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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN FETTERMAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we thank You for another day with its fresh promises, opportunities, and duties. As our bodies are renewed, so give strength to our minds and hearts to glorify You with our lives.

Be near our Senators as they labor. For their added burdens, give them greater strength. For their difficult problems, give them greater wisdom. For their moments of despair, give them greater faith.

Lord, to all who serve in the government, provide a full measure of Your mercy, grace, and might, that all things may be ordered according to Your will.

We pray in Your merciful 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, May 15, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN FETTERMAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

AI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last year, Congress faced a momentous choice: either watch from the sidelines as artificial intelligence reshaped our world or make a novel, bipartisan effort to enhance, but also regulate, this technology before it was too late. So, as majority leader, I convened a bipartisan working group of Senators last year—Senators ROUNDS, HEINRICH, and YOUNG—to chart the path forward on AI in the Senate.

Today, after months of discussion, after hundreds of meetings, and after nine first-of-their-kind AI Insight Forums, our bipartisan Senate working group released the first ever roadmap for AI policy in the Senate. Our policy roadmap for AI is the first, most comprehensive, most bipartisan, and most forward-thinking report on AI regulation produced by Congress. Our roadmap lays out a panoply of policy priorities and guardrails that our group believes merit bipartisan consideration in this Congress and beyond.

Three words govern what we do: urgency, humility, and bipartisanship. Urgency because AI is so complex, so rapidly evolving, and so broad in its impact—it covers almost every aspect of society. The longer we wait, the bigger the gap becomes. Just this week, ChatGPT released a new model that can read facial expressions and translate spoken language in realtime.

Humility, this is hard to do because AI is nothing like Congress has ever dealt with before. It is rapidly changing. As we mentioned, every week, something new happens. It is all encompassing, and Congress has never really dealt with it before. In areas like health or defense, we have a long track record, lots of expertise, but not so in AI because it is so new.

And, finally, bipartisanship, because the changes that AI brings won't discriminate between left, right, and center, and we all know the only way to get things done here is bipartisanship. That means compromise by Democrats and Republicans. But, certainly, getting nothing done is a worse alternative.

As I have always said, innovation must be our North Star—innovation. America must take the lead in the world, continue to innovate, use the great nutrient agar of entrepreneurship

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



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and doing new things and reaching out in new directions. We have been the most innovative country in the world. We should keep that.

But innovation has two senses, two parts. Both are very important to realize. One I call transformational innovation, and one I call sustainable innovation.

Transformational innovation is reaching the stars. It is the great stuff that AI could do. What if AI cures cancer? We have got to make sure we don't stand in the way of that happening.

What if AI dealt with climate change in a really strong new way or fed the hungry of the world or gave each person on Earth a teacher? Senator YOUNG mentioned this yesterday—a teacher that could just talk to them. These are great opportunities that we can't afford to miss.

But we also need sustainable innovation. That means we need innovation to produce guardrails that minimize the damage that AI could bring. How do you deal with workers who might be displaced? We don't want to repeat the mistake of globalization, where globalization did a lot of good things—it took a billion people, probably, out of poverty in the world—but no one paid attention to those who were hurt by globalization. We have to pay attention to bias because many of these big systems have bias built into them, and we can't repeat that error.

We have to deal with the creative community and intellectual property. So we need innovation in these areas as well to make sure that the liabilities of AI are dealt with.

So we need both—transformational innovation and sustainable innovation—in a sense, to maximize the benefits of AI and minimize the liabilities.

It is no easy task. It is no easy task. But our insight forums were designed to be balanced, with the input of leaders from the industry. They operate these AI complexes. We needed to hear from them, but also leaders from civil rights and labor and the creative community, sitting right next to them. And our AI forums were amazing.

There were back-and-forths. People really didn't just make speeches but tried to come up with questions we needed to answer and solutions to those questions. It is a difficult job, but I believe we achieved that balance in our AI forums and certainly in the roadmap. Balance is important.

Now, to help move forward on both forms of innovation—innovation, of course, being our North Star, transformational and sustainable innovation—we recommend a \$32 billion surge in emergency funding to secure America's dominance in AI. And let me underscore: This is a bipartisan recommendation. Senators HEINRICH and I, of course, care about it, but so do Senators YOUNG and ROUNDS, and they were quite eloquent yesterday about how we needed to spend this money or the United States would fall way behind.

Now, where do we go from here? Our policy roadmap is intended to be used by our committee chairs and ranking members as a foundation to move on good, bipartisan AI legislation. It is the committees that do the legislating. That is what has always happened around here. We need our committees to continue the bipartisan momentum of the AI gang to achieve the hope of passing legislation by the end of the year.

We don't expect every piece of AI to be addressed, every problem that is in our roadmap to be addressed. Some will lend themselves to move more quickly than others, and we are not going to hold back on some that are ready because others are not yet ready. This is a very, as I said, difficult process that we have to approach with humility.

Let me just say this: Our AI committee chairs and ranking members are ready and eager to engage in AI. Our roadmap includes many areas of bipartisan agreement that the committees can use, and, already, we are making progress in the Rules Committee, which is marking up legislation today. The Commerce Committee is looking at legislation regarding AI innovation. The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is considering how to leverage AI in the Federal workforce. The Armed Services Committee is leading the way on AI in the military. And the list goes on. So our committees are getting actively involved, which is what we want.

Our policy roadmap also embraces action to protect our elections from the potential risk of AI. First, the 2024 elections will be the first elections ever held in the age of AI. If we are not careful, AI could jaundice, even totally discredit, our entire system of elections as we know it. So, today, I am joining the Rules Committee, which is marking up three bills—all three with bipartisan support—to address AI's impact on our elections. I strongly support these bills, and I commend Senator KLOBUCHAR and her sponsors for their bipartisan work.

And that is just happening today, but we expect there will be other committees putting forth legislation in the near future.

Our policy roadmap also advocates for a host of regulatory recommendations that help maximize AI's potential and minimize its risks—risks like bias and job displacement and privacy invasion. These are all difficult issues to deal with, but move forward we must.

So our policy roadmap is an important step in AI regulation, and getting the committees here in the Congress to start figuring out the bipartisan legislation that they can move forward on is a good step. But I also plan to meet with Speaker JOHNSON in the near future to see how we can make Congress's effort on AI not just bipartisan but also bicameral.

So today is immensely satisfying for our bipartisan AI gang. It has been a long, long time and a culmination of

months of listening and thinking and working on this issue. So with great sincerity and humility, I want to thank my colleagues in the bipartisan working group—ROUNDS, HEINRICH, and YOUNG. I thank my Senate colleagues who attended our insight forums. Over 70 Senators attended at least 1 forum, and many attended multiple forums. And they are beginning their work on AI through the committee process. And I thank all the staff who have put a lot of effort and a lot of hours into this policy roadmap. I have a great staff, and they have been so instrumental in getting us to the point we are at now.

Congress can't and won't solve every challenge AI presents today, but with this policy roadmap, we now have a foundation necessary to propel America into the age of AI.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, now on the border, three things are true about the southern border: One, the status quo cannot continue. Two, Democrats want Congress to take action. Three, the only way we will solve this issue is with real bipartisan action, not partisan talk.

Instead of just making a lot of speeches, pointing a lot of fingers—blame, blame, blame—we Democrats want to get something done to secure our border. Democrats showed we are serious about border security when we worked with Republicans to write the strongest border security bill in a generation, to hire more border agents and asylum officers, enhance drug enforcement, and fix asylum. We had the strongest border security bill in decades ready to go here in the Senate, with a lot of support from Republicans who, when they saw it, they liked it—they said, “Wow, this is tough stuff”—until Donald Trump killed it to keep the issue alive on the campaign trail. He said it. He wanted chaos because it might help his election. Then he said: Blame it on me.

I remember when he said, “Blame the shutdown on me,” when Speaker PELOSI and I went to his office. I don't think that is a very successful strategy, and it is certainly not what is good for America.

So this bill is such a strong bill. It is a bill that would add more than 1,500 new Customs and Border Protection personnel, 4,300 asylum officers—a bill Democrats and Republicans spent months negotiating and fine-tuning and revising.

Unlike the vast majority of bills in Congress that are dubbed as “border security,” this wasn't a messaging bill. This was a product of months of bipartisan negotiation, written with the goal of reaching the President's desk—a bill supported by the people who know, perhaps better than anyone else, what it takes to address border security, the National Border Patrol Council, a very conservative group. Their president called our bill “a step in the right direction” and “far better than the status quo.”

Donald Trump's sabotage of the strongest border bill in decades makes

it obvious he cares only about this issue so long as he can exploit it for political gain, not about solving the problem that Americans want solved. If Donald Trump was genuine about wanting to fix the border, if he actually believed this was an emergency, he would have supported the Senate's bipartisan bill.

Still, Democrats have not walked away from this debate. We want to secure the border. We know it will take bipartisan action in Congress, and we call on our Republican colleagues to join us to advance border security legislation, bipartisan legislation that the people demand.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, finally, on nominations, today, the Senate will continue processing more of President Biden's outstanding nominees. This morning the Senate will vote on cloture on the nomination of Judge Sanket Bulsara to serve as a district judge in the Eastern District of New York. I was proud to push President Biden to nominate this amazing New Yorker and exceptionally qualified legal mind.

Judge Bulsara made history in 2017 as the first South Asian-American judge to serve in any court within the Second Circuit when he was appointed magistrate judge for the Eastern District. New York's South Asian population is one of the fastest growing in our State and in our country. So I am proud to support Judge Bulsara because he will make our courts a better reflection of the communities they serve.

And, once confirmed, Judge Bulsara will represent a milestone for the Senate. He will be the 195th—the 195th—judge confirmed by this body since President Biden took office, and we are going to keep going. Americans deserve jurists they can trust to be fair, to be qualified, and who will appreciate the human impact of their decisions. Judge Bulsara perfectly fits that noble idea.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, thousands of law enforcement personnel from across America will descend to our Nation's Capital to pay solemn tribute to comrades killed in the line of duty.

The entire Nation joins them once again in honoring the service and sacrifice as we mark National Peace Officers Memorial Day and add the names of fallen heroes to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the officers and families who are in town this week. Our Nation owes the thin blue line a great debt for their dedication to keeping our communities safe.

I am especially grateful to Kentucky's law enforcement and honored

to pay special tribute to one of the Commonwealth's finest who was killed in the line of duty just last year. Deputy Caleb Conley of Scott County Sheriff's Office was tragically shot and killed a year ago next week during a routine traffic stop in Georgetown, KY.

He leaves behind his wife and two children. And yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting with members of the Conley family and assured them that their sacrifice is not forgotten.

The loss of the heroes we honor this week leaves holes in tight-knit departments and devoted families. And their deaths are a reminder of the daily risk peace officers take to keep the rest of us safe.

Of course, in this building, we are never far from men and women who swear oaths to run toward danger. And this Police Week, I hope our colleagues join me in thanking the officers of the Capitol Police who guard this institution and honoring their comrades who have given their lives to defend it.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on another matter, in cities across America, soft-on-crime policies are making the tough job of law enforcement even tougher.

Earlier this month, President Biden declared that "Americans are safer from violent crime today than a year ago." But even a quick look around our Nation's Capital shows that crime in many American cities is still unacceptable high.

As of this past week, Washington, DC, has already seen 63 homicides and much more than 1,700 car thefts in 2024. Among these crimes was the deadly shooting of a 3-year-old girl who was hit by a stray bullet in a passing car. The child who was described as "cheerful and chatty" was just one of the youngest in a long list of this crime wave's innocent victims.

Last year, Washington saw homicides rise 35 percent. The city's murder rate reached the highest level in a quarter century. And less than halfway through 2024, cities across the country are still grappling with familiar problems.

In Los Angeles, home break-ins are rising, and residents report that police are complaining that their hands are tied. In Chicago, police reports show that crime has increased 69 percent since 2021. In Philadelphia, the effort to fire a soft-on-crime district attorney has gone all the way to the State supreme court.

Surely President Biden isn't declaring victory over the lawlessness threatening American communities. Surely the fact that violent crime is hovering beneath breathtaking highs isn't a cause for celebration.

As the head of one Washington nonprofit focused on preventing gun crimes put it, "I know some of the repercussions that can come from taking a victory lap too soon."

Then again, it is not surprising that from a White House to city halls across the country, Democrat leaders are

downplaying concerns about violent crime. If they looked this problem in the face, they would have to admit that their own policies are to blame.

It shouldn't have to be this way. The American people deserve safe streets, and law enforcement deserves elected leaders who back the blue.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, on another matter, for three consecutive months, major national polls have ranked immigration as the most important problem facing our country. And this year, for the first time, a majority of Americans say they support erecting physical barriers—physical barriers—along our southern border.

So perhaps it is not a coincidence that the Democratic leader has indicated his intention to once again turn the Senate's focus to the border crisis and to portions of the bipartisan legislation Senator LANKFORD helped produce earlier this year.

But in his own remarks on the subject yesterday, my colleague from New York seemed to acknowledge what we all know: The keys to securing our southern border are already in the hands that created this crisis.

As the Democratic leader proudly declared, "President Biden . . . is taking action to secure our border. Last week," he said, "the President began announcing a series of administrative actions."

Last week? After 3 years on the job, apparently, it is time to give the Commander in Chief kudos on his handling of a crisis that still lets nearly 5,000 people cross our border illegally in a day.

Of course, President Biden does have the authorities he needs to start rapidly undoing the damage of the historic crisis that unfolded on his watch. How do we know? Because he voluntarily took them off the table on day one. "Remain in Mexico"? Off the table. The border wall construction a majority of Americans support? Not a chance. Any sign at all that this administration would like to actually secure the border? Don't hold your breath.

The path out of the deepening border crisis is actually not a mystery; it just requires a President who is willing to stop digging.

S.J. RES. 57

Mr. President, now, on one final matter, I would like to briefly commend several of our colleagues for their work on resolutions the Senate will consider to roll back yet another slate of Biden administration overreach.

Today, we will vote on a resolution from Senator SCHMITT to finally put the brakes on the Treasury Department's extension of massive recovery funds for a pandemic emergency that has long since passed.

The Senate will vote on another resolution under the Congressional Review Act from Senator LUMMIS that would repeal a hasty, shortsighted power grab

by the SEC that hampers the deployment of new digital financial technologies.

And in the coming days, we will also vote on Senator CRUZ's resolution to ax a new Department of Energy rule on gas furnace efficiency standards that threaten to drive a huge share of existing residential furnace models out of the market and hike costs for seniors, small businesses, and low-income households.

As always, I am grateful to our colleagues for leading these efforts, and I urge the Senate to pass each resolution.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week marks the 70th anniversary of one of the most important Supreme Court decisions of all time. It is part of our march toward justice.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court announced its decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, unanimously—unanimously—declaring the racist legal doctrine of “separate but equal” unconstitutional.

Today, we celebrate this historic anniversary and how far we have come as a country since the dark days of Jim Crow. Thankfully, we have made substantial progress in addressing racial disparities in education. However, significantly, systemic disparities do still exist today. More work needs to be done to promote racial equity and end discrimination inside and outside the classroom.

When the Supreme Court announced its decision in 1954, the demographics of American school-aged children were significantly different than they are today. At that time, the school-aged population, according to The Century Foundation, was roughly 85 percent White, 12 percent Black, and less than 4 percent other races. Contrast that with today. America's school-aged population is much more diverse: 48 percent White, 27 percent Hispanic, 15 percent Black, 6 percent Asian, 1 percent American-Indian, and 4 percent multiracial.

Yet, even with this increase—dramatic increase—in diversity, America's schools too often remain segregated by race. As of the 2018–2019 school year, one in six public school students attended schools where more than 90 percent of their peers had the same racial background. Illinois has 3 of the country's top 11 most segregated urban school districts. This lack of racial diversity in our schools is caused in part by unfair, exclusionary zoning policies

that keep low-income families out of schools in wealthier communities.

Education can play a significant role in helping to close the wealth gap between families, but unfortunately, due to modern-day segregation, many Black and Brown students often cannot access the same high-quality education as their White peers.

If you look at data from U.S. public schools going back to 1967, you will see that the segregation between Black and White students has increased by 64 percent since 1988 in the 100 largest school districts. While school segregation is not at pre-Brown v. Board of Education levels, it is still high and has been rising steadily since the late 1980s, and because where you go to school depends on your ZIP Code, students from poor neighborhoods in segregated cities are often trapped in underperforming schools.

Dismantling segregation has become more difficult now than it would have been 70 or 80 years ago, but we cannot ignore the challenge. Unless we focus on desegregating America and its neighborhoods, Brown's promise of integrated education will remain an unattainable goal.

The Brown decision was supposed to be the first step in a long march towards Americans' equality. It helped set the stage for challenges to other Jim Crow policies, such as barriers to fair housing, equal employment, voting rights, and public accommodations.

Unfortunately, today, the forces of intolerance are working to turn back the clock. Just last year, the Supreme Court struck down decades of precedent by ruling that affirmative action policies at two universities were unconstitutional. The attack on affirmative action threatens not just opportunities in education but also equal access to employment and contracts for minorities. The decision rewinds the clock and recreates barriers to entry for young minority students looking to pursue a degree in higher education and advance beyond college.

Quality education should be a right in our country, not a privilege. As a country, we still struggle to fulfill that promise. Public schools and many other elements of society remain separate and unequal, diminishing opportunities for millions.

Congress must focus on enacting policies and using resources to provide every student—Black, White, Brown—with the tools they need to learn and thrive in America. We must advocate for all students of every race and every place to have these resources to learn without limits.

As we celebrate 70 years since this historic decision, we honor the brave individuals who fought hard to bring it to reality. Those of us here today must honor their determination and sacrifice by continuing their mission for fairness.

On this 70th anniversary, I urge my colleagues to continue working toward equality within our education system

and society. It is long overdue for us to repair the broken systems that no longer serve our children, our grandchildren, and our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this morning's inflation report shows just how stubborn President Biden's inflation crisis is.

For the 37th month in a row, prices have risen by more than 3 percent, and there is still no end in sight. Overall, prices are up 19.9 percent since President Biden took office. Grocery prices are up 21.3 percent. Car repairs are up 30.2 percent. Rent is up 20.8 percent. And the list literally goes on and on.

As Americans turn on their air conditioners this summer, they can contemplate a grim report from the Wall Street Journal, which notes that electricity prices have gone up 13 times faster under President Biden than they did in the previous 7 years.

All told, it costs a typical family more than \$1,000 a month just to maintain the standard of living it had when President Biden first took office—more than \$1,000 a month just to tread water.

So it is shocking to hear President Biden say things like he did last week when he suggested that people “have the money” to pay higher prices. But that is the kind of disconnect we have come to expect from the President, who claimed inflation would be “temporary” and who has persistently downplayed and denied the painful economic reality Americans are experiencing thanks to Democrats' reckless spending.

That pain is real. As one working parent in Connecticut said:

Every time I look at my bank account, it's always going down.

Luis, a truckdriver in Pennsylvania said:

I can do my living, but compared to what I used to have, I need to work extra to get what I used to have before.

And a family farmer in Missouri described his input costs as “ridiculous.”

They are not alone; 48 percent of voters say their personal financial situation is getting worse. Half of voters say they are worse off since President Biden took office. And 80 percent of voters say high prices are one of their biggest financial challenges.

Meanwhile, the cost of dealing with inflation is adding to Americans' financial pain. Many Americans have had to turn to their credit cards to cope with higher prices. And with the Federal Reserve having to keep interest rates elevated to fight inflation, paying off that debt has gotten harder.

High interest rates have also helped put the American dream of owning your own home increasingly out of reach. Prospective home buyers need to earn nearly twice as much to afford a typical home today as they would have 4 years ago. Half of renters under age 50 don't think they will be able to afford to buy their own home.

For Americans pursuing their dream of owning their own business or running the family farm or ranch, inflation has created serious challenges. More than a third of small business owners identify inflation as the biggest single threat to their business. Higher input costs and higher borrowing costs have forced small business owners to grapple with unwelcome prospects like raising prices and pulling back from investing in their businesses.

As bad as things have been over the past 3 years, it could get worse. The budget President Biden proposed in March contained a staggering—staggering—\$5 trillion in job-killing tax hikes. And just recently, the President said that if he is reelected, he would let the 2017 tax cuts expire.

Democrats may not like to acknowledge this, but the 2017 Republican-led tax reform legislation cut taxes for the majority of Americans. And if those rate cuts are allowed to expire, a typical family is looking at a \$1,600 tax hike in 2026.

That money may not matter to someone like the President, but I am sure working families have better uses for \$1,600 than sending it to the IRS, especially when you consider how much President Biden's inflation crisis is already costing them.

On top of that, the President wants to allow other tax reform measures in the 2017 bill—measures that brought benefits to hard-working Americans—to expire. So Americans could be looking at a future of higher taxes plus fewer jobs and opportunities.

The American people can't afford any more of the President's misguided economic policies; but, unfortunately, the President never seems to learn.

Let's hope the American people don't have to endure a second term of Bidenomics.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 467

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, everyone here—everyone here—everybody in the audience, everybody watching on C-SPAN has a loved one or knows of someone whom they have loved who has either overdosed or died, actually, from an overdose of fentanyl—an incredible scourge on our society right now. Drug overdose is the leading

cause of death among young adults 18 to 45, and synthetic opioids like fentanyl are 75 percent of the cause, if you will, of U.S. overdose deaths.

