into action and shoved the assailant away from Sergeant Jones. This support gave Sergeant Jones enough time to get to his feet and arrest the suspect. Joseph selflessly abandoned his own safety and, as a result, prevented any further injury to the officer and, more broadly, to the public. Joseph has since joined the U.S. Army and is stationed in Texas.

Joseph Sapp is truly a Champion of Missouri. His example of bravery serves as a testament to the character of our future generation. It is a sacrifice to jump into a conflict to save another's life. I know that Joseph's character of courage will serve him well as he pursues his career in the military, further serving our great country.●

RECOGNIZING FIRST RESPONDERS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as you may know, an arsonist set fire to my Senate office in Burlington, VT, endangering not only the lives of my staff, but many other people who work in the building. Within 2 days, a suspect was

apprehended and is now being held in custody.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the outstanding work of the Burlington Police Department; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the Shelburne Police Department; the Williston Police Department; the Vermont State Police; and the U.S. Capitol Police—who did an extraordinary job in responding to the fire and arresting this individual.

Our first responders are under an enormous amount of pressure and regularly put their lives on the line to protect our communities. Last week was no exception. Let me thank all of them for the enormously important work they do.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14024 OF APRIL 15, 2021, WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIED HARMFUL FOREIGN ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—PM 46

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation declared in Executive Order 14024 of

April 15, 2021, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14066 of March 8, 2022, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 14039 of August 20, 2021, Executive Order 14068 of March 11, 2022, Executive Order 14071 of April 6, 2022, and Executive Order 14114 of December 22, 2023, is to continue in effect beyond April 15, 2024.

Specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation—in particular, efforts to undermine the conduct of free and fair democratic elections and democratic institutions in the United States and its allies and partners; to engage in and facilitate malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and its allies and partners; to foster and use transnational corruption to influence foreign governments; to pursue extraterritorial activities targeting dissidents or journalists; to undermine security in countries and regions important to United States national security; and to violate well-established principles of international law, including respect for the territorial integrity of states—continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14024 with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 9, 2024.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13536 OF APRIL 12, 2010, WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—PM 47

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2024.

The situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national

security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 9, 2024.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 61, a joint resolution providing a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to “National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure” and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Kevin Cramer, Shelley Moore Capito, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Pete Ricketts, Marco Rubio, Joni Ernst, Mitch McConnell, Susan M. Collins, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, James Lankford, John Hoeven, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Mike Lee, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ron Johnson, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Rounds, Mitt Romney, Chuck Grassley, Tim Scott, Lindsey Graham, Mike Braun, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Jerry Moran, Tommy Tuberville.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 61. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to “National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure”.

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-3961. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “OMB Sequestration Update Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2025”; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; Joint Committee on Taxation; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-3962. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Report to the Congress on the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 251A Sequestration for Fiscal Year 2025"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; Joint Committee on Taxation; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1118. A bill to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program (Rept. No. 118-164).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1662. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-165).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 1955. A bill to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-166).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 2247. A bill to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins (Rept. No. 118-167).

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. MULLIN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4078. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test a model to improve access to specialty health services for certain Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BRITT, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4079. A bill to improve obstetric emergency care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4080. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on national resource adequacy, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 4081. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide premium support for certain plans of insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 4082. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase accountability relating to articles receiving exemptions from duties for de minimis entries and to require regulations on enhanced data collection with respect to such entries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 4083. A bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to modernize the verification of contact lens prescriptions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. REED):

S. 4084. A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make grants to professional nonprofit theaters for the purposes of supporting operations, employment, and economic development; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4085. A bill to establish the Export Enforcement Coordination Center in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 4086. A bill to authorize the confiscation and repurposing of blocked assets of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 4087. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities from using pre-dispute arbitration agreements with respect to residents of those facilities under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 4088. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for career support for a skilled, internationally educated health care workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4089. A bill to enhance fraud prevention, improve recovery of improper payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 4090. A bill to withhold Federal funding from any college or university that employs illegal aliens on campus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 4091. A bill to strengthen Federal efforts to counter antisemitism in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4092. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to implement a limitation on contracting for supplies needed for the Department of the Army for certain workload activities at arsenals of the Department of the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. Res. 630. A resolution supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 75 years of accomplishments; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 138

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 138, a bill to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

S. 150

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 150, a bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, and for other purposes.

S. 160

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) 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. 217

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

S. 393

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 393, a bill to enhance Social Security benefits and ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security program.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 663, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 722

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of 529 accounts.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 806

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 806, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a grant program to assist with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of point-of-entry and point-of-use drinking water quality improvement products, and for other purposes.

S. 813

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 813, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to amend regulations to allow for certain packers to have an interest in market agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 1115

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1115, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1333, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants for providing evidence-based caregiver skills training to family caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities or delays, and for other purposes.

S. 1839

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1839, a bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics in certain surveys, and for other purposes.

S. 1922

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1922, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for wigs as durable medical equipment under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2003

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

S. 2245

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2245, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 2323

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2323, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2415, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 2530

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2530, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among education professionals and other school staff.

S. 2614

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2614, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to expand the provision of farmer-led technical assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2671, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from issuing a rule or promulgating a regulation requiring certain vehicles to be equipped with speed limiting devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2808

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2808, a bill to provide Federal-local community partnership construction funding to local educational agencies eligible to receive payments under the Impact Aid program.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 2863

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2863, a bill to establish

the Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services.

S. 2901

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 2901, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

S. 2994

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2994, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes.

S. 3026

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3026, a bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on offshore wind leasing.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor 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 names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors 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. 3321

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3321, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure equitable and nondiscriminatory contributions to the mechanisms that preserve and advance universal service, to reduce the financial burden on consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 3352

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 3352, a bill to provide for outreach to build awareness among former members of the Armed Forces of the process established pursuant to section 527 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 for the review of discharge characterizations, and for other purposes.

S. 3362

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3362, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments.

S. 3452

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3452, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to determine the eligibility or entitlement of a member or former member of the Armed Forces described in subsection (a) to a benefit under a law administered by the Secretary solely based on alternative sources of evidence when the military service records or medical treatment records of the member or former member are incomplete because of damage or loss of records after being in the possession of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3502, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 3560

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3560, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize pre-enrollment of certain combat service members of the Armed Forces in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3565

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3565, a bill to appropriate funds for the Affordable Connectivity Program of the Federal Communications Commission.

S. 3578

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3578, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for the administrative costs of providing health benefits

to individuals who are unauthorized immigrants.