Fentanyl continues to kill almost 200 Americans a day—200 Americans a day. Like, today, 200 Americans will die from a fentanyl overdose—an entire generation, dying. Illegal fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances are flooding into our market from the southern border in unprecedented amounts, with the bulk of it originating from a handful of manufacturers in Wuhan Province, China. By the way, you can't help but point out that this is worsened by the Biden administration's complete failure to secure the southern border.

Currently, fentanyl-related substances are classified as schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act. This classification provides law enforcement with the tools necessary to combat this emergency, going after the criminals who, again, are flooding our communities with these deadly drugs. But schedule I classification expires at the end of the year, and that is less than 8 months away.

Now, for years, Congress has not made this classification permanent, and every day we get closer to this deadline, we risk losing this essential law enforcement tool. If we don't act, the chemical manufacturers in China, the cartels, and the criminals who exploit our communities are emboldened, and we must not allow this to happen.

That is why today I am calling on the Senate to pass the Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act, or the HALT Fentanyl Act, to permanently classify fentanyl-related substances as a schedule I controlled substance. Now, the bill is not controversial. There are no poison pills. All it does is codify current law, ensuring we don't lose tools we need to confront the fentanyl epidemic. The House—with as many problems as the House has had passing legislation—passed this bill on a strong bipartisan basis last year.

And the legislation removes barriers that impede the ability of researchers to conduct studies on these substances and allows for exemptions if the research provides evidence that specific analogs of fentanyl have a valid medical purpose. So we give law enforcement tools, but we also give the scientists, the medical scientists, tools to establish whether one of these analogs is worth having for medical purposes.

Now, it is important to note that this week is National Police Week. We honor police officers and their service to our communities. Now, these officers are on the frontlines of the fentanyl crisis, holding criminals accountable, saving lives by preventing the spread of drugs, but at times giving drugs like Narcan to reverse an overdose.

I am proud to say that we have a letter from 11 national law enforcement organizations supporting the HALT Fentanyl Act. And by passing this legislation, we will send a strong message

to law enforcement: We have your back. We have your back as you battle the scourge of deadly drugs in our communities.

The clock is ticking. Failure to act puts Americans in harm's way. We must pass this bill and get it to the President's desk for signature.

Mr. President, now, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 467 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the HALT Fentanyl Act would permanently classify fentanyl-related substances as schedule I substances under the Controlled Substances Act.

The fentanyl epidemic is ravaging communities across the United States. We are losing more than 80,000 Americans to overdose every year from opioid overdose. With deaths reaching this level, we do need every tool at our disposal to combat illicit fentanyl, but reclassification of fentanyl-related substances as schedule I substances would limit the government's ability to research overdose and addiction treatment medications, override critical public health considerations in scheduling decisions, and extend the policy approach of the failed War on Drugs.

Schedule I drugs are difficult for scientists to research. Fentanyl's potency and danger demand that we study it and its analogs to combat overdose and addiction. A permanent, blanket schedule I category for any fentanyl-related substance would create barriers to vital research.

This punishment-only categorization for fentanyl-related substances would eclipse the longstanding public health approach to Controlled Substances Act scheduling. The Controlled Substances Act authorizes the administration to consider concrete scientific factors when determining which scheduling category should apply to a drug, and that approach is absent here.

Finally, this bill would bring the United States back to the approach of the failed War on Drugs where we criminalized drug use while ignoring the underlying issues that animate abuse and addiction. Prosecutions under this expansion will continue to disproportionately target people of color. A punishment-only approach will not reduce drugs in our communities.

I have spoken to people on the frontlines of this epidemic: people with substance use disorder, families who have lost a loved one, and healthcare providers. They are the ones on the frontlines when people die from fentanyl. They are the ones who lose their lives or lose their patients,

friends, or family when we don't invest in the security and public health tools for communities. They are the ones who are frustrated every day by archaic laws that keep people from the prevention and treatment which they need.

We must do better. We must make sure people have access to tools to keep fentanyl out of their communities. We need to make sure people have access to treatment—like methadone medication—to keep people in recovery, and we need to save lives. But permanently categorizing fentanyl-related substances as schedule I substances would impede our response to the overdose epidemic and lead to overincarceration.

There has to be additional discussion and debate. Let us do that so that we can give this issue the attention which it needs and that it deserves so that any solution is effective and bipartisan.

As a result, at this point, I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, recognizing that there has been an objection, I would like to point out a couple of things, though.

As regards permanently scheduling fentanyl-related substances would do nothing to limit overdoses: Congress has extended fentanyl scheduling on a temporary basis multiple times, and this has led to fewer overdoses and led to the creation of fewer new fentanyl-related substances.

Next, the idea that designating them all as schedule I would limit the ability of researchers to study fentanyl is just not true. There is no indication that the temporary scheduling of fentanyl analogs has stifled research. The DEA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, has approved every research study since 2018. But this bill goes further by putting a robust process in place to study fentanyl. It does not disrupt ongoing things, but it actually creates an expedited process for certain FDA studies to be done in partnership with Federal Agencies.

Lastly, that somehow this would contribute to overincarceration: The bill does not permanently bar DEA or HHS from continuing to look at the risks associated with it. If something has no risk, they can establish it has no risk. Therefore, it would not lead to overincarceration.

But we do know that fentanyl is a dangerous—a dangerous—substance, and if we are concerned about the overincarceration of a certain population of our society, I can guarantee you that that population, like every population, is having people dying today from fentanyl overdose; that whichever group of Americans we are speaking of, they are losing someone today from fentanyl; and that this bill would help save a life in that particular group and, most importantly, in all groups.

With that, though, recognizing there is an objection, I yield the floor.

VOTE ON O'DONNELL NOMINATION

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

Mr. CASSIDY. 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 the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 164 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—6

Capito	Manchin	Ricketts
Crapo	Menendez	Vance

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. 570, Sanket Jayshukh Balsara, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Laphonza R. Butler, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, John W. Hickenlooper, Chris Van Hollen, Mark Kelly.

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 Sanket Jayshukh Balsara, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 165 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—6

Capito	Manchin	Ricketts
Crapo	Menendez	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 42.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

NOMINATION OF SANKET JAYSHUKH BULSARA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Sanket J. Bulsara to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Born in Bronx, NY, Judge Bulsara received his A.B., magna cum laude, from Harvard College and his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School. After graduating from law school, he clerked for Judge John G. Koeltl on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Judge Bulsara then began his legal career as an associate with Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP. He then spent a year working as the manager of planning and data analysis with the New York City Department of Education Division of Human Resources.

From 2005 to 2015, Judge Bulsara worked in private practice at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP first as an associate and later as counsel, before becoming partner in 2012. While working at WilmerHale, he was seconded to serve as special assistant district attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's Office between 2007 and 2008. From 2015 to 2017, Bulsara worked as deputy general counsel for Appellate Litigation, Adjudication, and Enforcement at the SEC. In 2017, he became acting general counsel. Since 2017, Bulsara has served as a magistrate judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Bulsara as "well qualified," and his nomination is strongly supported by his home State Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

With significant litigation and judicial experience, Judge Bulsara will serve the Eastern District of New York with distinction as a district judge. I am proud to support his nomination.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON BULSARA NOMINATION

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

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 166 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—7

Capito	Menendez	Vance
Crapo	Ricketts	
Manchin	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric C. Schulte, of South Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

NOMINATION OF ERIC C. SCHULTE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Eric Schulte to the U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota.

Born in Sioux Falls, SD, Mr. Schulte received both his B.A. and his J.D. from the University of South Dakota. After clerking for the judges of the Second Judicial Circuit in Sioux Falls, Mr. Schulte joined Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz, and Smith, where he has spent his entire legal career—first as an associate and later as a partner. In his more than two decades at Davenport Evans, he has engaged in every aspect of litigation, from drafting pleadings and conducting written discovery, to trying 22 trials to verdict. In addition, Mr. Schulte has also argued before the South Dakota Supreme Court seven times.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Schulte "well qualified" to serve on the district court, and he has the strong support of Senators Thune and Rounds. Mr. Schulte's deep ties to the South Dakota legal community, combined with his courtroom experience, will make him well-positioned to serve on the Federal bench with distinction.

I thank my colleagues for supporting his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of an outstanding South Dakotan, Eric Schulte, who has been nominated to fill a vacancy at the U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota.

Eric Schulte is a lifetime resident of South Dakota who received his J.D. from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1999.

From 1999 to 2000, he served as a law clerk to the South Dakota Second Judicial Circuit in Sioux Falls, and he has been a partner at the Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz, and Smith law firm since 2005.

He was also president of the South Dakota state bar association from 2015 to 2016. And in his spare time, he is a member of the Academy of American Poets and a frequent contributor to "Pasque Petals," the South Dakota State Poetry Society magazine.

Mr. Schulte has the experience and knowledge to be a district judge; and, crucially, I believe that he has the character and impartiality for a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench.

I strongly support his nomination, and I encourage my colleagues to confirm him as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the State of South Dakota.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON SCHULTE NOMINATION

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 167 Ex.]

YEAS—61

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

NAYS—33

Barrasso	Ernst	Marshall
Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—6

Capito	Manchin	Sanders
Crapo	Menendez	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY RELATING TO "CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 57, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 57) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8

of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

REMEMBERING MARGARET MINER

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to talk about a great friend of mine, Margaret Miner.

My friend Margaret Miner died last week. I am really sad about it. Her family and her friends are really sad about it because she was a great friend, she was warm, and she was generous, because she was funny, she was kind, because she made a lot of other people's lives better.

But I am also sad because Margaret was one of a kind. She was a true Renaissance woman. She was a polymath. She was voracious about intaking the world and about giving back to it.

I have never met anybody like her. I will never meet anybody like her again. I will never see a partnership like the one that she had with her late husband Hugh Rawson. Her legacy lives on, but there is just no doubt that the mold was broken in two when they made Margaret Miner.

She was born in New York City in 1938. Her parents—Tony and Francis—were in show business, which kind of makes sense if you knew her but kind of doesn't.

In 1984, she moved from Brooklyn to Roxbury, CT—Roxbury is a smalltown, quintessential New England village in Northwest Connecticut—and there she became a fixture in the community. She began her life's work of fighting to protect the natural beauty of this State that she called home for the next 40 years.

I first met Margaret as soon as I graduated college. So I went to work for a long-shot congressional candidate who happened to be personal friends with Margaret and Hugh.

And Margaret and Hugh were also, at the time, pretty adept local political activists in Litchfield County. There were no two people who worked harder for that long-shot candidate, their friend, than Margaret and Hugh. They raised money. They knocked on doors. They put up lawn signs—whatever their friend needed, whatever their friend's 22-year-old campaign manager needed. She and Hugh were selfless. I saw that up close. I saw what a good friend Margaret could be.

Then, years later, when I was elected to the State legislature, I got to know Margaret as an advocate. She was in those legislative halls in Hartford, CT, nearly every single day, fighting for her cause, the cause of clean water and a healthy environment.

She single-handedly made her organization, Rivers Alliance, which she led for 18 years, a force to be reckoned with in Hartford. Under her leadership, Rivers Alliance became a force in Connecticut politics.

Her team fought for and successfully helped to pass State laws to create a

statewide water plan to protect streamflow in water courses, to ban the water contaminant MTBE in gasoline, to protect funding for the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, and to restore and protect State funding for the U.S. Geological Survey. That is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what Margaret did, in terms of what Margaret and the people she mentored produced in Hartford. But her work was always about something bigger than herself or even her organization, Rivers Alliance.

She was really dedicated to building a movement around water quality, around water health, around the environment. She helped teach people all across the State how to advocate for themselves, how to advocate for the causes that they mutually cared about.

She was an organizer of people at heart, encouraging countless individuals all around the State and all around the country to join the causes that she cared about. And she was just good at it. There were fewer people who were more inspiring or convincing than Margaret was.

Now, Margaret wasn't a big, boisterous, loud personality, but she was sincere; she was genuine; and she never ever gave up. Her persistence was her calling card.

Her unrelenting advocacy did not go unrecognized or unnoticed. She received countless awards for her work during her lifetime. She received the first Champion of Water Award from the Connecticut Water Policy Council. She received the Clyde O. Fisher Award for environmental achievement from the Connecticut Bar Association.

She was the first recipient of the Dr. Marc J. Taylor Environmental Stewardship Award, the Rockfall Foundation's Tom O'Dell Distinguished Service Award. In 2016, I nominated her for the EPA's prestigious Lifetime Merit Award.

People knew what she had done in Connecticut, and so, good for Connecticut that we didn't have to wait for Margaret's passing before singling her out for her seminal achievements in the area of environmental protection.

But what made Margaret so compelling, what made Margaret so amazing was that in addition to being a great friend, in addition to leading one of the State's preeminent environmental organizations, she was incredibly accomplished in so many other fields.

The rest of her life, when you say it out loud, in addition to all of that achievement, it kind of almost sounds implausible.

For instance, in her free time, Margaret was a nationally known and celebrated author, not about the environment, but about the history of quotable people. She was the coauthor of five dictionaries of quotations, including the "Oxford Dictionary of American Quotations" with her husband Hugh. In her spare time, she wrote five anthologies of quotations—five books.

She helped found an organization called Our Towns for Sar-E-Pol, a humanitarian effort through the not-for-profit Save the Children to help women and children in Sar-E-Pol, Afghanistan. She was an international philanthropist and an author and environmental advocate.

She wrote a Consumer Reports book on allergies. I didn't even know that until I read the story of Margaret's life. She was an active member of the Roxbury Democratic Town Committee, and just before she passed at 86 years old, she was still serving on the local Zoning Board of Appeals.

She was learning Spanish in her eighties, attending two Spanish classes weekly. And as often as she could, she was playing poker, fleecing her friends of their money whenever possible.

Margaret Miner was an original. As her friend, I will remember her wit, her political savvy, her boundless heart, and on a personal note, I will just say I wouldn't be here if not for Margaret—and for Margaret and Hugh.

When I decided to run for Congress 10 years after first meeting Margaret, she was, not surprisingly, one of my first calls. I planned the early stages of my first campaign at Margaret and Hugh's kitchen table in their cute house in Roxbury, CT. That is how important she was to me. And I am one of hundreds in Connecticut who can say Margaret Miner was one of the most important people in my life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I have good news. Senator STABENOW, leader, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, has presented a bill that will allow us to consider an ag bill. And we have got work to do.

But as we know, for more than 90 years, the U.S. Congress—we have always worked together on this to advance the farm bill. And that is critical to rural America, and it is critical to all of America. It is about our agricultural and food policy and our environment. It reaches far beyond farms and fields and into the lives of every American throughout our country.

The farm bill, as you know, shapes the future of ag policy for every 5 years. It is always tough to get from here to there, so we have much more work to do. But it has been something that is essential to give our farmers the support they need. And it is also the most important legislation that we take up to support rural America. The small towns across our entire country that sustain our agricultural sector do so much for our economy and so much for sustaining important personal and patriotic values.

Vermont is a very proud rural State, and agriculture is a keystone of our culture as well as economy. Vermont's farmers, our dairies, our sugarmakers have shaped our small towns in rural Vermont for generations. We want to keep that going.

We have worked to keep that culture of the small, family-sized farms in our State, independent farmers, with most of our farms below a couple of hundred acres and town populations less than 2,500 people.

Vermont is by far not unique in this regard. America will not thrive if our rural communities aren't thriving. That is a commitment all of us have to make, and it is why as the chair of the Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy, I am urging my colleagues to support and work with us to improve the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act. It helps our farmers keep farming. It keeps our families fed, something very important to our farmers, and it keeps rural communities strong.

The Senate Agriculture Committee, under Chair STABENOW's outstanding leadership, recently unveiled the farm bill. Our bill has over 100 bipartisan provisions and a host of policies that many of my colleagues across the caucus and across the aisle support. It will strengthen rural America in many ways.

And by the way, Chair STABENOW included 100 bipartisan provisions, but she is totally open to more bipartisan provisions. Anything we can do to improve this with suggestions from both sides of the aisle, she and we want to do.

The farm bill, as I mentioned, supports farms, families, and rural farming. It is going to improve the quality of life for families in Vermont and America, with baseline funding—that is important, as we know—for the first time ever, to make improvements in rural healthcare. Our rural hospitals are hanging on by their fingernails, whether it is Kansas or Vermont or Idaho.

It is going to improve childcare availability, which is so essential to all families across the country but especially in rural America. And it is going to help our Tribes continue to have access to USDA programs.

The Senate farm bill will help us more efficiently build out high-speed rural broadband. I want to acknowledge the work on both sides of the aisle to build out broadband, but we have got to maintain that—just like we built out electricity in the thirties—so that rural America is fully a part of the modern economy.

This bill will invest in and it will modernize wastewater and public water systems and those are under enormous stress and our local communities don't have the tax base to do all that needs to be done. There needs to be some recognition on the part of the Federal Government, and in the farm bill, we make that recognition.

It will help modernize our wastewater and public water systems and help remove in rural communities those toxic "forever chemicals" like PFAS.

The bill will also support timber innovation and markets, including Amer-

ican wood products. The Senate farm bill focuses, too, on cutting energy costs for homeowners in rural America, for farms, and for small businesses, and helps folks who want to make that transition to renewable energy so they have an affordable way to do it.

It will strengthen our energy security and support energy innovation in the field of bio-based chemicals and products.

The Senate farm bill does something that I think all of our bills should do, invest in the middle class—in middle-class rural jobs, by supporting manufacturing, entrepreneurship, small businesses, and the rural cooperatives that have been so essential to the well-being of so many of our communities.

And finally, it does all this while supporting and strengthening local and regional food systems. Nothing excites people in a community more than a farmer's market. They are excited that they are getting local food. They know that it is healthy. They know they are supporting their farmers. And all of us who are not farmers appreciate the role that our farmers in our communities play as custodians of the landscape.

In the Rural Development and Energy titles of the bill alone, there is a lot to celebrate, and I am also pleased that the bill includes many of the priorities that I and others have championed in my role as the chair of the Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy.

This bill includes some proposals we made there. The bipartisan ReConnecting Rural America Act. That would strengthen USDA's ReConnect Loan and Grant Program and in so doing, reduce redtape and speed broadband development and deployment in rural America.

It strengthens critical rural development programs like the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Program, REAP Zones, and rural development loans and grants. Bottom line, that helps with financing of local businesses in our rural communities.

One other provision is a bipartisan bill that I have sponsored with others, the USDA's Rural Energy Savings Program. It provides no-interest loans to rural utilities. They have been a backbone for those communities to access cost-effective energy upgrades for homes and businesses. That lowers costs and accelerates sustainability. With funds from this program, rural utilities can finance projects to electrify household heating and cooling, increase energy efficiency, and assist in that transition to renewable energy.

Another provision that really is being taken up by many Americans is the access to heat pumps, and the provision is the Heat Pump Energy Assistance and Training Act, which would create a program within USDA to help deploy heat pumps in rural communities across the country.

I have to tell you, folks in Vermont, when they can get a heat pump, it works out on the numbers, and they

save money, and they stay cozy and warm in our cold winters, they like that. Let's have more of it.

By the way, it helps with cooling in Texas as well.

Now, these are just a handful of the provisions in the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act that are helping our rural communities. So we want to keep working hard to support our farms and what they do, to shore up and expand the nutrition programs that so many families and seniors depend on.

And, by the way, you know, the economy is doing better than ever in some ways. The stock market is up. But we have, like, 1 in 12 Americans who are food insecure, and a lot of those are folks who have jobs and are working really hard. So we have got to maintain our commitment to the nutrition and well-being of our citizens, particularly our children.

Over the past hundred years, we have made a commitment to America's farmers and our farm communities. We want to keep that up. But the truth also is that, for too many years, Congress has not focused as much, in my view, as it should on our family and small farms that we have in Vermont and so many other States throughout our country. We have to make it possible for them to do the local agriculture that is so essential to the strength of local communities.

We are working to support and deliver for some of those small farmers that we have in Vermont, and I will mention a few whose farms I have visited. And, by the way, I don't know anybody who works harder than a farmer. The Corse family, Leon Corse and his daughter Abbie, have the Corse Farm Dairy, and I visited there in my first week as a Senator. Their family has been farming in Whitingham, VT, for over 155 years. We want to keep them going for another century.

The Choiniere Family Farm, a diversified organic dairy farm at the other end of the State up in Highgate Center; Jon Wagner and Karin Bellemare, owners of Bear Roots Farm and Roots Farm Market in Middlesex, in the center of our State; Justin Rich of Burnt Rock Farm, which is an organic produce farm in Huntington—they are doing a lot for us in Vermont and for those communities.

Before I close, I want to thank Chairwoman STABENOW and her Senate Agriculture Committee staff for the work on the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act. I also want to acknowledge what a joy it is for me to work with Senator BOOZMAN, who was a colleague of mine in the House and is doing a great job over here in the Senate.

This bill, in any year, is complicated—huge. And I am thankful for the many, many hours that staff and colleagues have invested in this bill and in our farming communities, and we are ready to put in more hours to make this bill better. We have got to make it pass.

For the sake of communities from Vermont to California, we must pass

this 5-year farm bill to help America's farms and rural communities. Let's pass the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act and keep our farmers farming, keep our families fed, and keep our rural communities strong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, this is National Police Week, and it is great to be joined by so many colleagues to show our respect and admiration for America's law enforcement community. Today is National Peace Officers Memorial Day, a time to pay tribute to law enforcement officials who made the ultimate sacrifice. These men and women gave their lives to their communities, to their State, and to their country; and we thank them and their families for their sacrifice.

As we mourn the loss of so many of these heroes, this week is also a time to honor and thank officers who continue to keep us safe. Former Dallas Police Chief David Brown once said, "We ask law enforcement to do too much in this country," and I agree. Whether it is helping someone experiencing a mental health crisis, a drug overdose, a medical emergency, or as a victim of crime, America's police officials constantly and consistently go above and beyond the call of duty. Their jobs require tremendous hours and tremendous amounts of courage and sacrifice, not just from the officer who wears the uniform but from their families as well. And I am grateful to those who selflessly serve their communities every day.

The brave men and women in law enforcement deserve our appreciation. But more than that, they deserve our support. They deserve the resources, the training, the protection needed to do their jobs effectively. To show our support for these public servants who have dedicated their lives to protecting our communities, Congress should pass the Back the Blue Act. This legislation adds stiff mandatory penalties and makes it a Federal crime to kill or attempt to kill a law enforcement officer or a Federal judge or a federally funded public safety official. It makes it a Federal crime to assault a law enforcement officer.

This legislation is needed because these men and women put themselves in harm's way every day to keep our communities safe, and we must send a strong message that violence directed at them will never be tolerated.

The Back the Blue Act sends a strong message to the more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving our country that they are supported, and I hope Congress will move forward to advance this legislation.

Today and every day, I am grateful for the dedicated police officers, sheriffs, constables, Border Patrol agents, and other law enforcement officials of all types who keep Texas safe. Like all my colleagues in Congress, I am thank-

ful for the men and women of the Capitol police who safeguard this building and the Members of Congress, our staff, journalists, and the many visitors who walk these halls on a daily basis.

There is nothing we can do to adequately thank these heroes for their sacrifices, but there is a lot we can do to affirm that support. My colleagues and I have introduced bills to boost officer recruiting and retention, improve training, and give law enforcement the resources they need to do their job safely and effectively. I hope we can advance these bills as soon as possible to show our appreciation for these heroes in blue.

On behalf of the State of Texas, I want to thank all of those who serve our communities and protect them and keep them safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I rise today to honor the brave men and women in North Carolina and across the Nation who serve in law enforcement. This is an emotional week for the law enforcement community as thousands of officers and their families come to our Nation's capital for National Police Week. They are paying tribute to brave officers who were killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities.

Unfortunately, North Carolina is all too familiar with law enforcement officers making the ultimate sacrifice. I want to take a moment to recognize some of the law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty since last year's police week and memorial.

Last September, Forsyth County Sheriff's Deputy Auston Reudelhuber was killed in a head-on collision while on patrol. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Last December, we lost Sergeant Russell Jones of the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office. He was attempting to halt an altercation at the Pamlico County Detention Center, and during the encounter with an inmate, Sergeant Jones was punched in the face, leading him to collapse minutes later and die. Sergeant Jones served with the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office for 4 years. He is survived by his mother and two sisters.

In December of last year, we lost Philip Dale Nix of the Greensboro Police Department. He was a sergeant in the police department. Sergeant Nix was off duty at a local gas station when he observed three individuals stealing alcohol. When he tried to intervene, they shot him and killed him on sight. Sergeant Nix worked for the Greensboro Police Department for more than 22 years. He is survived by his wife and son.

Just a few weeks ago, on April 29, a task force of Federal, State, and local

law enforcement led by the U.S. Marshals Service attempted to serve an arrest warrant for a fugitive at a residence in Charlotte. Instead of surrendering, the fugitive shot at them; and during an hourslong standoff, four members of the task force were killed. It is one of the deadliest assaults on law enforcement in this country in nearly a decade.

Police officer Joshua Eyer served 6 years with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. He is survived by his wife and his 3-year-old son.

Sam Poloche and Alden Elliott were both 14-year veterans of the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction. Poloche is survived by his wife and two sons—one graduating from college, another from high school in a few weeks. Elliott is survived by his wife and son.

U.S. Marshal Deputy Thomas Weeks, Jr., was a 13-year veteran of the Marshals Service. He is survived by his wife and four children.

Words alone cannot express the pain and loss each of these families has gone through. They lost the loving husband. They lost a parent. Their lives will never be the same. However, they are never going to be alone. Because in the wake of these tragic losses, we have seen communities unite and rally to support these families. In each instance, we witnessed an outpouring of love for the fallen officers and support for law enforcement.

Congress should follow the example the communities have set. We can show our respect for law enforcement by taking the dangers and threats they face seriously, especially when they are deliberate, like the tragedy we witnessed in Charlotte last month.

That is why I introduced and reintroduced the Protect and Serve Act this Congress. Most people would be surprised to learn that intentionally harming or attempting to harm a law enforcement officer in this country is not a Federal crime. This bipartisan language will change that. It sends a strong message to criminals that assaulting a law enforcement officer is inexcusable and will be met with the full weight of our Nation's criminal justice system.

Law enforcement has our backs every single time they put on a uniform and go on patrol. The least that Congress can do is to signal to law enforcement that we have their backs, too, by passing the Protect and Serve Act. They need our support now more than ever.

To the men and women in law enforcement in North Carolina and across this country, I want to say: Thank you for putting on the uniform every day to keep us safe. You deserve our gratitude.

To the families of the fallen officers, please know that while you lost a loved one, your community lost a hero and we will never forget their service and their sacrifice. God bless them all; God bless their families; and God bless law enforcement across this great Nation.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, this week, we remember—and I join my colleagues here on the Senate floor to do so publicly—we remember our law enforcement who have died in the line of duty. This week every year, we pay tribute to those who serve in the uniform and as a result of that service, come to a tragic death.

I offer my condolences to the people of North Carolina, the families of the officers just described by the Senator from North Carolina.

In my role as a Senator, I have chaired and have been the vice chair of the Appropriations subcommittee that funds our national law enforcement officers—the DEA, the ATF, the FBI, the U.S. Marshals. A deputy U.S. marshal was killed in North Carolina just recently.

It is an honor, a privilege to be able to be associated with those who are willing to sacrifice so much for the benefit of all of us and particularly those in the communities in which they live. We honor that sacrifice, that dedication, that service to our communities. We know police officers put their lives at risk and their families know they put their lives at risk every day to protect our communities in our country.

While this week is a time to remember those who have passed, it is also important for us to express gratitude to those who currently serve.

During this week, we will memorialize 282—282—individual law enforcement officers, 282 heroes who during the last year gave their lives serving their community.

One of those heroes was Kansas Officer Jonah Oswald. In August of last year, Officer Oswald was fatally shot while responding to another department, a neighboring law enforcement's request for help.

Officer Oswald was just 29 years old, a husband, a father—father to two young boys. He had served for 4 years in the Fairway, KS, police department. Fairway is a small suburb of Kansas City; population, 1,170. He knew the importance of serving his community. He knew his community.

This morning, Ben Overesch spoke at the National Police Week memorial ceremony in Kansas, and he said this about Officer Oswald:

Jonah understood the danger before him and without hesitation he showed up, over and over again, to meet it. Jonah policed with an enthusiasm that was hard to match. He was always vigilant. He was always eager for opportunities to help citizens of Kansas and Officers alike.

He was employed by Fairway, but the citizens of Prairie Village, Mission Hills, Westwood, Roeland Park, Mission, and others around us were helped by Jonah more than they will ever know.

He was not so enthusiastic out of vanity, or want of glory, or aggression. He believed in service, and in the nobility of the profession. He believed in right and wrong. He was filled with the hope that good will triumph over evil. We must remember not only his sacrifice, but his example daily.

Words spoken this morning in Topeka.

Thank you, Officer Overesch, for those remarks, and thank you to Officer Oswald for your service.

All too often, we forget about the many important roles that our law enforcement officials have within our communities. This extends beyond relationships between police officers and individual citizens. It is about relationships between law enforcement and key institutions in our communities—our churches, our hospitals, our schools, and our businesses.

During this National Police Week and throughout the year, we must remember that law enforcement needs our support—and not just during tough times.

It is our duty—really, we have the opportunity to be grateful, but it is our duty as citizens, as lawmakers, as Members of the Senate to support our officers, to provide them with resources and acknowledge the incredible sacrifice that is made every day.

Now more than ever, it takes a special kind of person to be a law enforcement officer. Whether sheriff's deputies or detectives, local police, Tribal police, highway patrol officers, beat cops, Federal agents, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, we hold up those who wear the badge. We honor them today, as we should every day.

To them, we say: Our respect is for you. You represent the extraordinary examples of how we see America at its best.

May God bless our law enforcement and their families. May they be safe from harm as they defend and protect the communities in which they serve and live.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I join my colleagues in expressing my support and admiration for the women and men who put on the blue. Whether it is our southern border or our own backyards, these members of law enforcement are essential to protecting our safety and security. They are the guardians of our neighborhoods, protectors of our families. They take deadly drugs like fentanyl off of our streets.

As we celebrate National Police Week, let's recognize the service of those among us and the jobs they do that require the utmost integrity, skill, and dedication.

We must never forget the sacrifices that the members of law enforcement and their families make on our behalf. They work long hours in challenging conditions and dangerous areas to serve and protect us. Yet, despite the dangers they face, they remain steadfast in their commitment to our communities. They are the “thin blue line” that protects us while we sleep.

In recent years, we have seen a disturbing trend of not just disrespect toward law enforcement but violence. It

is not just wrong, it is dangerous. It undermines the rule of law and threatens the safety and security of our communities.

We must send a clear message that violence against the women and men in blue will not be tolerated. We must stand with them and support them in their vital mission in our communities.

On Monday night, I had the opportunity to walk in a vigil, walk the beat, to honor the more than 149 members of law enforcement who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in my home State of Nebraska. Their names are reflected on the Nebraska Law Enforcement Memorial in Grand Island, NE, and they are remembered in the hearts of their fellow citizens today and throughout the year.

We remember Ross Bartlett, who died last month after 30 years of service with the Ceresco Police Department.

We remember Detective Kerrie Orozco, who was murdered in 2015—1 day before she was supposed to go on maternity leave.

We remember Investigator Mario Herrera, who was killed trying to serve an arrest warrant.

We remember all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe. They were mothers and fathers, sons and daughters. They were heroes, and their bravery is eternal.

The women and men in blue are the backbone of our communities. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we can never repay, but we can show our appreciation for them, show our support for them.

I am proud that in Nebraska, while other communities are trying to defund the police, we support the police. In Nebraska, we back the blue.

When I was Governor, we had the largest package of pro-public safety and law enforcement legislation passed in years. We invested \$47.7 million in our Grand Island Law Enforcement Training Center to ensure that our law enforcement officers would get the highest level of training. We invested \$16.9 million in our State Patrol Crime Lab to make sure we could solve crimes and give the victims of crime the justice they deserve.

Instead of reducing penalties for violent crimes, my home city of Omaha, NE, has used community engagement, like Omaha 360, to be able to reduce homicides. The Omaha Police Department and the Omaha community have reduced homicides in each of the last 3 years. ABC News said that the Omaha Police Department could be a model for the rest of the Nation.

In addition, last year, Omaha police had a 100-percent clearance rate on homicides. There were 28 murders and 28 homicide cases cleared. When the national clearance rate is just over 50 percent, a 100-percent rate is truly remarkable.

As usual, America can learn a lot from our proven solutions in Nebraska.

The Federal Government must also back the blue. We need to secure our

border and put an end to the scourge of drugs that are killing our young people here in America. We need to pass the Back the Blue Act to increase the penalties for criminals who target law enforcement officers. We need to provide new tools to officers to protect themselves. We need to block anti-cop, soft-on-crime policies that would hinder law enforcement's ability to do their jobs with excellence. I am committed to working with anyone who wants to make this happen.

The women and men in blue have earned our respect and our gratitude—not just during Police Week but all year round.

Once again, thank you to the members of our law enforcement. Thank you to their families, who sacrifice alongside them. You are heroes, and we are forever in your debt. I am grateful for all that you have done for our communities, and I know, on behalf of all Nebraskans, we support law enforcement.

God bless our law enforcement officers as they keep us safe. God bless the great State of Nebraska. And God bless our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the brave law enforcement officials in North Dakota and across the country who work every day to keep our communities safe.

As we mark National Police Week, we recognize the bravery and service provided by our peace officers and the sacrifices they make on behalf of all of us.

According to the FBI, more than 79,000 officers were assaulted in 2023, marking the highest officer assault rate in the past 10 years. That is concerning. Despite the certain danger these officers face, they take on this responsibility to protect and serve so that our communities remain safe and free.

Today, on National Peace Officers Memorial Day, we have the opportunity to come together as a nation to remember and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our communities so that we may live in safety.

I would like to honor two North Dakotans who were killed in the line of duty last year.

The tragic loss of Officer Jake Ryan Wallin of the Fargo Police Department and Deputy Sheriff Paul Martin from the Mercer County Sheriff's Office reminds us of the dangers our law enforcement officials face every day and the enormous debt we owe them and their families for their sacrifices to keep our communities safe. These heroes will be forever remembered with their names inscribed on our National Law Enforcement Memorial.

We can never fully repay our police officers, but we can continue to honor those we have lost and the sacrifices of

their families and their loved ones. To honor these brave law enforcement officials, I have joined with others in introducing a resolution here in the Senate to recognize their bravery and memorialize the lives of Officer Wallin, Deputy Martin, and the more than 220 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2023.

This dedication to community and the rule of law is characteristic of so many of our police men and women, without whose efforts our communities would not be the same. That is why our resolution also designates this week, May 12 through 18, as National Police Week and honors the bravery and good work of all law enforcement officers.

One such example is Fargo Police Officer Zachary Robinson. Officer Robinson and his wife Ashley are in Washington, DC, this week. He is 1 of 10–10 in the whole Nation—to be honored as a TOP COP by the National Association of Police Organizations. He was presented with the award for his heroic efforts last July when Fargo law enforcement officials were ambushed while investigating a traffic accident, resulting in the death of Officer Wallin and the injuries of Officers Andrew Dotas and Tyler Hawes.

Fargo Police Chief Dave Zibolski summed up Officer Robinson's actions on that day when he stated:

If not for the courageous efforts of Officer Zach Robinson, our community would have been further devastated. He saved many lives. We are extremely proud of Zach! His reaction was immediate, without hesitation, and without regard for his own safety—true bravery.

He walked into a hailstorm of bullets to neutralize the situation and save lives. Think what that takes. Amazing.

I had the opportunity to meet and visit with Officer Robinson—Zach and his wife Ashley—today. Wow, what great people. They are truly the kind of young people who should really serve as role models for all of us, young and old—truly great Americans.

Today and always—every day—we remember the bravery and dedication of law enforcement to keep our communities safe. We honor them—all of them—and thank them for heeding the call to serve.

May God bless our peace officers—each and every one of them—and their families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today during Police Week to pay tribute to Sergeant Nevada Krinkee.

Here he is. He was a member of the police force in Sheridan, WY. He was a beloved officer in Sheridan. He was well-known for his selflessness. His colleagues will tell you he always put others first. His death in February of this year, in the line of duty, was absolutely tragic, and it shook our State.

Sergeant Krinkee was the first officer in Wyoming, since 1997—the first one this century—to die by homicide in

the line of duty. It is actually the first line-of-duty death in the history of the Sheridan Police Department. Sergeant Krinkee made the ultimate sacrifice for the community he loved and the community that he swore to protect. He was only 33 years old.

In March, I attended his funeral in Sheridan, WY. It was so large they had to move it to the community college—the great auditorium there, the field house. What was moving was the outpouring of folks from all around the community, as well as the State, as well as the country. They were there to honor Sergeant Krinkee but were also there to support his wife Karla and their young daughter Bella. More than 1,800 people attended in the community of Sheridan, WY. They flooded in from across Wyoming and from across the country. Many of them who were there to mourn his death and honor his family had never actually met Sergeant Krinkee.

It was the largest single event in Sheridan, WY in 40 years. It was 40 years ago that Queen Elizabeth visited Wyoming and had a similarly sized turnout. Law enforcement officers traveled from every corner of our State. They came from tiny towns. They also came from big cities across the West. All came to pay their respects to the man and to their brother in uniform.

As police cars escorted the family to the memorial service, citizens of Sheridan, WY, lined the streets of the community—four deep—waving American flags. It was absolutely beautiful to behold.

One of the newspaper reporters asked a man from Wyoming, who drove over 100 miles to be there, why he came that far to attend the funeral. After all, this was somebody he had never met. He had never heard of Sergeant Krinkee before he had been killed.

He responded:

I stand for those who have stood for us, and I will until the day I die.

Well, that says a lot about the people of Wyoming through and through.

One of the greatest blessings of our great Nation is the men and women of law enforcement. Police officers have one of the most dangerous and demanding jobs in our Nation, and they do it with confidence and with compassion.

Today, officers need to deal with dangerous criminals, and they often do it in the face of continuous criticism. It is alarming. Police officers across the country are coming under attack from criminals and the soft-on-crime politicians who coddle them. Sadly, more police officers have been killed or injured by gun violence in the line of duty in 2023 than ever before. Politicians who support criminals rather than police and demonize and defund the police hold responsibility. The police, as a result, have been demoralized and endangered.

We also see crime—violent crime—right now in America at a record high. Compared to 2019, murders are up 17

percent, and aggravated assaults are up 8 percent.

Let me be clear: Defunding the police has made our communities less safe. For police officers, it has turned the badges on their sleeves sometimes into targets on their backs.

Law enforcement officers love their communities. They love them enough to give their lives to protect those communities. These are incredible men and women. To me, each one is a hero, and we are grateful for each and every one of them.

They wear the badge. They protect our communities despite all the risks. To me, it is the definition of selflessness.

To the men and women of law enforcement, you are everyday heroes, and you are among us every day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, this week is National Law Enforcement Week. So we pause here in our Nation's Capital to honor and remember the men and women who so proudly serve and so bravely serve our communities.

I am grateful for the nearly 8,000 law enforcement officers across the State of Kansas who are fighting to keep our communities safe as we speak here today. I rise to honor these brave men and women in uniform and recognize the sacrifices they and their families make every day to keep us all safe.

I have hosted numerous crime and fentanyl roundtables across the State of Kansas, and everywhere I go, the officers tell me they are overwhelmed—they are overwhelmed with drug trafficking, with human trafficking, and with fentanyl trafficking—and that the crisis is growing; it is exploding. What they tell me is, even if we doubled or if we tripled the number of officers out there, they could not arrest themselves out of the situation.

They all, to a person, point and ask me: When is the Federal Government going to shut down our border?

To those officers out there who are fighting the fight—fighting human trafficking, fighting the fentanyl poisoning—I say thank you, and I get it. I know you are overwhelmed.

These officers back home are our first line of defense. They are our families', our children's, and our friends' first line of defense in these crises. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that we demonstrate our unwavering support for them. We need to assure them that help is on the way. We need leaders here and an administration that prioritizes law and order.

Growing up, we were taught to follow the rules. We all respected the law, and we feared the consequences of breaking them. We, as a country, respected our law enforcement officers. And perhaps no one more than myself can appreciate law enforcement—the son of a career police officer, the son of a chief of police. What I will always remember about what my dad taught me about

law and order is that he would apply the law equally. He didn't care what your last name was. He didn't care what side of the railroad tracks you came from. He was going to apply the law equally.

I am honored to celebrate all those who have protected and served our communities.

I want to close today by remembering two Kansas officers who lost their lives this past year: Goodland, KS, Police Chief Frank Hayes, Jr., and Fairway, KS, Police Officer Jonah Oswald. I am grateful for their service and the ultimate sacrifice they made in keeping their communities safe.

I want to remember their families and let them know that we are thinking of you today, that we have not forgotten you or your loved one, and that we are going to continue to mourn with you. Again, we are grateful for the sacrifices you made and your loved one to keep us all safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

S.J. RES. 57

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the Senate will take a vote shortly on a resolution from Senator SCHMITT dealing with infrastructure funding.

The discussion of the resolution has been pretty quiet because, on its face, it looks like it is an issue dealing with a lot of budgetary lingo and "Washingtonese." Obligated funds and expenditure deadlines are what people hear about. But the reality is this proposal is anti-infrastructure. It could put stop-work orders on thousands of infrastructure projects across the country. Some of them have shovels in the ground as we speak.

(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)

My concern is, Mr. President, we pass this, and we would be going virtually from a period where folks in Georgia and elsewhere had hard hats to where they are facing layoffs.

Here is the background: In 2021, Congress passed emergency funding for State and local governments. At the time, there was a big concern that their budgets would get clobbered by the pandemic, which had hammered our economy and put millions out of work. But State and local budgets fared better than expected.

So later on, Senators were looking, on a bipartisan basis, for smart ways to rebuild our infrastructure—roads and bridges and highways, water and sewer, and also broadband projects. There was bipartisan agreement that Congress ought to allow that leftover State and local funding to be repurposed for these important infrastructure projects. So both sides of this Chamber—the Republican side, the Democratic side—passed legislation multiple times, even by unanimous consent, that provided what the States and localities wanted, which is more flexibility.

We hear our colleagues on the other side talk a lot about wanting to cut redtape to get the Federal Government

out of the way and empower the States, the laboratories of democracy. Here is a case where my colleagues on the other side got exactly what they wanted: more flexibility for the States to use taxpayer funds on infrastructure.

Have a highway that needs widening—a bridge that has passed its useful life, a water system with lead pipes that need replacing? Congress voted on a bipartisan basis to make that easier. It is a real head-scratcher why Republicans would now want to make this difficult.

Some have accused the Treasury Department of playing around with the expiration of the program. That hasn't happened at all. It is the same program with the same timeline and the same rules that Democrats and Republicans agreed on as recently as a few short months ago.

I mentioned at the outset that this resolution puts a stop-work order on thousands of projects nationwide. The numbers just really stun you when you walk through them.