S. 3580

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

S. 3598

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3598, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a comprehensive standard for timing between referrals and appointments for care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to submit a report with respect to that standard, and for other purposes.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) 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. 3641

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3641, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program for evidence-based perinatal mental health prevention for pregnant and postpartum members of the Armed Forces and dependents, and for other purposes.

S. 3728

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3728, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the administration of housing loans of the Department of Veterans Affairs to prevent or resolve default under such loans, and for other purposes.

S. 3755

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3755, a bill to amend the CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes.

S. 3775

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS)

were added as cosponsors of S. 3775, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3955

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3955, a bill to require the heads of Federal agencies to submit to Congress an annual report regarding official time authorized under title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 3958

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3958, a bill to require the Interagency Working Group on Toxic Exposure to conduct research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of descendants of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 3976

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3976, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the deduction for personal casualty losses as in effect prior to the enactment of Public Law 115-97 (commonly referred to as the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act").

S. 4001

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 4072

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4072, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

S. RES. 385

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 385, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023.

S. RES. 505

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 505, a resolution condemning the use of sexual violence and rape as a weapon of war by the terrorist group Hamas against the people of Israel.

S. RES. 620

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 620, a resolution demanding that the international community hold accountable those who perpetrated acts of sexual violence and sexual torture during and after the attack on the State of Israel on October 7, 2023.

S. RES. 622

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 622, a resolution providing for the issuance of a summons, providing for the appointment of a committee to receive and to report evidence, and establishing related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas.

S. RES. 623

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 623, a resolution to provide for related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 4081. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide premium support for certain plans of insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise to talk about legislation that we are introducing today. It is called the FARMER Act. "FARMER" stands for Federal Agriculture Risk Management Enhancement and Resilience, and that is just exactly what this farm bill does, what this legislation does. Really, we think this is an important step to getting to a farm bill—and hopefully this year—because it is all about enhancing crop insurance.

I am very pleased to be joined here on the floor by our ranking member on the Ag Committee, Senator BOOZMAN, from Arkansas. He is cosponsoring the legislation, as are other members of our Ag Committee, including Senator ERNST of Iowa, Senator FISCHER of Nebraska, Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa, Senator HYDE-SMITH of Mississippi, and Senator MARSHALL of Kansas—all Senators who have significant ag production in their State, both in terms of crops and livestock.

And this is all about what we have right here: "Keeping the farm in the

farm bill." As a matter of fact, it is about putting more farm in the farm bill, and that is going to have to happen in order to get a farm bill accomplished this year.

Well, how do we do that? What does that mean? That means strengthening crop insurance, our farmer's No. 1 risk management tool, and also updating ARC and PLC, which is the countercyclical safety net, ARC—Ag Risk Coverage—and PLC—Price Loss Coverage, that is the countercyclical safety net that our farmers rely on; so crop insurance, the No. 1 risk management tool for farmers nationwide, combined with a countercyclical safety net, updating ARC and PLC to make it relevant given the incredible increase we have seen in input costs that our producers face.

When you look at fertilizer and all the inputs—fuel, everything else—all the inputs that our farmers and our ranchers are required to purchase now to raise that crop or for ranchers to raise those animals, those costs have gone up dramatically. And commodity prices for our food products have come down, which really puts pressure on our farmers and ranchers. That is why it is so important—so important—that we update crop insurance and the countercyclical safety net to make it relevant—to make it relevant—in terms of risk management for producers across this great Nation.

We have a huge ag industry, very diverse, across all of our States, and so this really is fundamental—fundamental—to getting a farm bill done and done right and hopefully done this year.

So this bill, as I say, focuses on the crop insurance piece. And so what does it do? Well, it does two things: One, it strengthens crop insurance by increasing the premium support and making it more affordable to purchase crop insurance and, two, it enables our farmers to insure to a higher level.

There are two ways that they do that. One is at the enterprise level. So at the farm level, they buy crop insurance. This makes it more affordable to buy up to a higher level of coverage—say, 80 or 85 percent coverage on a more affordable basis—and then they can get a second-tier policy that helps them. It is called Supplemental Coverage Option. That is actually based on a countywide average.

So they can buy that supplemental coverage to insure up to a higher level, up to 90 percent, on a realistically affordable basis.

Now, the other thing it does is it calls on the Secretary of USDA—the Secretary of Agriculture—to look at the supplemental coverage. For States that have big counties like my home State of North Dakota or Senator BOOZMAN's State of Arkansas or Texas and others, it requires that RMA—Risk Management Agency that provides crop insurance—looks at how these policies are done to make it work better for States that have large counties, which many of our States do.

So those are the kind of enhancements to crop insurance that really serve our farmers, and it is not just our farmers. We are also doing more for our ranchers and our livestock producers, but really it is much more than that. This legislation helps our farmers; it helps our taxpayers; and it helps all Americans.

And let me touch on that for just a minute. First, in terms of our farmers, obviously, they face tremendous challenges due to weather—they have no control over the weather—and prices.

You know, we have this network of family farms and ranches across this country. They are price-takers. They don't get a chance to set any prices. So crop insurance, that is why it is their No. 1 risk management tool because when they don't have a crop or they have a very substandard crop, this crop insurance enables them to stay in the game so that family farms can continue to be around for the next year, so that ranchers can continue to be around for the next year.

It is vitally important when they have no control over, like I say, weather or prices. It is to keep them in the game for the long term.

That benefits our taxpayers because we have the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world, and this is the most effective way to keep that network of family farms and ranchers out there on the land.

And that really benefits every single American every single day because what do our farmers do? They produce food, fuel, and fiber for this Nation. Well, that is national security, for sure. Food security is national security. But think about this for a minute. We have the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world. Every American benefits from that every day. Every time you have something to eat in this country that you buy in our great grocery stores, brought to them from the farm, from the ranch—we have the highest quality and the lowest cost.

Americans spend less of their budget on food, and they have better food than anyone else—more choices, more options, higher quality. But Americans spend less of their budget on food than any other developed country, brought to them by our farmers and ranchers.

That is a remarkable benefit. That is a benefit that every American receives every single day. And that is why it is so important that we get farm policy right. That is why we have got to get it right.

And here is the final point I want to make before I turn things over to my esteemed colleague Senator BOOZMAN. We can't take this network of farmers and ranchers that we have in this country for granted. We have about 16 million people involved in agriculture, directly or indirectly. But our food is brought to us by farms and ranches, a diverse set of family farms and ranches across this country, and we can't take that for granted.

And if we don't have this safety net, if we don't have crop insurance that they can afford to buy—which they buy—and if they can't access this countercyclical safety net, we don't have that network of farms and ranches.