On the Finance Committee, we asked the Treasury Department what the impact could be in specific States. Here is an example: In the Presiding Officer's State of Georgia, 17 projects, totaling \$1.4 billion could be terminated; Michigan, 160 projects; Ohio, 342 projects; Arizona, 50 projects; Montana, 404 projects; and West Virginia, 73 projects.

Nationwide, there could be thousands of projects closed, tens or even hundreds of thousands of jobs lost, higher costs for families and businesses that had to wait far too long for Congress to get serious about infrastructure.

I will just tell my colleagues, as we gear up for a vote, this one is one of the most unusual votes that I have seen recently, a true head-scratcher. Bipartisanship, we all know, is a heavy lift. But the progress we have made on this issue, in my view, is actually a bipartisan highlight of the last several years.

I have talked to my colleagues a lot about how we find some common ground. Here, we have, from day one, Senator CORNYN—my colleague on the Finance Committee—and Senator PADILLA working from the outset to add additional flexibility for the pool of funds that would be available. So a Republican U.S. Senator and a Democratic U.S. Senator put together a proposal—now get this, colleagues—that passed by unanimous consent three times.

So if the Senate were to walk back this bipartisan effort—originally led by a Senator from California, a Democrat, and a Senator from Texas, a Republican—the bottom line would be, Mr. President, that, starting almost immediately, those hard hats that I mentioned in States like yours and others could be coming off, and they would be looking at ways to keep a roof over their head and to pay for food for their families and healthcare.

I will close by saying this. I just don't see a good reason for the U.S. Senate to backtrack on solid, bipartisan progress and have this Chamber act in a way that leaves more of our Nation's infrastructure in a state of disrepair.

I urge my colleagues to preserve the bipartisan work that has been done on this issue—that got strong, strong votes three times. Preserve the work that has been done on this issue for infrastructure. Oppose the resolution.

I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise in support of my resolution that would overturn a rule from the Department of the Treasury that affects the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

Treasury's attempted sleight of hand to keep the COVID spending spigot on is an insult to Congress and those who believe in our Constitution as well as a complete misuse of taxpayer dollars.

As we vote today, we as a body must ask ourselves a couple of simple questions:

First, are we going to allow funds meant for COVID recovery to be spent after the so-called “emergency” ended or are we finally able to install fiscal responsibility as our national debt spirals further out of control?

Second, are we willing to defend the article I branch from an overreaching Agency of bureaucrats who want to claim more and more power for themselves?

The spending in this program—which is hardly the point right now, actually, with this extension of the time, but it is worth noting—has been wasteful on many occasions.

When Congress provided \$350 billion for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, I don't think one could have imagined that the fund would have been used for golf courses and swimming pools and tennis courts—maybe to some. It also became a slush fund to incentivize illegal immigration, \$340 million for cash payments to illegal immigrants in Washington State, \$3.6 million in Illinois to help illegal immigrants apply for citizenship, and \$2 million in DC to help turn the District of Columbia into a “proud sanctuary city.”

Regardless of whether you supported the spending or not, this fund had a specific purpose. This fund was designated to aid State governments and local governments with revenue shortfalls tied to the COVID-19 pandemic.

When Congress created this fund, Congress provided a clear restriction. In statute, Congress required that all costs incurred with money from this fund must be incurred by December 31, 2024. That is the statute. That is congressional language.

In short, recipients had over 3 years to obligate this funding or the funding would be returned to the Federal Treasury. Most States and localities understood the requirements.

As of March of 2023—over a year ago—all States had obligated at least 60 percent of their funding while localities had obligated over 54 percent. Yet, lo and behold, while most people in this body were celebrating Thanksgiving with our families, the Treasury Department tried to pull a fast one on the American people. The Treasury Department decided it knew better than this body and better than Congress, and the Department rewrote the law to fit its own needs and special interests.

Even though the statute said all costs must be incurred by the end of this calendar year, the Treasury Department decided that States could still use these COVID recovery dollars way past 2024.

This is infuriating on a bunch of different levels. First, the administration ended the public health emergency for the pandemic on May 11, 2023.

Now, most Americans had moved on well beyond that, but even this administration acknowledged over a year ago that it was over.

It is also crazy because even though this administration said COVID ended about a year ago, bureaucrats at the Treasury Department decided we should just keep spending money anyway—spending billions into 2025 and 2026—to recover from COVID. Just think about that for a second.

But beyond this, beyond there being no rational reason to continue the spending for COVID recovery, this rule does not even keep the spigot on in order to directly benefit our constituents. This is bureaucrats giving a helping hand and a paycheck to—you guessed it—other bureaucrats.

Earlier this week, Secretary Yellen attempted to assert that if this rule is overturned—and I heard this from my colleague—then infrastructure projects would grind to a halt. That is false. That is not true. This administration, once again, is using fearmongering as a reckless tactic for a radical agenda.

Let's be honest with the American people and look at the text of this rule. Under this new Treasury rule, the funding is limited to administrative and legal costs, such as compliance costs and internal control requirements. This rule ensures that funding does not go to bridges or broadband but to bureaucrats.

And this rule has real cost. This rule, if it continues, will cost taxpayers at least \$13 billion, if not more. That boils down to about \$1,200 for each and every American family. And around here, as I have learned, \$13 billion doesn't seem like a lot of money to people. But we are \$34 trillion in debt. We are spending nearly the same amount on interest payments on that debt as we do our national defense.

This fiscal recklessness is unsustainable. The actions like this from the Treasury rule are a prime reason why we are \$34 trillion in debt. Our constituents demand that we actually hold the line, that we stop spending beyond our means, especially when the

rules encourage spending that is wasteful.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in supporting this resolution. COVID is over. Our national debt is out of control. Inflation is sky-high. It is time to reinstate fiscal responsibility here in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor, Mr. President, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am going to be very brief, but I want Senators to know that this is about standing up for schools that need to replace lead pipes. That is the kind of effort that Senator CORNYN, Senator PADILLA, myself, and others said was essential for this country.

My colleague from my Missouri—I look forward to getting to know him more; he is new to the Senate—sets this up that somehow this is unnecessary and basically just fueling more redtape. Quite the opposite. If colleagues go home this weekend during the recess, they will see people in their States having good paying jobs for a good day's work repairing bridges, dealing with lead pipes. And that is, colleague, why, on three separate occasions, the Senate Democrats and Republicans came together.

My colleague—I don't ever want to be critical of someone's intention—has made it out that this will just be getting rid of some redtape and bureaucracy. I want Senators, who are going to vote in a little bit, to understand that this is not about that. This is about what it is really like in our communities where so many people are still hurting.

What I have in my mirror are priorities like schools needing to replace lead pipes. That is what we had in mind when we started this effort Senator CORNYN on the other side, myself, Senator PADILLA. I hope that the Senate won't vote here at 6 o'clock to essentially pull this effort up from the roots and throw it aside, because a lot of people will get hurt. Senators are going to hear about it pretty soon because these are projects that are underway today; they are underway now.

Democrats and Republicans felt they would make a difference for our communities, and we shouldn't tear up that effort in the name of this resolution that tries to suggest that this is mostly about cutting redtape, which is not the case. It is about cutting jobs in our communities, and we are going to lose a lot of opportunities for some smart investments for the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, just to respond briefly, it may not have been his priority list, but it is worth pointing out that, again, some priorities of

these dollars—like \$340 million cash payments to illegal immigrants—have been spent from this fund. But be that as it may, if the concern from my colleague is that these projects for lead pipe replacement and schools—if they have been obligated, nothing is going to change with that. I want to make that very clear. In fact, those obligations are still extended through 2024, as the statute called for.

What this is all about is one simple fact: Do we think that Treasury can rewrite the law to extend these bureaucratic payments that, by the way, are part of the submissions that these State and locals have made for legal fees, other compliance costs. That is all in these submissions. This is to get overtime for 2 more years to spend approximately \$13 billion. And again, that is \$1,200 out of the budgets of American families across this country.

So we have an opportunity to restore some fiscal sanity, to stand up for the Article I branch. Whether you agree with that law or not, it said those obligations had to be incurred before the end of 2024. We are not changing that. We are just saying Treasury doesn't get to do an end run around Congress and again have \$13 billion more go out the door to lawyers and to bureaucrats.

With that, I yield the floor and ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall vote take place immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the joint resolution is considered read a third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 57

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

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

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

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 168 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Barrasso	Britt	Collins
Blackburn	Budd	Cornyn
Boozman	Capito	Cotton
Braun	Cassidy	Cramer

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

NAYS—49

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

NOT VOTING—5

Crapo	Manchin	Vance
Hawley	Menendez	

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 57) was rejected.

(Mr. MURPHY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HAS-SAN). The Senator from Connecticut.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO NEIL HARTIGAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to offer belated birthday wishes and heartfelt thanks to a man who has devoted more than five decades of his life to serving the people of Illinois.

Neil Hartigan made history in 1972 when he became Lieutenant Governor of Illinois. He was just 34 years old, making him, at that time, the youngest person ever elected Lieutenant Governor of any State. In 1973, Time magazine named him as one of the "Future 200 Leaders" in the country.

He was recruited to run by Illinois' then-Lieutenant Governor, an ambitious young man who planned to run for Governor and wanted Neil Hartigan as his running mate. That other man was Paul Simon, my political inspiration and the man whose Senate seat I now hold.

Paul Simon lost his 1972 bid for Governor by a razor thin vote. But Neil Hartigan won his race and, as Lieutenant Governor, became a champion for seniors. He pushed through the State legislature a bill that consolidated the

State's numerous programs for the elderly into a single, cabinet-level department of aging. It was the first department of aging in the Nation, and it became a national model.

His inspiration for that change were the mothers of his childhood friends in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. As he often said, growing up in that enclave of mostly Irish and Jewish families, he didn't have just one mother; he had 50. Years later, when he was running for political office and knocking on doors in his old neighborhood, he saw these women again; they were now elderly, often lonely, and unsure of where to turn for help.

In 1976, the last year of his term, he was elected chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors.

The belief that the purpose of government is to make life better for others is a conviction that Neil inherited from his parents. His father David Hartigan was the youngest of 14 children in an Irish Catholic family on the South Side of Chicago. The family fell on hard times after David's father—Neil's grandfather—was badly injured in a work accident which left him unable to ever work again. David's mother supported the family on her small salary as a teacher. Neil says his dad worked "every job under the sun" to put himself through college and then law school.

David Hartigan served two terms as Chicago's deputy city treasurer and briefly as city treasurer, before being twice elected alderman in the 49th Ward.

When Neil was a senior at Georgetown University, his dad died at the age of 57. The cause was complications of diabetes, which had stolen most of his dad's eyesight and ravaged his body for years.

Two things happened to change Neil's life when he returned to Chicago after graduating from Georgetown. Loyola University Chicago, offered him a scholarship to study law—a generosity he has repaid many times over by establishing a scholarship for third-year Loyola law students in his father's name. And the city of Chicago offered him a job. This was no cushy "nepo baby" position. It was physical labor, shoveling coal in the basement of the city board of health building.

Neil didn't stay in the basement long. He soon became a trusted assistant to the city health commissioner. After he passed the bar, he became attorney for the board of health. He spent a year representing the board in Springfield. It was a short time, but he made a long list of friends, including Paul Simon.

At the age of 27, he was hired by Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley as the mayor's administrative assistant. He became a rising star in Illinois Democratic politics, Chicago's chief lobbyist in Springfield, and later deputy mayor.

He won his first political race in 1968, when he was elected Democratic committeeman for the 49th Ward, the same ward his father had led.

In 1982, he was elected attorney general of Illinois. In his two terms as AG, he managed to get nearly 90 bills through the State legislature. One of his bills was the 1983 Illinois Violent Crime Victims Assistance Act, which uses fines paid by convicted individuals to fund shelters and services for survivors of domestic violence, survivors of child abuse, and other survivors of violent crime.

He sued the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to recover benefits for 30,000 people with disabilities in Illinois whose Federal assistance had been cut off by the Reagan administration. His victory in that case became the basis for similar suits in other States.

He persuaded the general assembly to override a Governor's veto and establish a plan to provide medical services for the indigent.

Another bill he championed amended the State criminal code to hold corporate executives and directors accountable for their companies' criminal violations of the State's Environmental Protection Act.

In 1990, he was the Democratic nominee for Governor, a race he lost narrowly to then-Secretary of State Jim Edgar.

He left politics and government for a while after that, becoming chairman of the World Trade Center Illinois.

In 2002, he was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court from the First District, which serves Cook County. One of his role models was his paternal uncle Matthew Hartigan, a longtime and respected judge on the city's South Side. He stepped down from the bench voluntarily in 2004.

Earlier this month, this once Wiz Kid of Illinois politics turned 86. He has outlived two spouses, including his first wife and longtime political partner Marge. He and his third wife Mary Lou were married last year. He remains as interested as ever in politics and good government.

I will close with a story Neil tells about an interview he had with Mayor Richard J. Daley when he was 27 and applying for the job as assistant to the mayor. Mayor Daley, then at the height of his power, asked simply: "Neil, why do you want to be in government?"

Neil said he was later embarrassed by the simple sincerity of his answer. He replied, "Frankly, Mayor, I consider it sort of like a religious calling. It's the next highest place after the church where you can help people."

It was a belief inherited from his father and one that has guided Neil Hartigan's long life in public service. I am grateful for his service and proud to be his friend.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed

arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-24, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Romania for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$340.8 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-24

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Romania.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$285.7 million.
Other \$55.1 million.

Total \$340.8 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Up to three hundred (300) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missiles.

Forty (40) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missile Guidance Units.

Forty (40) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Twenty (20) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II CATM Guidance Units.

Non-MDE: Also included are missile containers; personnel training and training equipment; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; warranties; U.S. Government engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (RO-P-AAK).

(v) Prior Related Cases if any: RO-P-AAA, RO-P-AAJ.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc. Paid, Offered or Agreed to be Paid, None known at this time.

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 14, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Romania—AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Missiles

The Government of Romania has requested to buy up to three hundred (300) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missiles; forty (40) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missile Guidance Units; forty (40) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); and twenty (20) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II CATM Guidance Units. Also included are missile containers; personnel training and training equipment; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; warranties; U.S. Government engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$340.8 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by providing air-to-air missiles for its F-16 fleet in support of NATO's defense mission. Romania will have no difficulty absorbing these weapons into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Romania; however, U.S. Government engineering and technical services may be required on an interim basis for training and technical assistance.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-24

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Missile represents a substantial increase in missile performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, a low drag/high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The most current AIM-9X Block II Operational Flight Software developed for all international partners, which is authorized by U.S. Government export policy, provides fifth-generation infrared missile capabilities such as Lock-On-After-Launch, Weapons Data Link, Surface Attack, and Surface Launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

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

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

4. A determination has been made that Romania can provide substantially the same

degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Romania.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On May 9, 2024, the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, determined that an emergency exists which requires the sale of the defense articles and defense services identified in the attached transmittal to the Government of Ukraine through the Foreign Military Sales process, including any further amendment specific to costs, quantity, or requirements occurring within the duration of circumstances giving rise to this emergency sale.

Please find attached (Tab 1) the Secretary of State determination and justification waiving the congressional review requirements under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER

(For James E. Hursch, Director).
Enclosures.

Determination Under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Pursuant to section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. 2776, I hereby determine that an emergency exists that requires the immediate sale through the following foreign military sales cases, including any further amendments specific to the cost, quantity, or requirements of these cases, in the national interest of the United States:

For Ukraine:

(3) High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS)

This determination shall be published in the Federal Register and, along with accom-

panying Memorandum of Justification, shall be transmitted to Congress with the applicable notifications.

Date: May 9, 2024

ANTONY J. BLINKEN,
Secretary of State.

(U) Memorandum of Justification for Emergency Arms Transfers to Ukraine Under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

(U) Germany desires to fund procurement of three High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) for Ukraine from U.S. Army inventories via a Joint Ukrainian Multi-national Program—Services, Training and Articles Rapid Timeline (JUMPSTART) Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case. Under the JUMPSTART program, Germany would transfer the money (\$30 million) to the United States, which will then be deposited in Ukraine's FMS account for the purchase of three HIMARS from U.S. Army inventories.

(U) In the early morning of February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full scale, unprovoked, premeditated war against Ukraine, consistent with months of critical U.S. intelligence that had indicated that a major renewed invasion of Ukraine by Russia was imminent. This renewed invasion came after Russia conducted disruptive cyber operations against Ukrainian systems, Russian President Putin's purported recognition on February 21, 2022, of the so called "Luhansk People's Republic" and "Donetsk People's Republic" as independent states, and the Kremlin's subsequent deployment of Russia's military forces further into the Donbas. On February 24, 2022, President Putin announced a "special military operation" in Ukraine, and Russia's forces launched premeditated, unprovoked, and unjustified attacks against locations throughout Ukraine, in a full-scale invasion.

(U) Over the last nine years since Russia's initial incursion into Ukraine, the U.S. government has provided robust levels of defense support to Ukraine to help counter Russia's aggressive and destabilizing activities. Ukraine has also increasingly purchased U.S. military equipment using its national funds.

(U) Since Russia's initial invasion of Ukraine in 2014, the United States has provided over \$47 billion in security assistance to Ukraine, including through the Department of Defense's Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and security assistance authority under 10 U.S.C. 333, the Department of State's Foreign Military Financing program, and previous presidential drawdowns. Through these programs, the United States has provided and is providing Ukraine with military equipment such as Stinger air defense missiles, Javelin anti-armor missile systems, armed patrol boats, grenade launchers, counter-artillery and counter mortar radars, military medical equipment, electronic warfare detection systems, tactical gear, and support for ongoing training programs. On 44 previous occasions since September 2021, drawdowns were directed under sections 506(a)(1) and 552(c)(2) of the FAA for a total of \$23.785 billion in assistance for Ukraine (including a total of \$896 million directed in conjunction with section 614 of the FAA during FY 2022 and FY 2023). The principal equipment delivered under these drawdowns for Ukraine included HIMARS, Stinger air-defense missiles, munitions for the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS), high-speed anti-radiation missiles (HARMs), Javelin anti-armor missiles, command launch units, M18A1 Claymore anti-personnel munitions configured to be compliant with the Ottawa

Convention), first aid kits, artillery and ammunition, helicopters, unmanned aerial systems, machine guns, tactical gear, night vision devices, personal protective equipment, spare parts, and various calibers of ammunition.

(U) Although U.S. security assistance has improved Ukraine's overall defense posture and capabilities, Ukraine requires urgent support to enable it to continue resisting and repelling Russia's ongoing invasion. The U.S. multi-year security assistance effort is designed to help Ukraine build a sustainable defense capacity over the long term, while defense articles provided through emergency arms transfers under section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act would address its most pressing defense needs in response to Russia's aggression.

(U) In the midst of the ongoing conflict, a critical need has surfaced requiring the immediate transfer of these defense articles in order for Ukraine to maintain its ability to prevent Russian gains. One Ukraine HIMARS system has recently been lost to enemy action, and several more are in various states of functionality due to maintenance concerns. Meanwhile, Russia has shown no sign of easing up on an ongoing ground offensive into sovereign Ukrainian territory, and numbers of Ukrainian long-range artillery systems are reaching critical levels. The United States and its partners are struggling to continue to supply and maintain the long-range artillery systems at the tempo of operations demanded by the ongoing Russian invasion. The HIMARS capability has proven extremely effective against the ground forces Russia is employing, and the systems are in constant use—requiring, at this time, immediate replacement and refurbishment.

(U) It is in the United States' national security interest to swiftly provide Ukraine with the defensive capabilities it requires. In order to effectively do so and ensure continued defense of its territory, Ukraine has an immediate need for these defense articles and services for replacement of HIMARS. This transfer will allow immediate replacement of the destroyed HIMARS, as well as the ability to pull other HIMARS off the front lines to perform maintenance without losing critical firepower in the defense. The urgency of this requirement has been validated by the Department of Defense in consultation with the Department of State. These items and services are readily available in Department of Defense stock and can be quickly transferred to Ukraine. The immediacy of the challenge at hand requires overcoming the statutory 60-day Congressional notification timeline to immediately expedite transfers to Ukraine.

(U) For the reasons provided above, an emergency exists requiring immediate provision of these defense articles to Ukraine in the national security interest of the United States. This transfer, through a Foreign Military Sale, will provide Ukraine as soon as possible with defense articles necessary to allow it to defend itself against Russia's armed aggression. The Secretary of State, therefore, has certified an emergency exists under section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. 2776, thereby waiving the congressional review requirement of that provision.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-59

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$30 million.

Other \$0.

Total \$30 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Three (3) High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS).

Non-MDE: None.

(iv) Military Department: Army (JU-B-UAD).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any : NB-B-VSB, NB-B-VCC, NW-B-VIA (USAID Cases).

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 10, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy three (3) High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS). The estimated total cost is \$30 million, which will be funded by another partner country on behalf of Ukraine.

The Secretary of State has determined and provided detailed justification that an emergency exists that requires the immediate sale to the Government of Ukraine of the above defense articles and services in the national security interests of the United States, thereby waiving the congressional review requirements under Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

Ukraine has an urgent need to increase its long-range, precision fires capabilities. Procurement of additional HIMARS will enhance Ukraine's ability to defend itself and respond to continued Russian aggression.

This will be a sale from U.S. Army inventory. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Ukraine.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-59

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) M270 launcher and can fire all of the MLRS Family of Munitions (FOM), including Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System variants and the Army Tactical Missile System. The HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with GPS-aided precision accuracy using the MLRS FOM.

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

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the infor-

mation could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

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

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to Ukraine.