Like a lot of other industries in this country, we can end up with just a few big companies. And I wonder how that is going to work out because all that competition you see from these millions of farmers and ranchers providing that highest quality, lowest cost food supply, that could change, right? So we can't take this for granted.

So when it comes to getting the farm bill done, we have got to get it right. We have got to get it right. And that is what this is all about: getting crop insurance right and making sure that our farmers can both access crop insurance and the countercyclical safety net—ARC and PLC—at the same time. They need both.

Look, this is about getting a farm bill done. This legislation needs to be included in the farm bill, and it will go a long way toward making sure that we get a farm bill done and hopefully done this year.

And I would like now to turn it over to Senator BOOZMAN for his remarks.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I want to thank my good friend from North Dakota Senator HOEVEN for his leadership on this issue. Under normal circumstances, we would have been celebrating the passage of a new farm bill by now. Unfortunately, we are not there yet, and our farmers continue to face far from normal circumstances. But we are making progress, and I am committed to meaningfully addressing the needs of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

Alongside bolstering the title 1 reference prices, maintaining and improving crop insurance is at the top of the list for my farm bill priorities. But more importantly, these are the top priorities of farmers across the country.

The first of many farm bill listening sessions I have participated in started with a roundtable in Senator HOEVEN's home State of North Dakota. The takeaway from that event has been echoed across the countryside and in meetings throughout Washington: We need more "farm" in the farm bill.

This next farm bill must update the risk management tools farmers and ranchers need to succeed in order to reflect the nature of the challenges under which they operate today. Here is the reality: Producers are experiencing unprecedented challenges, regulatory uncertainty, and historic volatility in the farm economy, all of which are predicted to even get worse.

A producer from Minnesota told me recently that record high input costs, coupled with declining crop prices, would mean that she would have to harvest a record yield just to break even. That is not a scenario farm families want to pass on to the next generation.

Historic inflation, rising interest rates, a record trade deficit, dev-

astating natural disasters, and global disruptions will make it more difficult for our farmers to succeed in the years to come. And with an outdated farm safety net, described by a Texas farmer as 2 inches above the concrete, agriculture is left wondering what level of crisis is necessary to compel Washington to act.

I commend Senator HOEVEN's leadership in introducing the FARMER Act and proactively addressing the needs of farmers and ranchers who have asked for improvements to the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

The FARMER Act includes critical components to modernizing the farm safety net for producers across all regions and all commodities. From wheat in North Dakota to cotton in Georgia, to peaches in New Jersey, corn in Illinois and Colorado, to apples in Vermont and soybeans in Ohio, producers in every State could reap the benefits of more affordable crop insurance options.

The strength of this approach is underscored by the endorsement of over 20 grassroots organizations representing the voices of farm families from across the country.

We can pass a farm bill that strengthens title 1 and title 11, while also making improvements across every other title and meet our shared goals.

This isn't an either-or decision. The next farm bill provides an incredible opportunity to make things right for farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and those in need. Working together we can protect and enhance voluntary conservation programs, provide investments needed to open new export markets, and expand existing markets, build on research that allows our farmers to do more with less while reducing environmental impacts, protect the health of our Nation's herds and flocks and help rural communities flourish and prosper.

Passing such a bill is never an easy task, but it is one that this body has come together to accomplish time and time again. I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman STABENOW and my Senate colleagues to pass a farm bill that achieves these goals, and I very much appreciate the work of Senator HOEVEN and his contribution to that process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I want to say thank you to the ranking member on the Senate Ag Committee, Senator BOOZMAN. And I am especially proud to be here with the Senator from the great State of North Dakota, Senator HOEVEN, and support our FARMER Act.

Crop insurance is the backbone of every farm bill. When I talk to producers back home, they tell me crop insurance is their first, second, and third priority. It is important not just to producers, but it also helps stabilize groceries on the other end by having a

good, constant supply by allowing the farmer to plant next year's crop after Mother Nature strikes. It helps keep those prices down at the grocery store as well.

You know, I am often asked why crop insurance is so important. And I want to quote the late President John F. Kennedy when he summed up the plight of the farmer pretty well. This is what President Kennedy said:

The farmer is the only person in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways.

Look, our input costs are driving the value of our crops up, and thus the cost of crop insurance is going up along with it. Unfortunately, commodity prices don't reflect that. Instead, we are seeing an alltime drop in farming income—year over year drop that we have seen in decades.

But the FARMER Act truly puts "farm" back in the farm bill with a reasonable cost. It helps take on this added burden of crop insurance, which, again, allows the farmer to plant next year's crop and makes us the most single most important program at USDA.

I am proud to be here today urging that this body pass the FARMER Act—perhaps included on the farm bill would be a good place for it as well—to protect the economic security of rural America and keep food prices stable for American consumers.

I am happy to yield back to the Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank Senator MARSHALL. Obviously, he speaks on behalf of a very important ag State—Kansas. I thank Senator BOOZMAN and all the cosponsors on this legislation.

As Senator MARSHALL said very well, this is the most cost-effective way to make sure that we keep our farmers and ranchers out there providing this incredible food supply that benefits every American every day.

One final point that Senator BOOZMAN referenced. We have the support already—the endorsement of virtually all of the major farm groups, you know, the farm production groups in the country representing our great farmers. Their endorsement tells you very clearly that we need to have this enhancement to crop insurance in the farm bill to get the farm bill done.

Again, on behalf of our sponsors of this legislation, I would like to thank them. We are going to work very diligently to do everything we can to work with all of our colleagues to get a farm bill done.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4092. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to implement a limitation on contracting for supplies needed for the Department of the Army for certain workload activities at arsenals of the Department of the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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. 4092

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 "Arsenal Workload Sustainment Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States has a long and proud history of manufacturing defense products.

(2) Factories and arsenals of the Department of the Army that are owned and operated by the United States Government are a critical component of the organic industrial base.

(3) The 2023 National Defense Industrial Strategy recognizes the need of the Department of Defense to more strategically utilize the organic industrial base in order to maintain a competitive military advantage.

(4) Sufficient workload at arsenals of the Department of the Army that are owned and operated by the United States Government ensure cost efficiency and technical competence in peacetime, while preserving the ability to provide an effective and timely response to mobilizations, national defense contingency situations, and other emergency requirements.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON CONTRACTING FOR SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY FOR CERTAIN WORKLOAD ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7532 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "The Secretary of the Army" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) TREATMENT OF WORKLOAD ACTIVITIES.—

"(1) PERCENTAGE LIMITATION.—Not more than 50 percent of the funds made available in a fiscal year for a military department or a Defense Agency for workload activities pursuant to subsection (a) may be used to contract for the performance by non-United States Government personnel of such workload for that military department or Defense Agency.

"(2) AMOUNTS FOR ACTIVITIES BY EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Any funds made available in a fiscal year to a military department or a Defense Agency for workload activities pursuant to subsection (a) that are not used for a contract described in paragraph (1) shall be used for the performance of those activities by employees of the Department of Defense.

"(B) TREATMENT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—Workload activities conducted pursuant to subsection (a) under a public-private partnership shall be deemed to be activities performed by employees of the Department of Defense for purposes of subparagraph (A).

"(3) WAIVER OF LIMITATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the waiver is necessary for reasons of national security.

"(B) EFFECT.—A waiver under subparagraph (A) shall not take effect until the date that is 30 days after the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a notification of the determination under such

subparagraph, together with a justification for the determination.

"(4) PREFERENCES FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN SOURCE SELECTION PROCESSES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give preference to a non-public partner who has entered into a public-private partnership under section 2474 of this title in the source selection process if such partner uses an arsenal of the Department of the Army that is owned and operated by the United States Government as a partner in any type of contractual agreement with the United States Government to conduct workload activities pursuant to subsection (a), by adding 20 percent to the price of any offer that does not use an arsenal of the Department of the Army that is owned and operated by the United States Government as a partner in its bid.

"(B) NON-PUBLIC PARTNER DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term 'non-public partner' means a corporation, individual, university, or nonprofit organization.

"(5) CONFORMANCE.—The establishment of sustained workload conducted under subsection (a) shall be consistent with the requirement under paragraph (1) and shall be performed consistent with following:

"(A) The technical proficiencies set forth under section 2474(a) or 4841 of this title.

"(B) Fragility and criticality assessments of the Army."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7544(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "may be carried out at an Army industrial facility under a cooperative arrangement entered into under subsection (a) only under the following conditions" and inserting "is presumptively and conditionally approved to be carried out at an Army industrial facility under a cooperative arrangement entered into under subsection (a) unless it is demonstrated that the following conditions are not met".

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, with the budget of the President submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for a fiscal year a report that details the following:

(A) An outlook of expected workload at each arsenal of the Department of the Army that is owned and operated by the United States Government during the period covered by the future-years defense program submitted to Congress under section 221 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) A breakout, by relevant budget accounts, of workload that was achieved in the prior fiscal year, whether directly or through public-private partnerships.

(C) The capital investments required to be made at each arsenal of the Department of the Army that is owned and operated by the United States Government in order to ensure compliance and operational capacity.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 630—SUPPORTING THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AND RECOGNIZING ITS 75 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 630

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded on April 4, 1949, to “safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of [its] peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law”;

Whereas the United States Senate approved the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on July 21, 1949, and the United States Government acceded to membership in NATO on August 24, 1949;

Whereas NATO was originally founded to ensure the collective security of its members, and stand against the Soviet threat to peace and acts collectively to promote freedom, stability, and peace in the North Atlantic region;

Whereas, since the formation of NATO, 10 rounds of enlargement have grown the alliance from 12 members to 32;

Whereas NATO is the most successful political-military alliance in history and, guided by a set of common values, provides collective defense to more than 950,000,000 people living in its member nations;

Whereas the sustained commitment of NATO to mutual defense has contributed to the democratic and economic transformation of Central and Eastern Europe;

Whereas enlargement has strengthened NATO, and the Alliance remains open to additional enlargement for European states that advance the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area, in line with Article 10 of the Treaty;

Whereas the newest members of the alliance, Finland and Sweden, contribute already interoperable militaries, including robust navies, powerful air forces, strong cyber capabilities, and large numbers of active military personnel and ready reservists to the alliance;

Whereas the allies invoked NATO’s Article 5 collective defense clause for the first and only time to offer political and military assistance to the United States in responding to the attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas NATO serves as a force multiplier, whose command structures, training institutions, and multilateral exercises have generated multinational contributions to United States national security priorities and enabled European and Canadian soldiers to serve with members of the United States Armed Forces in various missions;

Whereas NATO is currently involved in several operations benefitting United States national security, including NATO’s Kosovo Force (KFOR), Standing Naval Forces, Operation Sea Guardian, NATO Mission Iraq, and air policing missions in Eastern Europe;

Whereas, through the Partnership for Peace and Enhanced Forward Presence, NATO has extended opportunities for cooperation with non-NATO nations;

Whereas NATO members have stood against Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, reinforced existing battlegroups and established new ones, supported United States sanctions on the Russian Federation, and

imposed their own sanctions measures in coordination with the United States and other allies;

Whereas the NATO Wales Summit Declaration of 2014 pledged, “Allies currently meeting the NATO guideline to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defence will aim to continue to do so . . . Allies whose current proportion of GDP spent on defence is below this level will: halt any decline in defence expenditure; aim to increase defence expenditure in real terms as GDP grows; aim to move towards the 2 percent guideline within a decade with a view to meeting their NATO Capability Targets and filling NATO’s capability shortfalls.”;

Whereas 22 NATO nations have increased their military spending since the Wales Declaration of 2014;

Whereas, at the NATO Vilnius Summit in 2023, member countries affirmed their commitment to spend “at least” 2 percent of GDP on defense, and noted that “in many cases, expenditure beyond 2 percent of GDP will be needed in order to remedy existing shortfalls and meet the requirements across all domains arising from a more contested security order”;

Whereas 20 NATO members still fall short of meeting their 2 percent commitment;

Whereas collective security demands real and sustained burden sharing;

Whereas NATO members that do not meet their 2 percent goal have a responsibility to the other member states and should rapidly address their budget shortfalls and prioritize defense spending;

Whereas NATO updated its Strategic Concept planning document in 2022 to recognize emerging threats to the alliance, including from the People’s Republic of China, and begin the process of adapting our collective approach to face them in the coming generation;

Whereas, at the NATO Vilnius Summit in 2023, NATO reaffirmed its commitment to its core values and take decisive action to defend them against threats across multiple domains;

Whereas nations must put defense spending in their base budgets to provide long-term certainty to NATO planners and their partners;

Whereas the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine marks the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II, representing a dramatic shift for European security and requiring NATO to change its policies to increase, modernize, and enhance its force posture and to create more strategic depth to adequately confront new challenges;

Whereas, in adapting to growing aggression by the People’s Republic of China, NATO has deepened its partnerships with Indo-Pacific allies, including South Korea, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand; and

Whereas section 1250A of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) requires the advice and consent of the Senate for any President of the United States to suspend, terminate, denounce, or withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic treaty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) lauds NATO for its 75-year maintenance of the alliance and recognizes its foundational contributions to maintaining the safety, security, and democratic systems of its members;