TRIBUTE TO ADRIAN KLADAKIS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Adrian for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Adrian is a native of Virginia. He is currently a senior at Flint High School in Oakton, VA. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Adrian for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE IVY

• Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, today, during Brain Tumor Awareness Month, I rise to recognize Catherine Ivy, the president and founder of the Ben & Catherine Ivy Foundation in Scottsdale, AZ. Mrs. Ivy started the foundation in 2005 with her late husband Ben after he was diagnosed with glioblastoma. Since then, the Ben & Catherine Ivy Foundation has been committed to finding a cure for brain cancer through funding for patient-focused research.

Mrs. Ivy is a resident of Paradise Valley, AZ, and has been a dedicated member of her community. She has served on the Mayo Clinic Arizona Leadership Council, the board of directors of the Translational Genomics Research Institute—TGen—and the Advisory Board of the Barrow Neurological Institute—all among the most acclaimed research institutions in our State. The Ben & Catherine Ivy Foundation has donated over \$150 million to support brain tumor research and facilitate the creation of the Ivy Brain Tumor Center in Phoenix, AZ. Because of Mrs. Ivy, cancer patients across our State and the country are gaining a real chance to beat this terrible disease.

The Ben & Catherine Ivy Foundation is a testament to how impactful cancer research can be and why it is so important that we continue to fund it. In this body, I think that is something we can agree on, especially considering the same cancer that took Ben Ivy also took Senator John McCain. It is in the same fighting spirit of Senator McCain that Mrs. Ivy works to support bold projects that may feel like a long shot but also hold great scientific promise. There can only be reward if you take the risk.

We won't beat cancer without a faithful commitment to scientific advancement. In Phoenix, this commitment is growing strong. I want to thank Mrs. Ivy for that. Her contributions to brain cancer research will yield successful, life-prolonging treatments for patients for years to come. Our State and its residents owe Mrs. Ivy a debt of gratitude.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:45 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 546. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4814. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and to direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and tokens, respectively.

H.R. 5390. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study on the feasibility of manufacturing in the United States products for critical infrastructure sectors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6132. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a mandatory consumer product safety standard with respect to retractable awnings.

H.R. 7659. An act to authorize and amend authorities, programs, and statutes administered by the Coast Guard.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 106. Concurrent resolution expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defund local law enforcement agencies.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4814. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the

Commission and to direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and tokens, respectively; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5390. An act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study on the feasibility of manufacturing in the United States products for critical infrastructure sectors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6132. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a mandatory consumer product safety standard with respect to retractable awnings; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 7659. An act to authorize and amend authorities, programs, and statutes administered by the Coast Guard; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 106. Concurrent resolution expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defund local law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-4523. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notices: Energy Community Bonus Credit Amounts Under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022" (Notice 2023-45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4524. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transfer of Certain Credits" (RIN1545-BQ64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4525. A communication from the Senior Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foster Care Legal Representation" (RIN0970-AC89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4526. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Pakistan" ((RIN15-AE82) (CBP Dec. 24-09)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4527. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice on the Geographic Requirements for Section 30C. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit" (Notice 2024-20) received during ad-

junction of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4528. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notices: Energy Community Bonus Credit Amounts Under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022" (Notice 2024-30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4529. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advanced Manufacturing Investment Credit" (RIN1545-BQ54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4530. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of Energy Property and Rules Applicable to the Energy Credit" (RIN1545-BO40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4531. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 45V Credit for Production of Clean Hydrogen; Section 48(a)(15) Election to Treat Clean Hydrogen" (RIN1545-BQ97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4532. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Medicaid Drug Review and Utilization required by section 1004 of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4533. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program: Draft Guidance, Implementation of Sections 1191-1198 of the Social Security Act for Initial Price Applicability Year 2027 and Manufacturer Effectuation of the Maximum Fair Price in 2026 and 2027" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4534. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4535. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2022"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4536. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarifying the Eligibility of Certain Non-citizens for Insurance Affordability Programs" (RIN0938-AV23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4537. A communication from the Chief Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, transmitting, pursuant to law, an opinion which may be of interest to Congress: *Ad Hoc Shrimp Trade Enforcement Committee v. United States*; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4538. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Vehicle Credits under Sections 25E and 30D; Transfer of Credits; Critical Minerals and Battery Components; Foreign Entities of Concern" (RIN1545-BQ52) (RIN1545-BQ86) (RIN1545-BQ99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4539. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Regarding the 2024 Allocation Round of Qualifying Advanced Energy Project Credit Program under Section 48C(e)" (Notice 2024-36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4540. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notices: Energy Community Bonus Credit Amounts Under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022" (Notice 2023-29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4541. A communication from the Deputy Commissioner of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled "2024 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds" and the "2024 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4542. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2024; ordered to lie on the table.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2770. A bill to prohibit the distribution of materially deceptive AI-generated audio or visual media relating to candidates for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 3875. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide further transparency for the use of content that is substantially generated by artificial intelligence in political advertisements by requiring such advertisements to include a statement within the contents of the advertisements if generative AI was used to generate any image, audio, or video footage in the advertisements, and for other purposes.

S. 3897. A bill to require the Election Assistance Commission to develop voluntary guidelines for the administration of elec-

tions that address the use and risks of artificial intelligence technologies, and for other purposes.

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. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 4337. A bill to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 4338. A bill to provide for the establishment of hybrid primary care payments under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 4339. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program for law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 4340. A bill to provide for accurate energy appraisals in connection with residential mortgage loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 4341. A bill to require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mrs. GILLBRAND):

S. 4342. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize and expand the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4343. A bill to establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and smoke related forecasting, detection, modeling, observations, and service delivery, and to address growing needs in the wildland-urban interface, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 4344. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the firearm transfer tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4345. A bill to amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to reauthor-

ize and expand State-wide assessments and strategies for forest resources; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 4346. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance in support of nurseries and seed orchards, to establish a grant program in support of nurseries and seed orchards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 4347. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4348. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to prohibit the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from issuing permits for the construction or modification of electric transmission facilities in a State over the objection of the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4349. A bill to require private health plans to provide for secure electronic transmission of prior authorization requests for prescription drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4350. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. LUJAN, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 4351. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4352. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Benton MacKaye Trail as a national scenic trail; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S.J. Res. 79. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Retirement Security Rule: Definition of an Investment Advice Fiduciary"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. SULIVAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S.J. Res. 80. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8

of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations Pertaining to Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S.J. Res. 81. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Interagency Cooperation"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 82. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Drug Administration relating to "Medical Devices; Laboratory Developed Tests"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LEE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. YOUNG):

S.J. Res. 83. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives relating to "Definition of 'Engaged in the Business' as a Dealer in Firearms"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S.J. Res. 84. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S.J. Res. 85. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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 and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 687. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United States' "One China Policy"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. Kaine, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 688. A resolution recognizing widening threats to freedom of the press and free expression around the world, reaffirming the vital role that a free and independent press plays in combating the growing threats of authoritarianism, misinformation, and disinformation, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States Government in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 689. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Hospital Week, to be observed from May 12 through May 18, 2024; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 690. A resolution supporting the designation of May 15, 2024, as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Day" to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent scams targeted at seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those scams from happening, and to improve protections from those scams for seniors; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 691. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 17, 2024, as "DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day" to raise awareness of, and encourage research on, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors and pediatric cancers in general; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 692. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day in 2024, including increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINES, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 693. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 657, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes.

S. 930

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 930, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the accuracy of market-based Medicare payment for clinical diagnostic laboratory services, to reduce administrative burdens in the collection of data, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 2230

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2230, a bill to prohibit the Securities

and Exchange Commission from requiring that personally identifiable information be collected under consolidated audit trail reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2539

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2539, a bill to clarify that, in awarding funding under title X of the Public Health Service Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may not discriminate against eligible States, individuals, or other entities for refusing to counsel or refer for abortions.

S. 2769

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2769, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 to prevent wage theft and assist in the recovery of stolen wages, to authorize the Secretary of Labor to administer grants to prevent wage and hour violations, and for other purposes.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) 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. 3141

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

S. 3154

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3154, a bill to improve the effectiveness of tribal child support enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3266

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

VANCE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3266, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to conduct a study regarding the use of mobile devices in elementary and secondary schools, and to establish a pilot program of awarding grants to enable certain schools to create a school environment free of mobile devices.

S. 3335

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3335, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.

S. 3810

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3810, a bill to prohibit conflict of interests among consulting firms that simultaneously contract with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the United States Government, and for other purposes.

S. 3863

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3863, a bill to clarify the country of origin of certain passenger motor vehicles.

S. 3868

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3868, a bill to impose a duty of \$20,000 per motor vehicle produced in or by the People's Republic of China.

S. 3869

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3869, a bill to require vehicles to comply with the rules of origin of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in order to qualify for certain Federal programs.

S. 4047

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4047, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2024, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4109

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 4091, a bill to strengthen Federal efforts to counter antisemitism in the United States.

S. 4316

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4109, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to clarify roles and responsibilities within the Department of Defense relating to subconcussive and concussive brain injuries and to improve brain health initiatives of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 4206

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4206, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit certain activities involving prohibited primate species, and for other purposes.

S. 4237

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4237, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the credit for new clean vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 4240

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4240, a bill to establish that an individual who is convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law related to the individual's conduct at and during the course of a protest that occurs at an institution of higher education shall be ineligible for forgiveness, cancellation, waiver, or modification of certain Federal student loans.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4258, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 4277

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4277, a bill to establish a green transportation infrastructure grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4292, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 4296

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4296, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide more opportunities for mothers to succeed, and for other purposes.

S. 4316

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio

(Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4316, a bill to authorize urbanized area formula grants for service improvement and safety and security enhancement, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 58

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 58, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces”.

S.J. RES. 72

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 72, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to “The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors”.

S.J. RES. 76

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 76, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to “Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance and Independent, Noncoordinated Excepted Benefits Coverage”.

S.J. RES. 77

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 77, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the fundamental right to vote.

S.J. RES. 670

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 670, a resolution strongly condemning the rise of antisemitism on campuses of institutions of higher education across the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 687—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2758 (XXVI) AND THE HARMFUL CONFLATION OF CHINA’S “ONE CHINA PRINCIPLE” AND THE UNITED STATES’ “ONE CHINA POLICY”

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

S. RES. 687

Whereas on October 25, 1971, United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 2758, which recognizes the Government of the People’s Republic of China (referred to in this preamble as the “PRC”) as the representative of the member state “China” in the United Nations;

Whereas the purpose of resolution 2758 was to address the question of which government would represent the “China” seat at the United Nations, and not to address any other issues, including issues related to Taiwan’s ultimate political status;

Whereas the PRC has recently linked resolution 2758 with its “One China Principle” and has claimed that resolution 2758 addresses the matter of Taiwan’s sovereignty;

Whereas the “One China Principle” is a policy held by the Chinese Communist Party that—

(1) the PRC is the sole sovereign nation using the name “China”; and

(2) Taiwan is an inalienable part of China;

Whereas resolution 2758 did not endorse and is not equivalent to the “One China Principle” and countries that supported resolution 2758 do not necessarily accept the “One China Principle”;

Whereas resolution 2758 does not represent an international consensus regarding the PRC’s stance that Taiwan is part of China;

Whereas PRC officials misrepresent resolution 2758 by claiming the adoption of resolution 2758 implies acceptance of the “One China Principle” and the PRC’s claims to Taiwan;

Whereas the PRC misleadingly claims that countries with a “one China policy” have accepted and abide by the PRC’s “One China Principle”;

Whereas Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs, testified before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in 2024 that the PRC “misused and misinterpreted” resolution 2758 to influence countries to change their diplomatic recognition to the PRC;

Whereas the “one China policy” of the United States acknowledges the PRC’s “One China Principle”, but affirms that—

(1) the United States does not take a position on Taiwan’s status; and

(2) this issue should be resolved peacefully by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait;

Whereas in 1982, during the administration of President Ronald Reagan, the United States conveyed Six Assurances to Taiwan’s President Chiang Ching-kuo, including that the United States had not changed its stance on Taiwan’s sovereignty, and each subsequent United States presidential administration has reaffirmed these Six Assurances;

Whereas Taiwan has established representative offices in more than 60 countries and at the European Union and the World Trade Organization, which disproves the PRC’s claim of a unified United Nations position or international consensus on Taiwan’s status;

Whereas the PRC has weaponized resolution 2758 and the “One China Principle” to isolate Taiwan and to prevent its meaningful participation at the United Nations, United Nations-affiliated agencies, and other international fora, including at the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and Interpol;

Whereas the PRC has bolstered its claims and engaged in revisionist history by successfully altering historic United Nations documents to changes references to “Taiwan” to “Taiwan, Province of China”;

Whereas in 2005, the Secretary of the World Health Organization signed a memorandum of understanding with the PRC Ministry of

Health regarding how the World Health Organization would engage with Taiwan, which included a requirement that communication with Taiwan go through the PRC;

Whereas United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon cited resolution 2758 when refusing Taiwan’s accession to the United Nations in 2007, based on the incorrect assertion that resolution 2758 supports China’s claim that Taiwan is part of China;

Whereas the United Nations has used resolution 2758 as a justification for requiring Taiwanese citizens, including those with official invitations to attend United Nations events, journalists, and representatives of nongovernmental organizations, to obtain PRC-issued Taiwan Compatriot Permits in addition to their passport or a PRC passport to gain entry to United Nations facilities;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken released a statement in 2021, which identified the United Nations’ exclusion of Taiwanese civil society members and emphasized that denying entry to such individuals undermines the work of the United Nations;

Whereas, in 2022, Robert O’Brien, former United States National Security Advisor, stated that—

(1) the PRC manipulates resolution 2758 to make false claims regarding Taiwan’s status in order “to undermine the international order and the international system”; and

(2) resolution 2758 “relates solely to the occupancy of the China seat at the United Nations and nothing more”;

Whereas in August 2023, the Central American Parliament (also known as “PARLACEN”) expelled Taiwan, after more than 20 years as a permanent observer, from holding such status at its sessions and falsely claimed that resolution 2758 deemed Taiwan a “province of mainland China, which disqualifies it from participating as an independent country”;

Whereas since 2016, the PRC has successfully induced or pressured 10 nations: São Tomé and Príncipe, Panama, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Burkina Faso, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Nauru, to cut diplomatic ties with Taiwan; and

Whereas the PRC cites resolution 2758 as a justification to coerce, intimidate, or punish sovereign nations for engagement and partnership with Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms that the longstanding “one China policy” of the United States does not affirmatively recognize the People’s Republic of China’s claim to control over Taiwan and its outlying islands, but rather “acknowledges” this position, reaffirms the interest of the United States in a peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues, “has not agreed to take any position regarding sovereignty over Taiwan”, and “will not exert pressure on Taiwan to enter into negotiations with the PRC”;

(2) reaffirms that the “one China policy” of the United States and the similar policies of its partners are not equivalent to the “One China Principle” of the Chinese Communist Party;

(3) emphasizes that United Nations General Assembly resolution 2758 is not equivalent to, and does not endorse, the PRC’s “One China Principle”;

(4) emphasizes further that resolution 2758 does not take a position on Taiwan’s ultimate political status, as explicitly recognized by PRC leaders at the time, and does not represent a United Nations consensus on Taiwan’s status;

(5) opposes China’s use of the “One China Principle” to coerce the United States, Taiwan, and other countries to accept its claims over Taiwan;

(6) supports Taiwan's diplomatic allies in continuing official relationships with Taiwan, and other nations across the world in strengthening their partnership with Taiwan;

(7) reaffirms support for Taiwan's membership in international organizations for which statehood is not a requirement for membership and encourages meaningful participation for Taiwan in organizations in which its membership is not possible;

(8) encourages the United States Government to work with partners on joint efforts to counter China's false narratives about resolution 2758; and

(9) supports the efforts of other countries to differentiate between their policies and the "One China Principle" to counter China's propaganda about international views of Taiwan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 688—RECOGNIZING WIDENING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREE EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD, REAFFIRMING THE VITAL ROLE THAT A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PRESS PLAYS IN COMBATING THE GROWING THREATS OF AUTHORITARIANISM, MISINFORMATION, AND DISINFORMATION, AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY ON MAY 3, 2024

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Schatz, and Mr. Van Hollen) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 688

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and various State constitutions protect freedom of the press in the United States;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson, who championed the necessity of a free press for a thriving democratic society, wisely declared, "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.":

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris on December 10, 1948, states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.":

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the third day of May of each year to be "World Press Freedom Day"—

(1) to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom;

(2) to evaluate press freedom around the world;

(3) to defend the media against attacks on its independence; and

(4) to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while working in their profession;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-166) expanded the examination of the freedom of the press around the world in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices published by the Department of State;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, and December 18, 2019, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/163 and Resolution 74/157, respectively, on the safety of journalists and the problem of impunity by unequivocally condemning all attacks on, and violence against, journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in conflict and non-conflict situations;

Whereas the United States Government has used the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) to place targeted visa and economic sanctions on individuals, including for their roles in the targeted killings of journalists;

Whereas, in an effort to combat attacks against journalists, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken in February 2021, announced the Khashoggi Ban, a policy allowing the Department of State to impose visa restrictions on individuals who, acting on behalf of a foreign government, are believed to have been directly engaged in serious, extraterritorial counter-dissident activities, including activities that suppress, harass, surveil, threaten, or harm journalists, activists, or other persons perceived to be disidents for their work;

Whereas compiled data from Reporters Without Borders provides alarming indications about growing divisions resulting from the spread of disinformation with the potential to weaken democratic societies;

Whereas, as of December 14, 2023, according to Reporters Without Borders, a total of 521 journalists were in prison and 84 journalists were missing;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders notes that punishments against women journalists are increasing disproportionately, with the number of women journalists in prison rising by 30 percent in 2022 and with most of the longest prison sentences handed down against journalists in 2023 given to women;

Whereas Freedom House's Freedom in the World 2024 report marked the 18th consecutive year of decline in global freedom, with an estimated 38 percent of the global population living in countries deemed "Not Free";

Whereas Freedom House's Freedom on the Net 2023 report marked the 13th consecutive year of decline in global internet freedom, with people in 55 of the 70 countries covered facing legal repercussions for expressing themselves online and people in 41 countries facing physical assaults or death for their online commentary;

Whereas infringement on freedom of expression, including media freedom, has been one of the key drivers of declines in global freedom over the last 50 years, according to Freedom House, including attacks and prosecutions against journalists, pressure on media outlets, repressive regulatory and legal frameworks, internet shutdowns, efforts to undermine strong encryption, and blocks on online sources of information;

Whereas journalists and media workers are being murdered, imprisoned, attacked, and harassed around the world and the Committee to Protect Journalists has reported that—

(1) at least 99 journalists and media workers were killed around the world during 2023, and at least 27 journalists have been killed in 2024, as of May 15th;

(2) approximately 320 journalists were imprisoned during 2023;

(3) between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2023, the vast majority of murders of journalists occurred with impunity, with nearly 80 percent of the perpetrators of 261 murders of journalists facing no punishment; and

(4) journalists and media outlets around the world have been targeted by government actors with sophisticated spyware products that pose a severe risk to their privacy and security and the security of their sources and families;

Whereas, according to PEN America, more than 339 writers and public intellectuals, including columnists and editorial journalists, were imprisoned across 33 different countries during 2023;

Whereas the censorship, victimization, and killing of journalists around the world, particularly in conflict zones, has obvious and profound implications for the ability of the public, including the American public, to be informed, including about conflicts with local, regional, and global ramifications;

Whereas, since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Reporters Without Borders has documented attacks directly targeting journalists, including—

(1) the killing of 11 Ukrainian and accredited international journalists and media workers by Russian armed forces;

(2) the torture by electric shock, beatings, and mock executions of journalists working for the international press;

(3) the targeted kidnappings of journalists and their families in occupied regions of Ukraine to put pressure on their reporting;

(4) the deliberate attacks targeting media facilities; and

(5) the near universal censorship, imprisonment, or exile of Russia's independent news media;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders, in the Ukrainian territory of Crimea, Ukrainian journalists and bloggers have repeatedly been threatened, arbitrarily arrested, and tortured for resisting Russian occupation, such as the detentions and imprisonments of Vladyslav Yesypenko, Iryna Danylovych, Amet Suleimanov, Asan Akhmetov, Marlen Asanov, Nariman Celal, Oleksiy Bessarabov, Osman Arifmemetov, Remzi Bekirov, Ruslan Suleimanov, Rustem Sheikhaliev, Server Mustafayev, Seyran Saliev, Timur Ibragimov, Vilen Temeryanov, and Lutfiye Zudiyeva;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Ukrainian journalists Viktoriya Roshchina, Iryna Levchenko, and Dmytro Khilyuk remain in the custody of Russian forces after their full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022;

Whereas journalists and media workers face heightened dangers in Russia, such as harassment, repression, censorship, and imprisonment, with 30 journalists and 4 media workers imprisoned as of March 27, 2024, according to Reporters Without Borders, including—

(1) Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and reporter with the *Wall Street Journal*, who has been wrongfully detained on baseless espionage charges since March 29, 2023, and faces up to 20 years in jail;

(2) Alsu Kurmashova, a Russian-American journalist for congressionally-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, who was arrested for violating Russia's "Foreign Agents" law and has since been charged for violating Article 207.3 of Russia's Criminal Code, which effectively criminalizes reporting about Russia's war in Ukraine;

(3) Ivan Safronov, a correspondent with Russian business dailies *Kommersant* and *Vedomosti*, who was sentenced to 22 years in jail on treason charges in September 2022;