(2) welcomes all NATO members and observers as the United States hosts the 75th Annual Summit in July 2024, in Washington, D.C.;

(3) recognizes the key role NATO has played in enabling the most peaceful and

prosperous period in history for the North Atlantic area and also that NATO does not only benefit the defense of its own member states, but enhances security and stability beyond its borders;

(4) appreciates the burden and sacrifice made by each member nation and each service member who has acted to maintain the collective security of NATO;

(5) reaffirms that NATO members join by free choice, not by compulsion or coercion, and that sovereign nations should be free to choose with whom they associate and enter into alliances without fear of violent reprisal;

(6) continues to affirm the importance of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty;

(7) reaffirms the importance of nuclear deterrence in NATO planning and supports the modernization and development of new systems while continuing risk-reduction discussions with our adversaries;

(8) reaffirms that all NATO territory is equally under the protection of its collective defense;

(9) strongly calls on all NATO member states to immediately meet their pledges and raise their defense levels above the 2 percent GDP target, and to more fully share the security burden by focusing on meeting capabilities targets, enhancing interoperability, improving readiness, and modernization to respond to the threats that face the alliance on each of its flanks;

(10) urges all NATO member countries to meet their commitments to the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law;

(11) stands in robust support of those NATO members who spend 2 percent or more of their GDPs on defense and acknowledges the 8 countries that have met that goal since 2014;

(12) welcomes the recent additions of Finland and Sweden to the alliance;

(13) recognizes that NATO, in its planning processes, must take into account security threats to the alliance from around the world, including the People’s Republic of China;

(14) encourages NATO to build closer ties with the Indo-Pacific to confront the challenges posed by the deepening partnership and alignment between the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China;

(15) urges all members to consider the value that Ukraine will add to NATO’s defense and stability for Europe ahead of the Washington Summit in 2024; and

(16) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to NATO’s mission, and its belief that NATO is the most successful security alliance in our Nation’s history and one that should continue to be a cornerstone of United States national security.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Allen nomination postcloture; further, that all time on the Allen nomination be considered expired at 12 noon and, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that following the disposition of the nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 359, S.J. Res. 61; that at 2:45 p.m., the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage; further, that upon disposition of S.J. Res. 61, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 98, which was received from the House and is at the desk; and that at 5 p.m., the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be colonel

EDWARD F. HWANG
TIANA E. JACKSON
JAKE M. MILLER

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

To be colonel

BARRY J. BURTON
JAY M. CRYDERMAN
JOSEPH A. DITLOW
RONALD KILLINS
JONWA KIM
DAVID C. KRICK
ELIZABETHA F. MURPHY
TIMOTHY KARL PAPE
RONALD J. PENDLETON
ERIN N. PETTYJOHN
CHARLES D. SOLOMON
JOHN H. STONE
PETER M. VOLPE
JACLYN M. WHITE
DOUGLAS N. WREN

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

To be colonel

JENNIFER DAVENPORT ALMONTE
FRANCISCO J. BADIANO
COSTAU C. BASTIEN
SARAH M. BECK
CHRISTOPHER BECKLEY
JASON M. BORDAS
DAVID CARL BORDEN
WHITNEY ERIN BROWN
JILL C. CAMERON
JERMAINE O. CAMPBELL
TODD M. CANALE
MIRIAM ABI GAIL CARTER
JUSTIN B. COOPER
RICHARD F. COX
WARREN E. CRABTREE
ROBERT D. DOSSMAN
NICOLE R. FINK
MICHAEL JAMES GIBBS
JENNIFER M. GOETZ
JONATHAN T. GREER
BETH A. HART
JOHN CLAY HAWKINS
AMY SUE JOHANNSSEN
MCKAY J. KINGRY
MAUREEN A. KOVACIC
ALICIA K. LAPRAY
CHRISTOPHER DAVID MAZZEY
REBECCA A. MCNELLEY
JESSICA JEAN OBERLANDER
TYISHA L. OWENS
TABITHA H. POTOK
TAYLOR A. RICH
JOHN M. RIKER
JOSE A. RIVAS, JR.
JEROME JUSTIN ROGERS
CHRISTOPHER D. RYAN
SARAH SCAGLIONE
LEONARD J. SOBIESKI III
DARREN D. STASTNY
EMILY H. STEINFORT
KIMBERLY E. STEVENS
ROBERT P. WENGERTER
RYAN C. WOOD
JOAN D. YARRELL
KIMBERLY D. YOUNG

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

To be colonel

JASON W. CROMAR

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

To be colonel

ALLISON S. HARDWICK

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

To be colonel

JESSICA J. GRIMM
RAFAEL ARMANDO PALACIOS
NATALIE P. RILEY
EMILY E. RUCKER

IN THE ARMY

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

To be colonel

MARK D. BUZZELLI

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

To be major

DIONNE L. MCMILLAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

TODD A. HASENSTEIN

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

To be colonel

ANDREW R. MORGAN

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

To be colonel

ANTHONY B. ABRAHAM
GABRIELE ACETI
CHRISTINA ALTAMIRANO
ROMMEL P. AQUINO
ANGEL ARREDONDO
NIKOLAS J. ASARO
RICHARD J. BARCINAS
BENJAMIN J. BAUGHMAN
DANIEL R. BEARD
PETER I. BELK
SHAYNE K. BELL