(4) Sergey Mikhaylov, publisher of independent newspaper *Listok*, who was arrested for allegedly spreading false information about the Russian military in April 2022;

(5) Mikhail Afanasyev, editor-in-chief of the online magazine *Novy Fokus*, who was arrested and charged with allegedly spreading

false information about the Russian military in April 2022;

(6) *Novaya Gazeta*, a landmark independent newspaper founded in 1993, which—

(A) suspended operations in Russia in March 2022 after receiving warnings from the authorities citing Russia's "Foreign Agents" law; and

(B) was stripped of its print and online media licenses in September 2022;

(7) *Meduza*, a leading independent bilingual news website based outside of Russia, which—

(A) was designated by Russian authorities in January 2023 as an "undesirable organization" under the 2015 Undesirable Organization Law; and

(B) was banned from operating in the Russian Federation;

(8) Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, an independent nonprofit media outlet, which was designated by Russian authorities in February 2024 as an "undesirable organization" under the 2015 Undesirable Organization Law;

(9) RusNews, an independent news website with few remaining correspondents in Russia, whose journalists—

(A) Maria Ponomarenko was sentenced to 6 years in prison for allegedly spreading false information about the Russian military on February 15, 2023, and is facing a second criminal charge for alleged violation of prison rules;

(B) Roman Ivanov was sentenced on March 6, 2024, to 7 years in prison for allegedly disseminating false news on the war in Ukraine;

(C) Igor Kuznetsov, who has been in detention since September 2021, was given a 3-year suspended sentence on alleged extremism charges on March 20, 2024, and was given a 6-year prison term on April 5, 2024, for allegedly inciting mass disturbances in group chats on Telegram;

Whereas, Vladimir Kara-Murza, a Washington Post contributing columnist and the winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for commentary—

(1) has been imprisoned in Russia since April 2022 for his criticism of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine; and

(2) received an unjust 25-year prison sentence in April 2023;

Whereas Russian authorities continue harassing and prosecuting journalists in exile, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, including—

(1) exiled Russian journalists Ruslan Leviev and Michael Nacke, who were each sentenced in absentia to 11 years in prison in August 2023 for allegedly distributing "fake" information about the Russian military;

(2) exiled Russian journalist Denis Kamalyagin, editor-in-chief of the exiled Russian newspaper *Pskovskaya Guberniya*, who was charged in late 2023 with failing to comply with the foreign agent law and with discrediting the Russian army;

(3) United States-based Russian-American journalist and writer Masha Gessen, against whom Russia issued an arrest warrant in 2023 for allegedly spreading "fake" information about the Russian army;

Whereas other Russian journalists living in exile have also been targets of harassment, surveillance, and suspected poisoning, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, including—

(1) exiled Russian journalists Elena Kostyuchenko and Irina Babloyan, who reported in August 2023 that they may have been poisoned in Germany and Georgia, respectively;

(2) Prague-based IStories' reporters Alesya Marokhovskaya and Irina Dolinina, who received threats and fear they have been under surveillance;

(3) Galina Timchenko, the Latvia-based head of *Meduza*, whose phone was infected by

Pegasus, a form of zero-click spyware produced by the Israeli company NSO Group, while she was in Germany in February 2023;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, as of December 1, 2023, the Government of the People's Republic of China had detained at least 44 journalists, and has unleashed an onslaught of attacks on press freedom in the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong, including through—

(1) state-sponsored censorship and disinformation campaigns limiting access to any information that runs contrary to Chinese Communist Party propaganda narratives, and censoring politically-sensitive keywords on social media platforms;

(2) the passage and implementation of legislation that severely curtails press freedom in Hong Kong, including the National Security Law of June 2020, and Article 23 of the Basic Law of March 2024, both of which pose an existential threat to the city's tradition of press freedom;

(3) harassment, intimidation, arrest, and imprisonment of journalists in Hong Kong, including the arrest and subsequent conviction of journalist and outspoken democracy advocate Jimmy Lai, and the closure of his once widely popular Chinese-language newspaper, *Apple Daily*;

(4) arrests or other repressive actions against independent journalists and others in mainland China who are attempting to share uncensored news or opinion about current affairs, including—

(A) Sophia Huang Xueqin, who has written about women's rights and the protests in Hong Kong, who was detained arbitrarily beginning in September 2021, who went on trial in September 2023 on charges of "inciting subversion of state power", and whose current status remains unknown; and

(B) citizen journalist Zhang Zhan, who provided uncensored news regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan and who has been imprisoned since May 2020 on politically-motivated charges of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble";

(5) the detention of journalists critical of the Government of the People's Republic of China, including Ruan Xiaohuan, who, after blogging about programming and politics, was sentenced to a 7-year term of imprisonment in early 2023, following 21 months of detention; and

(6) the continued detention of Uyghur journalists, who account for nearly 50 percent of imprisoned journalists in the People's Republic of China, including Ilham Tohti, founder of the news website *UighurBiz*, who was detained in 2014 and is serving a life sentence;

Whereas Belarus has witnessed sweeping attacks against the press since Alexander Lukashenko's fraudulent election in August 2020, with journalists and media workers harassed, assaulted, and imprisoned, with 28 journalists imprisoned as of December 1, 2023, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, including—

(1) Katsiaryna Andreyeva, a correspondent with Poland-based independent broadcaster Belsat TV, who, while serving a 2-year prison term for filming a live broadcast of the violent dispersal of a protest against Alexander Lukashenko in November 2020, was sentenced to 8 additional years in prison on treason charges in July 2022;

(2) Ksenia Lutskina, a former correspondent for the state broadcaster BelteleRadio, who was sentenced to 8 years in prison on charges of conspiring to seize state power in September 2022, and who is not receiving appropriate medical care despite having a preexisting brain tumor that has grown during her detention;

(3) Maryna Zolatava, chief editor of independent news website *Tut.By*, who was sen-

tenced to 12 years in prison on charges of incitement to hatred and distributing materials calling for actions aimed at harming national security in March 2023;

(4) Andrey Kuznechik, a journalist who, while working for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, was detained in November 2021, and was sentenced in June 2022 to 6 years in prison on charges of forming an extremist group;

(5) Ihar Losik, another Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist who was arrested in June 2020, and sentenced in December 2021 to 15 years in jail on bogus charges of preparation of actions that violate public order, who attempted suicide in March 2023, and whose wife Darya was sentenced in January 2023 to 2 years in prison on a charge of facilitating extremist activity;

(6) Alyaksandr Mantsevich, who was detained in March 2023, and is serving a 4-year prison sentence after being convicted in November 2023 on charges of discrediting Belarus;

(7) Dzianis Ivashyn, a freelance journalist who has been serving a sentence of 13 years and 1 month since being convicted in September 2022, on charges of treason and "illegal collection and dissemination of information about private life"; and

(8) Ihar Karnei, a former freelancer with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, who was sentenced on March 22, 2024 to 3 years in jail for participating in an extremist group;

Whereas Belarus has weaponized "extremism" laws against independent media outlets, with around 25 media outlets labeled as extremist groups or organizations as of March 2024, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, and has jailed journalists on allegations of creating or participating in extremist groups or facilitating extremist activities;

Whereas Belarusian authorities continue to prosecute journalists in exile, including exiled journalists Stsypan Putsila and Yan Rudzik, who had covered protests during the 2020 presidential election and were sentenced in absentia to 20 years and 19 years in jail, respectively, in May 2023, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas, in 2022, the Islamic Republic of Iran was the world's leading jailer of journalists, including female journalists, and the Government of Iran subjected these journalists to arbitrary summonses, arrests, travel bans, torture, inhumane treatment, and unsubstantiated and unjust sentences, and where, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 17 journalists and media workers remained behind bars as of December 1, 2023, including—

(1) Niloofar Hamed, a correspondent of the daily newspaper *Shargh*, who was imprisoned in 2022 for trying to document the death of Mahsa Amini on charges that could result in the death penalty;

(2) Elahe Mohammadi, a journalist for the daily *Ham Mihan*, who was also imprisoned in 2022 for the same action and on the same charges;

(3) Iranian journalist Navid Seyed-Mohammadi, a Kurdish reporter for the state-run Islamic Republic Radio and Television broadcaster, who was arrested in May 2020 and is serving a 7-year prison sentence for "espionage for hostile states";

(4) Kayvan Samimi, a 76-year-old veteran journalist, who was initially imprisoned in May 2019 and is serving a 6-year prison sentence on anti-state charges of "spreading propaganda against the system" and "colluding against national security";

(5) sisters Hoda and Zahra Tohidi, who are freelance journalists, and were imprisoned in 2022 alongside Zahra's husband, Alireza Khoshbakht, a fellow journalist, for documenting the nationwide protests after the death of Mahsa Jina Amini; and

(6) Mohammad-Bagher Moradi, an exiled freelance journalist, who was extradited to Iran from Turkey, was immediately imprisoned in 2022 for his work, and is serving a 5-year prison sentence;

Whereas, since the beginning of the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, at least 105 journalists and media workers have been killed during the ongoing war in Gaza, Lebanon, and Israel, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, and other significant attacks on the press have been documented, including according to Reporters Without Borders, the killing of at least 22 journalists in direct connection to their work;

Whereas the Government of Egypt's repression of the media has expanded under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi since 2013, and, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders, has included—

(1) attacks on independent media outlet Mada Masr, which the Egyptian Government has targeted with specious charges brought against editor-in-chief Lina Attalah and journalist Rana Mamdouh; and

(2) the imprisonment of at least 13 journalists, as of December 1, 2023, including—

(A) Alaa Abd El Fattah, a blogger who was sentenced to 5 years in prison for "broadcasting false news" and who embarked on a hunger strike on April 2, 2022, to protest his mistreatment, which he escalated to a near-fatal "water strike" that prompted a forced medical intervention by prison officials upon the start of the United Nations COP 27 climate summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on November 6, 2022; and

(B) Mohamed Ibrahim, a blogger who is also known as "Mohamed Oxygen", who has spent more than 4 years in pretrial detention, which is 2 years beyond the legal limit for a pre-trial detention;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Lokman Slim, a Lebanese political commentator and columnist, was murdered in southern Lebanon on August 4, 2023, after warning that he had been threatened and accused of treason by supporters of Hezbollah and, as of the date of the enactment of this resolution, no arrests or charges have been made in the investigation into his murder;

Whereas the Office of the Director of National Intelligence concluded that the 2018 murder of Washington Post journalist and United States legal permanent resident Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul was approved by Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman and impunity continues for the Saudi officials involved in this crime;

Whereas the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia maintains a hostile environment towards journalists through transnational repression, systematic and arbitrary arrests, torture and inhumane or degrading treatment, lengthy pre-trial detentions, and conditional release restrictions, which inhibit reporters and columnists from traveling or returning to their professional work post-detention, including—

(1) Abdulrahman Farhana, a columnist who was detained in February 2019, and charged with membership in a terrorist organization, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(2) Zuhair Kutbi, a journalist who was jailed in January 2019, and reportedly suffers from torture, malnourishment, and denial of cancer treatment in prison, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists; and

(3) blogger Raif Badawi, who, according to Reporters Without Borders, recently completed a 10-year prison sentence on blasphemy and apostasy charges, and who remains subjected to a further 10-year travel ban, which prevents him from reuniting with his family who received asylum in Canada;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders has asserted that due to oppression by the military junta, "press freedom in [Burma] has been set back ten years in ten days" after the February 1, 2021 military coup, including through—

(1) media workers forced into hiding and confronting censorship, harassment, internet blockages, beatings, interrogations, threats, and torture at the hands of the military;

(2) multiple independent media outlets forced to cease operations or close altogether or having their licenses revoked by the military; and

(3) journalists being detained at alarming rates, with 75 journalists in prison as of April 17, 2023, including photojournalist Sai Zaw Thaik, who was sentenced to a 20-year prison term in May 2023 while covering the aftermath of a deadly cyclone;

Whereas, in India, government authorities have taken a series of actions limiting the space for free and independent media, including—

(1) frequently imposing internet and communication blackouts in Indian-administered Kashmir and in the Indian state of Manipur, among certain areas;

(2) calling for the temporary blockage of journalists and media accounts on X (formerly known as "Twitter") and other online platforms;

(3) increasing restrictions on foreign journalists, and subjecting journalists to searches and arrests, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, including—

(A) revoking the journalism permit of French reporter Vanessa Dougnac, who, as the spouse of an Indian citizen, holds permanent residency status, known as an Overseas Citizens of India, forcing her to leave the country in February 2024;

(B) the continued detention of Kashmiri journalist Aasif Sultan since April 2018, including his re-arrest for the third time by Indian authorities in February 2024, days after his release from five and one-half years of preventative detention;

(C) the June 2022 arrest of Teesta Setalvad, a journalist and civil rights activist, by the Anti-Terrorism Squad of the Gujarat Police, for allegedly conspiring to implicate the Gujarat government in the 2002 Gujarat riots, and who has since faced legal harassment and arbitrary detention over the last year for her work; and

(D) the Government of India's efforts to censor the British Broadcasting Corporation's documentary critical of prominent Indian political figures;

Whereas Pakistan maintains high levels of media censorship, and impunity persists in cases of killings and physical attacks on journalists who criticize the military and state institutions, including—

(1) the repeated arrest of journalist Imran Riaz Khan, including his arbitrary detention in solitary confinement without due process for 142 days in 2023, according to Reporters Without Borders;

(2) the July 1, 2022 assault of Ayaz Amir, an employee of Dunya News, which occurred days after he had made comments criticizing former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the military, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists; and

(3) the February 2024 arrest of Pakistani journalist and video blogger Asad Ali Toor on charges of orchestrating a campaign against the state and its officials against them through his social media platforms, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas Afghanistan, under the control of the Taliban, remains one of the most repressive countries for journalists, who are subjected to arrest, beatings, and arbitrary restrictions on their work, including journalist

Sultan Ali Jawadi, who was sentenced to 1 year in prison by a Taliban court in December 2023, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas violations of press freedom are persistent in South Asia and Southeast Asia, where, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists—

(1) in Vietnam, journalist and writer Pham Doan Trang, in December 2021, following a year in pretrial detention, was sentenced to 9 years in prison for "anti-state propaganda" in a judicial proceeding, which imprisonment has been declared "arbitrary" by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;

(2) in Bangladesh, journalists are subjected to arbitrary arrests and suffer killings and physical attacks with near total impunity;

(3) in Sri Lanka, the enactment of the recent draconian Online Safety Act, which undermines freedom of speech, incentivizes self-censorship, and could be misused to suppress dissent;

Whereas Cuba remains a highly restricted environment for independent media, marked by internet restrictions and constant state-directed harassment of journalists and news outlets, and the preponderance of arbitrary arrests, threats, police summonses, and forced exile, which remain among the repressive suite of measures applied by the government against activists and journalists, with victims including Lázaro Yuri Valle Roca, a journalist who was sentenced to 5 years in prison for "enemy propaganda and resistance" in July 2022, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, evidence the Government of Cuba continues to employ retaliatory tactics to silence and jail journalists or force them into exile to maintain its censorship regime;

Whereas assaults on press freedom in El Salvador, including verbal attacks on journalists by political leaders and the use of state power to intimidate and pressure independent media, imperil its fragile democracy, and, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists and the Knight First Amendment Institute, include—

(1) spyware attacks by the Government of El Salvador against journalists of the media outlet *El Faro*, who were subject to 226 infections between June 2020 and November 2021, many of which attacks occurred when the journalists were communicating with confidential sources and reporting on abuses by the Salvadoran Government, and which intensified around *El Faro*'s publication of major stories;

(2) the ongoing criminal investigation against *El Faro*, which was launched after *El Faro* reported damaging information about the Salvadoran Government, and the relentless harassment by Salvadoran law enforcement officials toward *El Faro* journalists, which led the media outlet to relocate most of its operations to Costa Rica following harassment by Salvadoran police;

(3) the online attacks and threats to journalists from the outlet *Revista Factum*, which has been banned from press conferences at the presidential residence; and

(4) the adoption of a new law that imposes prison sentences ranging from 10 to 15 years for certain reporting on criminal groups, such as gangs;

Whereas in Mexico, which continues to be one of the world's deadliest countries for journalists, 25 journalists are counted as missing, according to Mexico's National Human Rights Commission, and where the Committee to Protect Journalists has recorded 88 killings of journalists and media workers since 2012, of which 37 were murdered in response to their reportage, and where reporters covering stories concerning political corruption and organized crime are frequently assaulted and murdered;

Whereas Haiti is the second deadliest country in the Western Hemisphere for journalists, with 9 journalists killed since 2022, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, following a steady uptick of violence in the country, including violence against the press, as the country's security situation continues to deteriorate following the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, with violence claiming the lives of—

(1) Garry Tesse, a Haitian radio reporter who reported on political and government corruption and was believed to be tortured and killed in retaliation for his reporting; and

(2) Dumesky Kersaint, a journalist for an online news outlet who was killed while attempting to cover another killing in his community;

Whereas in Nicaragua, the persecution of journalists by the Ortega regime continues unabated, including through forced closures of independent media outlets, and journalists in the country are continually threatened, harassed, sued, surveilled, jailed, and forced into exile, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, includes—

(1) Miguel Mendoza, who, along with 6 other journalists and media workers, was among the group of 222 political prisoners released by Nicaraguan authorities in February 2023, sent to the United States, and subsequently stripped of their Nicaraguan citizenship; and

(2) journalist Victor Ticay, who was arrested in April 2023, in connection to his April 5, 2023 reporting about a Catholic Easter celebration;

Whereas Honduras remains one of the Western Hemisphere's most dangerous countries for journalists, where those working for opposition media or who are outspoken critics of the government are subjected to harassment, intimidation, and death threats by the country's security forces and its affiliates;

Whereas in Peru, criminal defamation lawsuits, legislation, and restrictive accreditation schemes for journalists that undermine freedom of expression have been used to harass and silence investigative journalists who write about prominent political figures, and the unlawful state repression of protestors has also increased the risk to journalists covering ongoing social unrest in Peru, as corroborated by the wounding of several journalists by rubber pellets and tear gas canisters in police and military operations throughout 2022 and 2023, which have been condemned by international organizations as violating international standards on the use of force, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists and Amnesty International;

Whereas in Ecuador, a group of presumed gang members stormed a local news station in Guayaquil on January 9, 2024, during a live broadcast, which evinces the country's worsening security condition amid organized crime activity that, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, forced at least 5 journalists to leave Ecuador between April and October 2023;

Whereas in Venezuela, the Maduro regime continues to target independent media outlets, to restrict the exercise of freedom of expression, and to severely limit access to accurate information, with local civil society organization Public Space (Espacio Público) registering 349 attacks on journalists and media workers between January and November 2023, including censorship, verbal attacks, and intimidation;

Whereas in Sudan, the United Nations Panel of Experts reported that at least 15,000 people died as a result of the Rapid Support Forces offensive in West Darfur in 2023, tens of thousands more people are believed to have been killed, and more than 8,000,000 peo-

ple have been displaced, and where freedom of the press and the safety of journalists has severely deteriorated, as evidenced by attacks on independent media and the killings, arrests, detentions, harassment, and beatings of journalists, which, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, includes—

(1) the killing of Halima Idris Salim, a 29-year-old reporter for local independent online news outlet Sudan Bukra, on October 10, 2023, when Rapid Support Forces soldiers ran her over with their car while she was covering health conditions of a hospital's emergency wing in Omdurman;

(2) reports that the Rapid Support Forces has cut access to telecommunications and internet services since early February 2024, leaving civilians in a communications blackout and making reporting on the war nearly impossible; and

(3) the forced closure of all print media in the country, the banning of foreign news channels, and forcing journalists into exile;

Whereas press freedom continues to face challenges in sub-Saharan Africa, including—

(1) in Ethiopia, which, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, is the second-worst jailer of journalists in sub-Saharan Africa, and where a crackdown on the press has included—

(A) an entrenched pattern of arbitrarily detaining journalists, with at least 8 journalists behind bars as of December 2023;

(B) significant due process and fair trial concerns in the cases of detained journalists, such as the May 2023 arrest of online journalist Gobeze Sisay in neighboring Djibouti and subsequent transfer to Ethiopia under unclear circumstances;

(C) the detention of journalists arrested under state of emergency provisions at a military camp in eastern Ethiopia without judicial oversight or access to family or legal counsel;

(D) the use of Internet disruptions during times of political tension or in restive parts of the country, including the Oromia and Amhara regions, making it difficult for journalists to report safely and freely;

(E) the failure to provide a credible accounting for the 2021 killings of journalists Dawit Kebede Araya and Sisay Fida;

(F) the consistent persecution of media trying to cover the conflict and violence in the Oromia and Amhara regions, including the detention of at least 6 journalists, as of March 27, 2024, who were reporting on events in Amhara, according to Reporters Without Borders; and

(G) the forced exile and deportation of independent journalists;

(2) in Nigeria, where journalists have been repeatedly detained and charged for their work, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists and PEN America, including—

(A) Luke Binniyat, who was arrested in November 2021, released on bail in February 2022, and is facing 3 years in prison if convicted of sending false information under the Cybercrimes Act;

(B) Agba Jalingo, publisher of the *CrossRiverWatch* news site, who was arrested on March 27, 2023, charged under the Cybercrimes Act for allegedly publishing false news, and released on bail on April 3, 2023;

(C) Haruna Mohammed Salisu, publisher of the *WikiTimes*, who was arrested while covering the February 25, 2023 Federal elections, charged under the penal code with inciting the public to disturb the Bauchi state governor, released on bail on March 1, 2023, and faces ongoing prosecution in that case and in several others; and

(D) Saint Mienpamo Onitsha, founder of the online broadcaster NAIJA Live TV, who

was arrested on October 10, 2023, at gunpoint at the home of a friend, charged under the Cybercrimes Act over a report about tensions in the southern Niger Delta region, and released on bail after nearly 4 months in jail;

(3) in Eritrea, which is one of the world's most censored nations, and where, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 16 journalists, including editors Dawit Isaak and Amanuel Asrat, are detained, with most of these detentions commencing during a 2001 crackdown on the independent press, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(4) in Cameroon, where—

(A) 6 journalists were imprisoned as of December 2023;

(B) at least 2 journalists have died in government custody under suspicious circumstances since 2010;

(C) journalist Martinez Zogo was abducted, tortured, and killed in January 2023; and

(D) journalist Jean-Jacques Ola Bebe was killed in February 2023, with no police investigation into his murder;

(5) in Rwanda, where the media landscape is heavily restricted by censorship and authoritarianism, and where, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists—

(A) at least 4 journalists were imprisoned as of December 1, 2023, 2 of whom, YouTubers Aimable Karasira Uzaramba and Dieudonné Niyonsenga, have alleged torture while in state custody; and

(B) journalist John Williams Ntwali, who, after reporting on cases of torture, disappearances, and forced government evictions, was killed in January 2023 under suspicious circumstances, and whose death has never been credibly investigated;

(6) in Burundi, where journalist Floriane Irangabiye is serving a 10-year prison sentence, following a January 2023 conviction in connection to her critical commentary on governance issues in the country, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(7) in Mali and in Burkina Faso, where foreign journalists have been expelled in the aftermath of the coup d'état in each country, French-language media outlets have been banned, and local journalists work under threat of reprisal for reporting on security issues, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists and PEN America;

(8) in Niger, where journalist Samira Sabou was detained for 11 days in October 2023, and charged with cybercrime and treason in connection with her reporting, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(9) in Senegal, where journalists have been repeatedly arrested and prosecuted for their work, attacked by security forces, and struggled amid Internet shutdowns;

(10) in Togo, where journalists have faced arrests and prosecutions for their work and other forms of intimidation, including spyware surveillance, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists; and

(11) in Zimbabwe, where journalists have been banned from covering government meetings, and the legal framework for journalists remains harsh, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas, in December 2023, the Parliament of Hungary passed a Russian-inspired national sovereignty law that created the "Sovereignty Protection Authority" (the "Authority"), an institution with the publicly declared objectives of targeting journalists and identifying individuals and organizations that receive foreign funding and which the Authority suspects undermine the country's national sovereignty, objectives that local media outlets have warned will empower the Authority with the ability to stifle independent journalism supported by overseas donors;

Whereas in Serbia, journalists suffer regular online harassment, smear campaigns,

and physical attacks, and the 1999 killing of journalist Slavko Curuvija remains unpunished after those formerly convicted for his murder were acquitted, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas in Slovakia, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, more than 6 years after the brutal killing of investigative reporter Ján Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová, and despite the hitmen and intermediaries receiving lengthy prison sentences, authorities have been unable to convict the alleged mastermind;

Whereas in Turkey, the Government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan maintains one of the world's most repressive environments for journalists and continues its revolving door policy on detaining journalists, with at least 13 journalists in jail in retaliation for their professional work at the time of the Committee to Protect Journalists' most recent prison census, which was published on December 1, 2023;

Whereas Hatice Duman, the longest imprisoned journalist in Turkey, who has been serving a life sentence on terrorism charges since April 9, 2003, told the Committee to Protect Journalists in November 2022 that she had little hope for freedom in her retrial, while her continuing retrial has not instigated any changes on the part of government authorities;

Whereas in Azerbaijan, the Government of Ilham Aliyev, who secured a fifth term in an uncompetitive early presidential election in February 2024, mounted a renewed assault on independent media in recent months by detaining 10 journalists, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, from outlets Abzas Media, Kanal 13, and Toplum TV; namely Ulvi Hasanli, Sevinj Vagifgizi, Mohammad Kekalov, Hafiz Babali, Elnara Gasimova, Nargiz Absalamova, Aziz Orujov, Shamo Eminov, Alasgar Mammadli, and Mushfig Jabbar, constituting a crackdown on journalists that was in part retaliation for their reporting on official corruption;

Whereas, the Government of Tajikistan continued its systematic repression of the free press in 2022 and 23 by sentencing 7 journalists to lengthy prison terms on spurious charges in secretive, closed-door trials held in detention centers amid allegations of torture and forced confessions, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, including—

(1) Ulfatkhonim Mamadshoeva, a 67-year-old ethnic Pamiri journalist and human rights defender, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison; and

(2) journalists Daler Imomali, Abdullo Ghurbati, Zavqibek Saidamini, and Abdusattor Pirmuhammadzoda, who were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 7 to 10 years on spurious charges of extremism;

Whereas the Government of Kyrgyzstan, since the beginning of 2022, has taken worrying steps to dismantle the country's previously vibrant press environment, including by—

(1) detaining 11 current and former staff of the investigative reporting outlet *Temirov Live*, who have reported on corruption allegations among high-level government officials, since January 2024, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(2) imposing spurious charges of illegal drug manufacture on Kyrgyzstan-born investigative journalist Bolot Temirov and deporting him to the Russian Federation in retaliation for his reporting on corruption in the government's procurement processes, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(3) shutting down and blocking investigative outlet *Kloop*, which is known for its reporting on high-level government corruption, ac-

cording to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(4) enacting the so-called "Foreign Representatives" legislation, which will establish extensive state control over externally-funded press freedom groups and nongovernmental organizations that run prominent news sites; and

(5) raiding independent news agency *24.kg* on fabricated charges, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas in Algeria, press freedom continued to deteriorate at an alarming pace in 2023, with 3 journalists in jail as of December 2023, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 2 of whom are the country's most prominent journalists, including—

(1) Mustapha Bendjama, the editor-in-chief and director of local independent news website *Le Provincial*, who was arrested on February 8, 2023, on foreign funding charges and is currently serving a 6-month prison sentence for "committing an illegal immigration crime"; and

(2) Ihsane El Kadi, editor-in-chief of local independent news website *Maghreb Emergent* and *Radio M*, who was arrested in December 2022, and is serving a 7-year prison sentence on charges of receiving foreign funding for the news outlet he manages;

Whereas in Tunisia, press freedom has gravely deteriorated following President Kais Saied's dismissal of the prime minister on July 25, 2021, and his concomitant suspension of the Parliament of Tunisia, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in addition to the Tunisian Government's imprisonment of journalists in 2023, which evince a national context in which the government has broadly suppressed press freedom in the country, including by—

(1) raiding multiple local and foreign media outlets and news organizations, and security officers, in several cases, confiscating the organizations' broadcasting equipment and ordering their offices to close, notably the office of Al Jazeera; and

(2) approving a new constitution that is devoid of necessary protections for journalists to pursue their work without fear of censorship and repression;

Whereas United States journalists have been victimized while reporting abroad, including—

(1) Christopher Allen, who was killed while covering the conflict in South Sudan on August 26, 2017, and for whom there has been no credible investigation to pursue justice after nearly 7 years;

(2) Austin Tice, who was kidnapped in Syria and has been held in captivity since August 13, 2012;

(3) Brent Renaud, who was killed by Russian forces while covering the war in Ukraine on March 13, 2022;

(4) Evan Gershkovich, who was arrested in Russia on charges of espionage on March 29, 2023; and

(5) Alsu Kurmasheva, who holds dual United States-Russian citizenship, and who was arrested in Russia on October 18, 2023, on charges of failure to register as a foreign agent;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assistance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks—

(1) which report and broadcast news, information, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and

(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work; and

Whereas press freedom—

(1) is a key component of democratic governance, activism in civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

(2) enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation in civil society and democratic governance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares that a free press—

(A) is a central component of free societies and democratic governance;

(B) contributes to an informed civil society and government accountability;

(C) helps to expose corruption;

(D) enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and

(E) disseminates information that is essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) expresses concerns about threats to the exercise of freedom of expression, including by the press, around the world;

(3) recognizes and commends journalism's role in providing trusted, accurate, and timely information and in holding governments and leaders accountable to citizens;

(4) recognizes the indispensable role of journalists and media outlets in informing voters and the international community about elections in multiple countries worldwide in 2024;

(5) pays tribute to journalists who made tremendous sacrifices, including the loss of their lives, in the pursuit of truth and justice;

(6) condemns all actions around the world that suppress press freedom and endanger the safety of journalists;

(7) calls for the unconditional and immediate release of all wrongfully detained journalists;

(8) reaffirms the centrality of press freedom to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(9) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to press freedom, on the basis of the protections for freedom of the press afforded the American people under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(B) to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against American journalists;

(C) to support transparent investigations and efforts to ensure accountability for attacks against journalists of other nationalities; and

(D) to promote the respect and protection of press freedom around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 689—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK, TO BE OBSERVED FROM MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 18, 2024

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 689

Whereas, beginning in 1921, National Hospital Day was established by former President Warren G. Harding to be celebrated annually on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, as a way to honor her role in revolutionizing hospital care;

Whereas National Hospital Day was established following the Spanish Flu Outbreak of

1918 as a way to build community trust in hospitals;

Whereas, beginning in 1953, National Hospital Week was established and continues to coincide with the birthday of Florence Nightingale;

Whereas National Hospital Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that hospitals make to provide safe, high-quality health care;

Whereas, in 2024, approximately 6,120 hospitals in the United States provide essential and life-saving health care every day in a variety of hospitals settings, including—

(1) 1,368 critical access hospitals, which serve as important health care hubs by bringing essential medical services closer to individuals who would otherwise have to travel long distances for health care, provide health care to $\frac{1}{5}$ of the United States population residing in rural areas;

(2) nearly 1,700 teaching hospitals, of which roughly 300 are major teaching hospitals, such as university hospitals or academic medical centers, that provide essential training to future medical providers;

(3) 659 non-Federal psychiatric hospitals that are essential partners in addressing mental health and substance abuse disorders across the United States; and

(4) 172 Veterans Affairs medical centers that are uniquely responsible for providing health care to more than 9,000,000 veterans;

Whereas, in 2023, hospitals in the United States provided health care to more than 33,000,000 admitted patients, provided emergency care to nearly 137,000,000 patients, and delivered more than 3,500,000 babies;

Whereas, in 2024, hospitals employed more than 5,486,000 individuals, including physicians, registered nurses, and allied health professionals;

Whereas 45 percent of individuals employed by hospitals are non-clinical staff, including sanitation workers, food service workers, and many others, who work to keep hospitals open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in order to ensure hospitals are always available to individuals that need health care;

Whereas hospitals, through direct care and community outreach, can provide the expertise and resources needed to address the unique health care needs that exist in rural and urban areas of the United States; and

Whereas hospitals work collaboratively to uphold the health care system of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Hospital Week, to be observed from May 12 through May 18, 2024;

(2) recognizes the significant role that hospitals play in the delivery of health care in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Hospital Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of hospitals to the everyday lives of patients and communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 690—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 15, 2024, AS ‘NATIONAL SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS DAY’ TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FRAUDULENT SCAMS TARGETED AT SENIORS IN THE UNITED STATES, TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES TO PREVENT THOSE SCAMS FROM HAPPENING, AND TO IMPROVE PROTECTIONS FROM THOSE SCAMS FOR SENIORS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 690

Whereas millions of individuals age 65 or older (referred to in this preamble as ‘seniors’) in the United States are targeted by scams each year, including vacation scams, Social Security impersonation scams and Internal Revenue Service impersonation scams, other government agency impersonation scams, veterans benefits scams, health and benefits scams, sweepstakes scams, romance scams, computer tech support scams, grandparent and person-in-need scams, debt collection scams, home improvement scams, fraudulent investment schemes, pet scams, job opportunity scams, timeshare exit scams, and identity theft;

Whereas other types of fraud perpetrated against seniors include Medicare impersonation fraud, health care fraud, health insurance fraud, counterfeit prescription drug fraud, funeral and cemetery fraud, ‘anti-aging’ product fraud, telemarketing fraud, charity and disaster scams, internet fraud, and cyberattacks;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has estimated that seniors lose a staggering \$2,900,000,000 each year to an ever-growing array of financial exploitation schemes and scams;

Whereas, since 2013, the Fraud Hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 10,000 complaints reporting possible scams from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas the ease with which criminals contact seniors through the internet and telephone increases as more creative schemes emerge and scammers employ new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and ‘spoofing’ of caller ID information, to fraudulently gain the trust of seniors;

Whereas, according to the Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2023 released by the Federal Trade Commission, individuals age 60 or older reported losing almost \$2,000,000,000 to fraud in 2023, with a median loss for victims age 80 or older of \$1,450, more than 3 times the median amount lost by those victims between the ages of 50 and 59;

Whereas senior fraud is underreported by victims due to shame, stigma, and lack of information about where to report fraud; and

Whereas May 15, 2024, is an appropriate day to establish as ‘National Senior Fraud Awareness Day’: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 15, 2024, as ‘National Senior Fraud Awareness Day’;

(2) recognizes National Senior Fraud Awareness Day as an opportunity to raise awareness about the barrage of scams that

individuals age 65 or older (referred to in this resolution as ‘seniors’) in the United States face in person, by mail, on the phone, via text message, and online;

(3) recognizes that law enforcement agencies, consumer protection groups, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in—

(A) preventing the proliferation of scams targeting seniors in the United States; and

(B) educating seniors about those scams;

(4) encourages—

(A) the implementation of policies to prevent scams targeting seniors; and

(B) the improvement of efforts to protect seniors from those scams; and

(5) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against scams targeting seniors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 691—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 17, 2024, AS ‘DIPG PEDIATRIC BRAIN CANCER AWARENESS DAY’ TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND ENCOURAGE RESEARCH ON, DIFFUSE INTRINSIC PONTINE GLIOMA TUMORS AND PEDIATRIC CANCERS IN GENERAL

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 691

Whereas diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (referred to in this preamble as ‘DIPG’) tumors regularly affect 200 to 300 children in the United States each year;

Whereas brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related death among children;

Whereas DIPG tumors are the leading cause of pediatric brain cancer deaths;

Whereas, with respect to a child who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor and receives treatment for a DIPG tumor, the median amount of time that the child survives after diagnosis is approximately 11 months;

Whereas, with respect to an individual who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor, the rate of survival 5 years after diagnosis is approximately 2 percent;

Whereas the average age at which a child is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor is between 5 and 10 years, resulting in a life expectancy approximately 70 years shorter than the average life expectancy in the United States; and

Whereas the prognosis for children diagnosed with DIPG tumors has not meaningfully improved during the past 50 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports designating May 17, 2024, as ‘DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day’;

(2) supports efforts—

(A) to better understand diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (referred to in this resolution as ‘DIPG’) tumors;

(B) to develop effective treatments for DIPG tumors; and

(C) to provide comprehensive care for children with DIPG tumors and their families; and

(3) encourages all individuals in the United States to become more informed about—

(A) DIPG tumors;

(B) pediatric brain cancer in general; and

(C) challenges relating to research on pediatric cancers and ways to advance that research.

SENATE RESOLUTION 692—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY IN 2024, INCLUDING INCREASING INDIVIDUAL AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF FAKE OR COUNTERFEIT FENTANYL PILLS ON FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 692

Whereas drug traffickers are mass-producing fake or counterfeit pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the people of the United States;

Whereas many fake or counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription name-brand opioids, stimulants, or anxiety medications;

Whereas drug traffickers are using fake or counterfeit pills to exploit prescription drug misuse and the opioid crisis;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration (referred to in this preamble as the “DEA”) has observed a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing not less than 2 milligrams of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose;

Whereas 7 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl tested by the DEA contain a potentially lethal dose;

Whereas counterfeit pills may also contain fentanyl-related substances and methamphetamine;

Whereas the number of counterfeit pills with fentanyl seized by law enforcement agencies in 2023 was 79,500,000, up from 58,000,000 pills the year prior;

Whereas, including the nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder seized in 2023, total fentanyl seizures are equivalent to more than 376,700,000 lethal doses of fentanyl;

Whereas fake or counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas illicit fentanyl has also been detected in illicit drugs such as heroin, cocaine, MDMA (ecstasy and molly), and methamphetamine;

Whereas, for the 12-month period ending in November 2023, more than 109,000 individuals in the United States died of drug-induced deaths, and more than 76,000 of those deaths involved illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioids;

Whereas, over the last 20 years, drug-induced deaths among individuals 15 to 35 years of age have increased 5-fold, largely driven by the increase in illicit fentanyl drugs;

Whereas, for the 12-month period ending in June 2023, illicit fentanyl was involved in more deaths of individuals 55 years of age and under than any single other cause;

Whereas fake counterfeit pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them accessible to teens and youth;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is involved in more deaths of youths than all other drug types combined;

Whereas, between 2019 and 2021, drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals 14 to 18 years of age increased by 128 percent, a rate of increase which was 77 percentage points higher than the national rate and higher than the rate for any other 5-year age group;

Whereas, between 2019 and 2021, the number of deaths involving illicit fentanyl in drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals 14 to 18 years of age increased by 236 percent, a rate of increase which was 141 percentage points higher than the national rate and higher than the rate for any other 5-year age group over the age of 15;

Whereas, since 2021, the annual number of drug overdose and poisoning deaths and those deaths involving illicit fentanyl in drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals 14 to 18 years of age has increased;

Whereas, in the 12-month period ending June 2023, illicit fentanyl was involved in 81 percent of drug-induced deaths of individuals between 14 and 23 years of age, compared to 70 percent of drug-induced deaths of individuals of all ages;

Whereas, at the end of 2022, only 48 percent of youth and 36 percent of teens in the United States were aware that fentanyl is being used to create counterfeit pills;

Whereas, at the end of 2022, only 40 percent of youth and 31 percent of teens considered themselves knowledgeable about fentanyl; and

Whereas, in 2022, there were 73,838 reported overdose deaths involving illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioids: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day, which include increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people;

(2) applauds the work of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies that work to combat the proliferation of counterfeit pills;

(3) encourages the use of existing authorities to proactively stop and prevent the spread of illicit counterfeit pills; and

(4) designates May 7, 2024, as “National Fentanyl Awareness Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 693—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH AS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS, NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. STABENOW,

Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 693

Whereas the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 70 distinct ethnicities and speaking more than 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, growing by nearly 55.5 percent between 2010 and 2020, and during that same time period, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population grew by 30.8 percent;

Whereas there are more than 24,000,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,600,000 residents of the United States who identify as Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, making up more than 7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas 2024 marks several anniversaries, including—

(1) the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders;

(2) the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, which was founded alongside the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus by former Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta and former Delegate to the United States House of Representatives from Guam Robert Underwood;

(3) the 45th anniversary of the first Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week, designated in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter through Presidential Proclamation 4650 (93 Stat. 1504; relating to Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week);

(4) the 50th anniversary of *Lau v. Nichols*, 414 U.S. 563 (1974), in which the Supreme Court of the United States determined that inadequate supplemental language instruction for students of Chinese ancestry with limited English proficiency violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.), expanding equal educational opportunities and paving the way for bilingual programs and additional English language instruction in public schools;

(5) the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Immigration Act of 1924 (commonly

known as the “Johnson-Reed Act” (43 Stat. 153, chapter 190), which imposed national origin quotas that limited the number of immigrants allowed entry into the United States and prohibited the entry of Asian immigrants; and

(6) the 155th anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad, which—

(A) in 1869, connected the Central Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah; and

(B) involved more than 12,000 Chinese laborers who faced racial and wage discrimination despite being entrusted with the most laborious tasks;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and in the Armed Forces, including—

(1) Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American elected to Congress;

(2) Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who, as President pro tempore of the Senate, was the then-highest-ranking Asian American government official in the history of the United States;

(3) Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian American Senator;

(4) Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian American woman elected to Congress;

(5) Herbert Y.C. Choy, the first Asian American to serve as a Federal judge;

(6) Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry;

(7) Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian American member of a Presidential cabinet;

(8) Elaine L. Chao, the first Asian American woman member of a Presidential cabinet; and

(9) Kamala D. Harris, the first woman and the first Asian American to hold the Office of the Vice President;

Whereas the 118th Congress includes 21 Members of Asian and Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas, in 2024, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus is composed of 76 Members, and other congressional caucuses work on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander issues also;

Whereas, in 2024, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are serving in State and Territorial legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including—

(1) the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming; and

(2) the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders represent more than 7 percent of Federal judges and nearly 7 percent of Federal employees, including hundreds of staffers of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent who serve as staff in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas, since March 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including—

(1) a 339-percent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in 2021, and a 124-percent increase in 2020;

(2) according to Stop AAPI Hate, over 11,500 hate incidents reported since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic through March 2022, and countless others that have not been reported;

(3) on March 16, 2021, the murder of 8 people, including 6 Asian women, at 3 separate Asian-owned businesses in the Atlanta, Georgia, region; and

(4) on May 15, 2022, the shooting of 5 people in Laguna Hills, California, in which the Taiwanese congregation at Geneva Presbyterian Church was targeted;

Whereas the incidence of hate crimes against Asian Americans continues to be above levels observed before the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas discrimination against Asian Americans, especially in moments of crisis, is not a new phenomenon, and violence against Asian Americans has occurred throughout United States history, including—