JAMES E. BENNETT
JERIMIAH M. BENNETT
JUDSON G. BENNETT
JONATHAN P. BERLINER
WILLIAM C. BLUME, JR.
BENJAMIN W. BOYETTE
WILLIAM D. BROOKS
ROBYN S. BRYANT
CLARK BURKE
BENJAMIN J. BURRIS
TIMOTHY A. CABALO
ANTHONY R. CALINGO
CASEY W. CAMPBELL
ALEXANDER B. CAREY
ADAM A. CAROLLO
MARIA I. CARRILLO
BRIAN S. CASKEY
MIRIAM A. CASTRO
MARVIN L. CHASE
AMANDA O. CLARE
ERNESTO E. CLARK
THADDEUS J. CLARK
VIVIAN C. COCHRAN
RAPHAEL S. COHEN
MARCELA COLLEY
KEITH A. COWAN
MICHAEL A. CRAIGG
JOSEPH M. CREVAR
BRIAN H. CROCKETT
LEE R. CROSBY
CARLOS E. DAVIS
REBECCA A. DEFOREST
JOSHUA J. DEJOURNETT
SANTOS R. DELEONFIGUEROA
PETER J. DEMOS, JR.
ANDREW C. DERMANOSKI
THOMAS W. DEVORE
MICHAEL D. DO
BRETT B. DOHNAL
WILSON L. DOSSANTOS
EMILY P. DROBEK
JACK L. EAGLY
JOSEPH M. EARP
DIANA D. ELLERMAN
BROOK D. ELLIS
HENRY A. EMPENO
JOSEPH A. ENGLAND
JON V. ERICKSON
KRISTOPHER M. ERICKSON
JAMES R. ESQUIVEL
ADRIAN Y. FAN
KEVIN FERNANDEZ
MARK P. FONTANE
P. J. FOX
JEANINE L. FRAZIER
ALEXANDER J. GARCIAS
LEE E. GESSNER IV
MATTHEW A. GOODWIN
JAY R. GREELEY, JR.
CHARLES G. GRISWOLD III
ANTHONY HALL
JASON M. HALLIGAN
ROBERT P. HANNA
JAMES D. HANSON
NIKKI L. HAUPT
SCOTT B. HEAL
WAYNE C. HEINOLD
JAMES W. HENDON
CHRISTOPHER D. HILLMANN
ROBERT C. HOFFMAN
TIMOTHY M. HOGAN
MATTHEW S. HOLBROOK
PETER HOLLOWAY
TIMOTHY M. HOLTER
MATTHEW A. HORNING
NICHOLAS J. HUAT
ROBERT G. HUANG
RICHARD T. HUBER
JESSE B. HUGHES
KEVIN O. HULL
ROBIN ISLAM
JEREMY W. JACKSON
KEVIN P. JAMES
KENDRIX W. JEFFERSON
TIMOTHY W. JOHNSON
CHRISTIAN T. KACHEL
AMY L. KALOW
SAM Y. KANG
BENJAMIN R. KENION
KENNETH S. KIM
JAMES J. KINGSBURY
GAYLA M. KINGSTON
THOMAS D. KOH
DAMIEN K. KRANTZ
JAMES R. LALLY, JR.
MARK A. LASKOSKI
RICHARD M. LEBEDEFF
FRANCIS N. LEE
TIMOTHY K. LITTLE
NEIL A. LOCKHART
TAMARA E. LUKART
KEVIN A. MANLEY
SHANE L. MANTZ
JOSEPH L. MARTINEZ
TIMOTHY L. MARTINO
PATRICK E. MATHER
BRIAN MATHISON
DALE MCCURDY
CHRISTOPHER A. MCDAVID
JEFFREY R. MCGHEARY
ANTHONY D. MCGNONE
MATTHEW L. MCGOWEN
AARON D. MCKIVIGAN
CLARK C. MESSOLLELLA
SCOTT M. MESSARE
ARTHUR J. MICELI
LAURA C. MILLER

ROY H. MINTON
SCOTT D. MIRODDI
TIMOTHY L. MITCHELL
CHARLES E. MOORE
ILANA M. MORENO
STEPHEN D. MORROW
PATRICK B. MURPHY
DAIN C. OLSON
MELISSA N. PARRISH
BRYAN P. PAYNE
ALAN K. PERKINS
MICHAEL A. PERRY
JEAN W. PHARAOH
TIMOTHY G. PLATOFF
DAVIS E. PLOWDEN
ROBERT B. POLSTON
THOMAS P. POMIAN, JR.
RICK J. POUNDS
EDGARDO PRATSREYES
BLAKE M. PRICE
CRYSTAL L. PROVENCHER
JUSTIN B. PULLEN
STEVEN RANDERSON
ADAM M. RASMUSSEN
VICTORIA A. RICHIE
SCOTT A. RILEY
TERRY L. ROBINSON
AXEL RODRIGUEZ
TIMOTHY B. RYAN
JAMES W. SANDERS
JESSICA B. SANDERS
MAYA R. SCARFITTI
RUSSELL G. SCHICKEDANZ
JEREMY J. SHELLHAMMER
EDWIN K. SHERMAN
LORI J. SHIELDS
JEFFREY T. SILVERMAN
JEREMY S. SIMMONS
ROMEO P. SMITH
CRAIG A. STEPP
FRANK C. TAYLOR
KELLY R. THOMAS
JAMES A. TOM
JOHN V. TONELLO
RICK TREVINO
TARA J. TROUT
DOUGLAS K. ULLRICH
SAMUEL C. VALDES
FRANKLIN D. VARGAS
COLLEEN R. VERMEULEN
CHRISTOPHER J. VISSER
ROBERT B. VRANIAN
SIMON J. WALBRUCH
THOMAS H. WALLACE
ANDREW V. WALSH
DOUGLAS E. WALTON
MITCHELL B. WANDER
MARC E. WEBER
KENNETH C. WHIPKEY, JR.
BRIAN J. WOJTASIAK
GABRIEL M. WOLFE
JEFFREY J. WOOD
BRIAN K. YOUNG

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

To be colonel

AARON V. ALLEN
PETER J. AMARA
PAUL B. BEAUSOLEIL
CHRISTOPHER F. BOTTERBUSCH
COLLEEN E. BURGEMASTER
ANDREW B. CANFIELD
TIMOTHY L. CLARK
JAMES L. COFFMAN
JASON R. CONSTABLE
JOSHUA J. DARLING
MARY J. DURHAM
VICTOR R. FIGUEROA
SIMON B. FLAKE
ANTHONY R. GONZALEZ
DEBRA GRAHAM
GEORGINA M. GRANVILLE
WHITNEY P. HALL
JAMES D. HANNIGAN
CLAY M. HUFFMAN
JOSEPH F. HUGGINS
GARY R. KINSEY
HEATHER R. MACDOUGALL
JOSHUA S. MAU
ERIC L. MCGOWEN
SEAN R. MEEHL
DAWN N. MOORE
JOHN N. NESTOR
CHRISTY E. ORSER
ROBIN T. PACHECO
EDWARD Y. PARK
JULIUS D. PENN
JAMES W. PRENDERGAST
SUSIE G. ROBERTS
ROBERT M. ROGERS
CHRISTOPHER P. ROWEY
OSCAR RUBIO
ROSADO H. SANTILLAN
STEPHEN M. SCHIPPERS
GEOFFREY C. SHEAFFER
GAROLD W. SHERLOCK
JORDAN R. SIMMERS
VERNON S. SMITH
DAMIEN J. SQUILLA
TULILOA TULILOA
TRAVIS S. UCHACZ
LUIS J. VEGARIVERA
ERIC M. WILLIAMS
KELLY L. WILLIAMS

KRISTY M. WOLTER

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

To be colonel

CARL N. ADAMS
STEWART A. ADAMS
TOBY P. ADAMSON
ROBERT S. ANDERS
JOSHUA A. ANG
CHRISTOPHER M. ASH
ALYSSA Y. ASTPHAN
KRISTEN L. AUGE
WILLIAM A. AULT
KYLE R. BAER
ANDREW C. BAGWELL
PAUL M. BAILIE
TODD M. BAILOG
VICTOR M. BECERRA
MICHAEL A. BEDRYK
JEREMY D. BIRD
EDWIN R. BOCHTLER
BRIAN S. BONANNO
NICHOLAS M. BREEN
ERIC J. BRENNER
JUAN T. BRYANT
SEAN D. BURKE
KEVIN S. BURTON
RICKY L. CALDWELL
KEVIN B. CALLAHAN
ANTHONY T. CANNON
JONATHAN A. CAPE
TERENCE L. CAPLE
CLINT E. CARMAN
STACY J. CARTER
DAVID A. CERCHIO
JEFFREY S. CHANG
NICHOLAS B. CHAVEZ
TERESA E. CHILDS
CHUN S. CHON
MICHAEL J. CHRISTENSEN
NOEL D. CHUN
RYAN T. COCHRAN
STEVEN B. COCHRAN
JOSEPH A. COLANTONI
MELVIN C. CONRAD, JR.
RAUL A. CORDERO
PATRICK D. CORNWELL
LAURA S. CROSS
BENJAMIN P. CURRIER
JOSHUA J. DAILY
JAMES A. DANGERFIELD
EDWIN W. DAVIS
JAMIE A. DAVIS
BRANDI N. DEGIER
JASON M. DESOTO
ANTHONY J. DORSA II
BRIAN K. DUTY
DANIEL L. DOW
MANUEL O. DUENAS, JR.
CHRISTOPHER L. ELSON
JOHN D. FAY, JR.
LAURA L. FOREST
DAVID D. FOWLER
JOHN D. FREEMON
AARON C. FREUND
JACKIE L. GANTT
JESSICA A. GARRETTSSOMSSICH
MATTHEW D. GARRISON
DAVID J. GIBB
ANTHONY M. GLANDORF
DANA W. GRAF, JR.
KIMBERLY S. GRAHAM
MICHAEL D. GREEN
ANDREW D. HAAP
DAVID S. HAMPTON, JR.
SEAN A. HARMY
DAVID M. HARTSHORN
JEFFREY D. HARVEY
JOHN F. HARVEY
ARTHUR S. HECTOR
JEREMY P. HEDGES
JACOB C. HELGESTAD
SHANNON K. HELLENBRAND
PATRICK J. HENDERSON
RENA O. HENDERSONALAILIMA
JUSTIN R. HENRY
CHARLES B. HILL
MELVIN P. HODGES
BRANDON L. HOLMER
KRIS D. HULSE
JENNIFER J. HUNT
DONALD H. HURT
JASON M. INSKEEP
FORREST C. JUBLOU
FRANK S. JUDD
ANTHONY T. JUSTICE
KATHERINE O. KALAMA
MICHAEL A. KAPPELMANN
WESLEY K. KAWAKAMI
ALYSSA M. KELLEHER
CHESTER B. KELLER
RYAN F. KELLY
BRENT A. KEMP
MATTHEW J. LAMPKE
KILEY Q. LAUGHLIN
KELSEY W. LAVICKA
CHRISTOPHER LAZAS
ANNIE M. LEE
LATISHA T. LEWIS
MARC A. LINDEMANN
KIMBERLY A. LINDGREN
BRYON L. LINNEHAN
KYLE B. LIUDAH
OMAR LORENZO

DONALD D. LOVETT
JOSEPH T. LOWRANCE
STEPHEN J. LUEBBERT
JOSEPH W. LUNDELL
MICHAEL W. LYNCH
ROGER B. MARLOWE
RONALD W. MCBAY
THOMAS A. MCDERMOTT
RUSSELL E. MCKELVEY IV
KEITH W. MCKEON
VIVIENE E. MCNAMARA
BRIAN D. MCSADDEN
ROBERT J. MENDEZ
JASON M. MERCHANT
BRADLEY W. MERRITT
MELISSA C. MESSARE
TIMOTHY D. MILLS
OMAR T. MINOTT
CHARLES C. MOSS III
ELIZABETH A. MURPHY
KEVIN J. MURPHY
STANLEY L. MYERS
ERIC M. NELSON
GARY J. NELSON
CHARLES C. NEWTON, JR.
JUSTIN T. NUSZ
JEFFREY M. ODETTE
MICHAEL R. OHARA
CHRISTIAN M. OLEARY
MICHAEL E. PADGETT
GLORIA L. PARKS
CHARLES S. PATZNER
BRYAN S. PEREZ
CHRISTOPHER M. PERRONE
BRYAN E. PETERSON
WILLIAM T. PETRY
LLOYD C. PHELPS II
ALVIN D. PHILLIPS
EDWARD A. PIASTA
DENNIS N. PINEAULT
MEGHANN O. PLUMLEE
BRIAN T. PLUNK
ARIEL A. POL
PRESTON R. POSTL
DANIELLE R. PRICE
OMAYRA RAMIREZROSARIO
JASON A. REED
WADE G. REED
SANDY B. REINFURT
ARTHUR G. RICHARDS III
KYLE J. RICHARDSON
TERRY S. RICHARDSON
RAYMOND D. RIPPLINGER
MANUEL A. ROBLEDO
JOHN R. ROCHE
MICHAEL A. RODRIGUEZ
AARON J. ROGGOV
MICHAEL I. ROSNER
KIRSTIE Y. ROY
MARKO N. RUBICH
WILLIAM W. SAINT
ODESSA K. SAMKPAKRA
JEFFREY W. SCHAEKEL
JONAS A. SCHORRE
JOSEPH A. SCHWADE
IAN J. SEAGRIF
RYAN D. SEXTRO
JOHN B. SHEALY
ALICE H. SMITH
DANIEL L. SMITH
JESSE W. SMITH
RYAN J. SMITH
WILLIAM F. SNYDER
CHARLES C. SPRINGER, JR.
JAMES D. STANLEY
GERALD P. STARNES
SHANNON L. STOPPEL
JASON T. STUCHLIK
CHRISTOPHER B. STUTZ
NICHOLAS P. SUHR
ASHLEY C. SULLIVAN
DAVID K. SWISHER
WANGSON SYLVEN
PHILIP D. THOMAS
MILES R. TRUDELL
AURELITH T. TUMPAP
ROBERT M. VAUGHN
ANDREW W. VIDOUREK
BUDD J. VOGRINEC
DAVID N. WALLISER
DARON T. WEBB
MATTHEW L. WEEKS
SEAN M. WELKER
MICHAEL C. WETZEL
NATHAN M. WILDE
JUSTIN L. WILKERSON
DUSTIN A. WILKIE
ROBERT M. WILLIAMSON
JOHN T. WILMOT
BRIAN N. WINTZER
MICHAEL S. WOODSON
BENJAMIN R. WYNN
EDWARD O. ZIEMBINSKI

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be colonel

JESSICA DUCUSIN ARCILLA
ERIK P. BALDWIN
MELINDA A. CARR
LAUREN B. DEFRADES
AMELIA J. SIMMONS
HELENO DA ROCHA SOUZA

TARALENE DANIELLE WADDLES
NORCISE L. WILLIAMS

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

To be colonel

CASSANDRA NOEL AYOTT
JENNIFER N. COWIE
SHANNON J. DAWSON
THOMAS L. FOLSOM
ELIZABETH A. HAYS
SINEAD MARIE HEALEY
ADAM G. HOHMAN
ROBERT A. MOORE
KIMBERLY KEEN MORGAN
RUTH A. TURNER

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

To be colonel

LISA A. BROWN
STEPHEN N. LUKER
AARON H. PETERSEN
TIMOTHY J. STRIGENZ

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

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER L. ALLEN
ERIC JOHN COLON
ROBERT W. GARNER
JOSEPH SUNGWOOK HONG
RONALD L. JONES
ANIL SAMOILENKO MENON
MICHAEL ANTHONY POLICASTRO
ROBERT J. RAMSDELL
MARVIN H. SINEATH, JR.

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

To be colonel

JENNIFER M. DEPEW

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

To be colonel

MICHAEL J. CHUNG
JONGSUNG KIM
DIEP H. LE

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

To be colonel

DAVID M. DAUS
CAMERON D. GUNNIN
MARIANNE E. NASSEF
MATTHEW C. ZIMMERMAN

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

To be colonel

RYAN J. ALBRECHT
PETER B. ANDERSON
KELLYANN H. BOEHM
JACQUELYN M. CHRISTILLES
NICHOLAS D. DOUKAS
ADAM E. FREY
JAY C. JACKSON
DEBORAH A. KLEIN
ERNST MITCHELL MARTZEN

HOLLY L. MCPHERSON
SANDRA K. OHERN
KATHERINE C. SETO

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

To be colonel

WILLIE J. BROWN

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

To be colonel

ULRIC A. ADAMS, JR.
ELISABETH S. APFLEGATE
JOSHUA P. BENDER
DIANA I. CABLE
STEVEN M. CHETELAT
BRETT ANTHONY CHIANELLA
JARVIS D. CROFF
ROBERT E. ENGELMANN
SEAN M. FELLOWS
NATHANIEL JAMES FERRACO
JEREMY B. FOLKS
HARRISON ISAAC FRIED
CARLA MARIE GLEASON
LAMAR W. HILTON
WILLIAM J. LEWIS
CHRISTOPHER R. LOHAN
DANIEL M. MAY
ANNA N. MCCLURE
BRIAN J. MIHALKO
MELISSA MARIE MILAS
KATIE L. MILLER
ANDREA K. MORRISON
CHRISTOPHER R. OWENS
JOY SALACKJIT PATTON
KAREN PAULSON
CORY J. ROBERTS
BARBARA ELOISE SHEPARD
ERIC RYAN STRIDE
TERESA L. SULLIVAN
TODD J. TURNER
HAMILTON B. UNDERWOOD III
KIMBERLY MURPHY WEBB
LEWIS K. WHITEHEAD
CHRISTOPHER A. WILLIAMS

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

To be colonel

NATHAN A. CASE
HEATHER J. COHEA
JEREMY COTTON
JERRY R. HOPSTER
SUNNY NORWOOD BUCK
OMAR A. PEREA

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

To be colonel

NICOLAS SOLOMON ALCOCER
JENNIFER ANNETTE ALICKSON
EDWARD L. ANDERSON
JOSHUA THOMAS ANDERSON
MICHAEL E. BARRON
STEPHEN J. BLACKSTONE
AARON A. BOHL
DAVID J. BOYTIM
ERICK PAUL BROUGH
BRADLEY J. BRUMBAUGH
STEPHEN A. CAMPBELL
SHANNON L. CARY
ALYSON R. CLYDE
THOMAS E. COLLINS
DAVID WAYNE CURL

MICHAEL S. ELDRIDGE
CHRISTOPHER E. ESCAJEDA
BARRY D. EVANS
BRIAN C. FASH
JARET T. FISH
JEFFREY A. FORNESS
NICHOLAS P. FOSTER
DAVID JOSEPH GAULIN
GABRIEL D. GELDERT
PAUL S. GOLANDO
JUSTIN GOLDSTEIN
MATTHEW DALE GORSUCH
ANDREW P. GRAY
STEPHEN M. GROGAN
JOSEPH A. HAYNES
CHRISTOPHER D. HETRICK
JUSTIN A. HICKS
BRIAN J. HUSTER
DOUGLAS A. JOHNSON
PHILLIP W. JOHNSTON
KENNETH M. KIRKPATRICK
GENTRY L. KRAMER
CHRISTOPHER J. KURPIEL
NICOLE M. LANG
RANDY F. MARTIN
CARL J. MCBURNETT, JR.
JOHN ANDRUS MEIKELL
JAMES M. MORGAN
SHAWN M. MOSHER
DAVID L. PAYNE
ROBERT W. PEARCE
ZACHARY A. PROBST
ROMAN PYATKOV
JAMES J. QUIGLEY
JEFFREY E. RANDALL
ANNE CHRISTINE RIDLON
BARTHOLOMEW B. ROBINSON
CHRISTOPHER A. ROTHE
KENYATTA HENTS RUFFIN
CLIFFORD L. RUSSELL
AUSTIN B. SKELLEY
WESLEY ADAM SKENFIELD
KEVIN R. SNOW
DAVID J. SPROEHNLE
ANTHONY M. STRAW
BRADLEY KENT SULLIVAN
CLIFTON D. TINKHAM
JOHN V. TROMBETTA
CHRISTINE L. VAN WEEZENDONK
WILLIAM L. WISEHART
ROBERT CONWELL ZEESE

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

To be colonel

SCOTT W. HURRELBRINK

IN THE NAVY

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

To be lieutenant commander

TY R. CHRISTIAN

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate April 9, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

SUSAN M. BAZIS, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA.
ROBERT J. WHITE, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT
OF MICHIGAN.