(1) the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act supplementary to the Acts in relation to Immigration”, approved March 3, 1875 (commonly referred to as the “Page Act of 1875”) (18 Stat. 477, chapter 141), which restricted entry of Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian women to the United States and effectively prohibited the immigration of Chinese women, preventing the formation of Chinese families in the United States and limiting the number of native-born Chinese citizens;

(2) the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), which was the first law to explicitly exclude an entire ethnic group from immigrating to the United States;

(3) the issuance of Executive Order 9066 in 1942 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407; relating to authorizing the Secretary of War to prescribe military areas), which authorized the forced relocation and incarceration of approximately 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II, the majority of whom were citizens of the United States;

(4) on June 23, 1982, the murder of Vincent Chin;

(5) on January 17, 1989, the Cleveland Elementary School shooting in which a gunman used an AK-47 to kill 5 children, 4 of whom were of Southeast Asian descent;

(6) the rise in discrimination and violence against Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Americans following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

(7) on August 5, 2012, the mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, in which a white supremacist fatally shot 6 people and wounded 4 others;

Whereas, in response to the uptick in anti-Asian hate crimes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (Public Law 117-13; 135 Stat. 265), which was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on May 20, 2021;

Whereas, in celebration of the contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States, Congress passed the Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140; 136 Stat. 1259) to establish a commission to study the creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture, which was signed into law by President Biden on June 13, 2022;

Whereas, as part of the American Women Quarters Program, the United States Mint has issued, or will issue, commemorative quarters honoring the contributions of—

(1) Chinese American film star Anna May Wong;

(2) Native Hawaiian composer and cultural advocate Edith Kanaka’ole;

(3) Japanese American Congresswoman Patsy Mink; and

(4) Korean American disability justice advocate Stacey Park Milbern;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Federal Government and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

(2) recognizes that Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of and strengthen the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an open hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and

Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and

Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Veronica Duron:					
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	967.78	.....	.....	967.78
Tanzania	Tanzanian Shilling	2,681.46	.....	.....	2,681.46
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	14,062.02	.....	14,062.02
Delegation Expenses:*					
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling .....	.....	.....	326.82	326.82
Tanzania	Tanzanian Shilling .....	.....	.....	3,184.19	3,184.19
Total .....	.....	3,649.24	14,062.02	3,511.01	21,222.27

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

SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Apr. 25, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Margaret Flynn Sapia:					
Iraq	Iraqi Dinar	52.00	.....	.....	52.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	342.00	.....	.....	342.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	357.39	.....	.....	357.39
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	273.00	.....	.....	273.00
Oman	Rial Omani	230.00	.....	.....	230.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	17,679.60	.....	17,679.60
Delegation Expenses:*					
Iraq	Iraqi Dinar .....	.....	.....	1,158.00	1,158.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel .....	.....	.....	433.98	433.98
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar .....	.....	.....	1,684.13	1,684.13
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound .....	.....	.....	85.49	85.49
Oman	Rial Omani .....	.....	.....	704.35	704.35
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,083.38	.....	.....	1,083.38
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	751.46	.....	.....	751.46
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	9,424.34	.....	9,424.34
Ryan Geary:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,054.50	.....	.....	1,054.50
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	915.00	.....	.....	915.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	13,176.43	.....	13,176.43
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel .....	.....	.....	324.88	324.88
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal .....	.....	.....	1,335.90	1,335.90
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,045.59	.....	.....	1,045.59
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	1,267.47	.....	.....	1,267.47
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	24,024.41	.....	24,024.41
Ryan Geary:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,034.32	.....	.....	1,034.32
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	1,356.21	.....	.....	1,356.21
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	24,009.81	.....	24,009.81
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel .....	.....	.....	7,743.81	7,743.81
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal .....	.....	.....	1,453.31	1,453.31
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham .....	.....	.....	425.86	425.86
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling .....	.....	.....	55.96	55.96
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Poland	Zloty	431.82	.....	.....	431.82
Ukraine	Hryvnia	201.82	.....	.....	201.82
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	13,790.90	.....	13,790.90
Aaron Strickland:					
Poland	Zloty	327.04	.....	.....	327.04
Ukraine	Hryvnia	201.83	.....	.....	201.83
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	12,590.00	.....	12,590.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro .....	.....	.....	1,908.56	1,908.56
Poland	Zloty .....	.....	.....	2,568.30	2,568.30
Ukraine	Hryvnia .....	.....	.....	2,617.14	2,617.14
Senator Kyrsten Sinema:					
Italy	Euro	1,222.56	.....	.....	1,222.56
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	13,581.70	.....	13,581.70
Michael Brownlie:					
Italy	Euro	1,222.56	.....	.....	1,222.56
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	9,528.50	.....	9,528.50
Delegation Expenses:*					
Italy	Euro .....	.....	.....	1,274.15	1,274.15

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Jeff Merkley:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	819.00			819.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	607.39			607.39
United States	US Dollar		6,895.88		6,895.88
Senator Chris Van Hollen:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	819.00			819.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	607.39			607.39
United States	US Dollar		6,895.88		6,895.88
Ausan Al-Eryani:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	819.00			819.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	607.39			607.39
United States	US Dollar		6,392.19		6,392.19
Molly Cole:					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	819.00			819.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	607.39			607.39
United States	US Dollar		6,895.88		6,895.88
Delegation Expenses:*					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound			8,136.00	8,136.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			156.71	156.71
Molly Cole:					
Germany	Euro	252.00			252.00
Hungary	Forint	450.00			450.00
Turkey	Turkish Lira	856.28			856.28
United States	US Dollar		16,921.20		16,921.20
Senator Chris Van Hollen:					
Germany	Euro		1,968.67		1,968.67
United States	US Dollar		8,797.60		8,797.60
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			12,842.98	12,842.98
Hungary	Forint			1,214.80	1,214.80
Moldova	Moldovan Leu			158.19	158.19
Turkey	Turkish Lira			763.96	763.96
Total		22,602.46	190,604.32	47,046.46	260,253.24

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

SENATOR PATTY MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Apr. 26, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Tammy Duckworth:					
Netherlands	US Dollar	793.95			793.95
Sweden	US Dollar	519.35			519.35
United States	US Dollar		13,918.20		13,918.20
Alex Behle:					
Netherlands	US Dollar	793.95			793.95
Sweden	US Dollar	519.35			519.35
United States	US Dollar		13,918.20		13,918.20
Grace Cason:					
Netherlands	US Dollar	807.23			807.23
Sweden	US Dollar	615.98			615.98
United States	US Dollar		13,958.96		13,958.96
Jonathan Epstein:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	591.00			591.00
United States	US Dollar		10,936.00		10,936.00
Adam Trull:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	591.00			591.00
United States	US Dollar		11,521.00		11,521.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			1,298.57	1,298.57
Senator Theodore Budd:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	428.38			428.38
Egypt	US Dollar	645.99			645.99
Israel	US Dollar	714.00			714.00
Qatar	US Dollar	663.30			663.30
United States	US Dollar		7,179.59		7,179.59
Senator Joni Ernst:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	176.00			176.00
Egypt	US Dollar	296.00			296.00
Israel	US Dollar	204.00		49.63	253.63
Qatar	US Dollar	210.00			210.00
United States	US Dollar		7,169.59		7,169.59
Ryan Alban:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	428.38			428.38
Egypt	US Dollar	645.99			645.99
Israel	US Dollar	714.00			714.00
Qatar	US Dollar	663.30			663.30
United States	US Dollar		7,179.59		7,179.59
Lisa Goexas:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	176.00			176.00
Egypt	US Dollar	296.00			296.00
Israel	US Dollar	204.00		49.63	253.63
Qatar	US Dollar	210.00			210.00
United States	US Dollar		2,834.40		2,834.40
Adam Kozliski:					
Egypt	US Dollar	296.00			296.00
Israel	US Dollar	204.00		49.63	253.63
Qatar	US Dollar	210.00			210.00
United States	US Dollar		7,179.38		7,179.38
Eric Trager:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	176.00			176.00
Egypt	US Dollar	296.00			296.00
Israel	US Dollar	204.00			204.00
Qatar	US Dollar	210.00			210.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

			Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
	Name and country	Name of currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States		US Dollar	7,179.59			7,179.59
Delegation Expenses:*						
Israel		New Israeli Sheqel			1,965.26	1,965.26
Jordan		Jordanian Dinar			414.28	414.28
James Mazo:						
Japan		US Dollar	796.57			796.57
Philippines		US Dollar	1,108.00			1,108.00
United States		US Dollar		12,724.00		12,724.00
Delegation Expenses:*						
Philippines		Philippine Peso			582.13	582.13
James Mazo:						
Germany		US Dollar	776.98			776.98
United States		US Dollar		7,774.88		7,774.88
Pat Thompson:						
Germany		US Dollar	772.82			772.82
United States		US Dollar		7,672.51		7,672.51
Colby Kuhns:						
United Kingdom		US Dollar	1,013.27		117.80	1,131.07
United States		US Dollar		1,356.09		1,356.09
Brad Patout:						
South Korea		US Dollar	1,132.00			1,132.00
United States		US Dollar		20,536.30		20,536.30
Senator Jack Reed:						
Germany		US Dollar	858.86			858.86
United States		US Dollar		3,067.30		3,067.30
Maggie Cooper:						
Germany		US Dollar	858.86			858.86
United States		US Dollar		6,223.60		6,223.60
Jenny Davis:						
Germany		US Dollar	781.00			781.00
United States		US Dollar		6,223.60		6,223.60
Delegation Expenses:*						
Germany		Euro			2,844.32	2,844.32
Delegation Expenses:*						
Poland		Zloty			1,847.13	1,847.13
Isaac Jalkanen:						
Japan		US Dollar	1,572.00			1,572.00
South Korea		US Dollar	1,152.00			1,152.00
United States		US Dollar		11,763.00		11,763.00
Katie Magnus:						
Japan		US Dollar	1,575.92			1,575.92
South Korea		US Dollar	1,052.27			1,052.27
United States		US Dollar		11,763.99		11,763.99
Sean O'Keefe:						
Japan		US Dollar	1,575.92			1,575.92
South Korea		US Dollar	1,152.27			1,152.27
United States		US Dollar		11,763.99	140.00	11,903.99
Andy Scott:						
Guam		US Dollar	288.13			288.13
Japan		US Dollar	1,575.92			1,575.92
South Korea		US Dollar	1,152.27			1,152.27
United States		US Dollar		11,903.99		11,903.99
Delegation Expenses:*						
South Korea		Won			1,247.00	1,247.00
Olivia Trusty:						
Singapore		US Dollar	187.00			187.00
United States		US Dollar		9,394.40		9,394.40
Eric Trager:						
Mexico		US Dollar	793.10			793.10
United States		US Dollar		2,623.44		2,623.44
Total			33,678.31	227,765.59	10,605.38	272,049.28

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

SENATOR JACK REED,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Apr. 26, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

			Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
	Name and country	Name of currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Adam Farris:						
Switzerland		US Dollar	1,244.39			1,244.39
United Kingdom		US Dollar	1,127.73	65.00		1,192.73
Rachel Kaldahl:						
Switzerland		US Dollar	1,244.39			1,244.39
United Kingdom		US Dollar	1,127.73	65.00		1,192.73
Senator Raphael Warnock:						
Germany		US Dollar	1,920.67			1,920.67
Total			6,664.91	130.00	0.00	6,794.91

SENATOR SHERROD BROWN,
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Apr. 16, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

			Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
	Name and country	Name of currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:						
Germany		Euro	2,118.67			2,118.67

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Clark Gascoigne: Germany	US Dollar	2,082.27	.....	.....	2,082.27
Meaghan McCabe: Germany	US Dollar	1,931.64	.....	.....	1,931.64
Delegation Expenses:*	Euro .....	.....	.....	25,685.96	25,685.96
Germany	US Dollar	4,090.25	.....	.....	4,090.25
Nick Greene: Germany	US Dollar .....	.....	1,539.30	.....	1,539.30
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total .....	.....	10,222.83	1,539.30	25,685.96	37,448.09

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

SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Apr. 15, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Peter Welch: Botswana	US Dollar	1,078.56	.....	.....	1,078.56
Cape Verde	US Dollar	400.08	.....	.....	400.08
Malawi	US Dollar	528.00	.....	.....	528.00
Zambia	US Dollar	1,307.00	.....	.....	1,307.00
Amanda Thorpe: Botswana	US Dollar	768.60	.....	.....	768.60
Cape Verde	US Dollar	286.54	.....	.....	286.54
Malawi	US Dollar	528.00	.....	.....	528.00
Zambia	US Dollar	1,307.00	.....	.....	1,307.00
Delegation Expenses:*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Angola	Kwanza .....	.....	.....	20.28	20.28
Botswana	Pula .....	.....	.....	839.69	839.69
Cape Verde	Cabo Verde Escudo .....	.....	.....	278.55	278.55
Malawi	Malawi Kwacha .....	.....	.....	335.92	335.92
Zambia	Zambian Kwacha .....	.....	.....	535.78	535.78
John Connell: Singapore	US Dollar	1,296.00	.....	.....	1,296.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	27,090.50	.....	27,090.50
Vietnam	US Dollar	1,209.00	.....	.....	1,209.00
Delegation Expenses:*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Singapore	Singapore Dollar .....	.....	.....	284.00	284.00
Vietnam	Dong .....	.....	.....	79.33	79.33
Total .....	.....	8,708.78	27,090.50	2,373.55	38,172.83

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

SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
May 8, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Michael F. Bennett: Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,060.24	.....	.....	1,060.24
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	457.40	.....	.....	457.40
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	23,352.65	.....	23,352.65
Charles Dunsford: Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,120.00	.....	.....	1,120.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar	484.42	.....	.....	484.42
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	11,418.65	.....	11,418.65
Delegation Expenses:*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel .....	.....	.....	899.77	899.77
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar .....	.....	.....	418.99	418.99
Senator Ron Wyden: Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,388.00	.....	.....	1,388.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	2,097.00	.....	.....	2,097.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	19,444.90	.....	19,444.90
Isaiah Akin: Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,195.00	.....	.....	1,195.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	2,097.00	.....	.....	2,097.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	19,509.90	.....	19,509.90
Sally Laing: Fiji	Fiji Dollar	1,083.00	.....	.....	1,083.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	945.00	.....	.....	945.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	32,732.10	.....	32,732.10
Lavanya Mohan: Fiji	Fiji Dollar	759.92	.....	.....	759.92
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	1,577.54	.....	.....	1,577.54
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	19,524.89	.....	19,524.89
Delegation Expenses:*	.....	.....	.....	1,575.00	1,575.00
Fiji	Fiji Dollar .....	.....	.....	8,797.00	8,797.00
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rachel Lang: Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	606.00	.....	.....	606.00
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	21,613.50	.....	21,613.50

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Nomcebisi Ndlovu:					
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	1,477.29			1,477.29
United States	US Dollar		15,338.50		15,338.50
Molly Newell:					
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	945.25			945.25
United States	US Dollar		14,922.00		14,922.00
Mayur Patel:					
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	1,509.00			1,509.00
United States	US Dollar		15,338.50		15,338.50
Delegation Expenses:*					
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling			1,732.90	1,732.90
Joseph Johnson:					
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham	3,509.90			3,509.90
United States	US Dollar		15,087.20		15,087.20
Virginia Lenahan:					
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham	3,504.90			3,504.90
United States	US Dollar		15,087.30		15,087.30
Molly Newell:					
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham	3,497.90			3,497.90
United States	US Dollar		15,087.20		15,087.20
Mayur Patel:					
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham	3,569.90			3,569.90
United States	US Dollar		15,087.20		15,087.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham			1,020.05	1,020.05
Total		32,884.66	253,544.49	14,443.71	300,872.86

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

SENATOR RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Apr. 24 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Sarah Arkin:					
Argentina	Argentine Peso	651.30			651.30
Mexico	Mexican Peso	871.00			871.00
United States	US Dollar		4,174.24		4,174.24
Delegation Expenses:*					
Mexico	Mexican Peso			3,972.00	3,972.00
Senator John Barrasso:					
United States	US Dollar		18,519.70		18,519.70
Charles Zeigler:					
United States	US Dollar		18,814.50		18,814.50
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			989.43	989.43
Senator Cory Booker:					
Kenya	US Dollar	840.30			840.30
Tanzania	US Dollar	2,437.88			2,437.88
United States	US Dollar		13,824.92		13,824.92
Samantha Schirfri:					
Kenya	US Dollar	763.56			763.56
Tanzania	US Dollar	2,504.23			2,504.23
United States	US Dollar		14,013.02		14,013.02
Delegation Expenses:*					
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling			653.63	653.63
Tanzania	Tanzanian Shilling			4,087.90	4,087.90
Tyler Brace:					
Angola	US Dollar	1,295.00			1,295.00
Congo-Kinshasa	US Dollar	534.00			534.00
Gabon	CFA Franc BEAC	1,110.00			1,110.00
United States	US Dollar		8,347.98		8,347.98
Delegation Expenses:*					
Angola	Kwanza			61.33	61.33
Congo-Kinshasa	Congolese Franc			55.00	55.00
Gabon	CFA Franc BEAC			755.16	755.16
Senator Benjamin Cardin:					
France	US Dollar	1,028.00			1,028.00
Germany	US Dollar	2,119.00			2,119.00
United States	US Dollar		12,859.00		12,859.00
Eric Harris:					
France	US Dollar	1,028.00			1,028.00
Germany	US Dollar	1,068.93			1,068.93
United States	US Dollar		14,712.70		14,712.70
Tom Melia:					
France	Euro	1,028.00			1,028.00
Germany	US Dollar	1,232.00			1,232.00
United States	US Dollar		6,063.70		6,063.70
Damian Murphy:					
Germany	Euro	1,709.67			1,709.67
United States	US Dollar		17,067.60		17,067.60
Debbie Yamada:					
France	US Dollar	1,028.00			1,028.00
Germany	US Dollar	1,232.00			1,232.00
United States	US Dollar		15,122.00		15,122.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
France	Euro			5,374.00	5,374.00
Germany	Euro			12,873.46	12,873.46
Katie Chaudoin:					
Belgium	US Dollar	858.63			858.63
Germany	US Dollar	1,171.50			1,171.50
United Kingdom	US Dollar	911.86			911.86
United States	US Dollar		7,148.30		7,148.30
Kelsey Kelleher:					
Belgium	US Dollar	858.63			858.63

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Germany	US Dollar	1,171.50			1,171.50
United Kingdom	US Dollar	911.86			911.86
United States	US Dollar		5,688.00		5,688.00
Matthew Sullivan:					
Belgium	US Dollar	858.63			858.63
Germany	US Dollar	1,171.50			1,171.50
United Kingdom	US Dollar	911.86			911.86
United States	US Dollar		7,148.30		7,148.30
Delegation Expenses:*					
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			221.74	221.74
Senator Christopher Coons:					
Germany	US Dollar	2,118.67			2,118.67
Iraq	US Dollar	52.00			52.00
Israel	US Dollar	620.00			620.00
Jordan	US Dollar	707.39			707.39
Lebanon	US Dollar	103.00			103.00
Oman	US Dollar	205.00			205.00
United States	US Dollar		20,504.30		20,504.30
Elizabeth O'Bryan:					
Germany	US Dollar	2,002.00			2,002.00
Iraq	US Dollar	52.00			52.00
Israel	US Dollar	542.00			542.00
Jordan	US Dollar	659.39			659.39
Lebanon	US Dollar	248.00			248.00
Oman	US Dollar	205.00			205.00
United States	US Dollar		16,155.20		16,155.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			12,842.98	12,842.98
Iraq	Irqi Dinar			2,316.00	2,316.00
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			867.96	867.96
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			170.98	170.98
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound			3,368.24	3,368.24
Oman	Rial Omani			469.56	469.56
Joan Condon:					
India	US Dollar	1,511.69			1,511.69
United States	US Dollar		6,999.33		6,999.33
Brian Cullen:					
India	US Dollar	1,699.23			1,699.23
United States	US Dollar		6,999.30		6,999.30
Claire Fiegel:					
India	US Dollar	1,699.23			1,699.23
United States	US Dollar		7,097.13		7,097.13
Delegation Expenses:*					
India	Indian Rupee			1,695.09	1,695.09
Margaret Dougherty:					
Denmark	US Dollar	1,185.92			1,185.92
France	US Dollar	1,127.74			1,127.74
Germany	US Dollar	1,576.63			1,576.63
United States	US Dollar		7,566.70		7,566.70
Delegation Expenses:*					
Denmark	Danish Krone			1,499.78	1,499.78
France	Euro			877.00	877.00
Germany	Euro			2,844.39	2,844.39
Brian Cullen:					
Philippines	US Dollar	848.00			848.00
Solomon Islands	US Dollar	895.24			895.24
United States	US Dollar		8,436.90		8,436.90
Delegation Expenses:*					
Philippines	Philippine Peso			186.95	186.95
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands Dollar			18.00	18.00
Lizzy Olsen:					
Netherlands	US Dollar	1,008.17			1,008.17
Sweden	US Dollar	722.00			722.00
United States	US Dollar		13,970.83		13,970.83
Delegation Expenses:*					
Netherlands	Euro			429.86	429.86
Sweden	Swedish Krona			4,227.25	4,227.25
Christopher Barr:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	802.79			802.79
Egypt	US Dollar	894.00			894.00
United States	US Dollar		8,009.28		8,009.28
Megan Bartley:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	672.79			672.79
Egypt	US Dollar	764.00			764.00
United States	US Dollar		7,988.28		7,988.28
Delegation Expenses:*					
Bahrain	Bahraini Dinar			396.00	396.00
Egypt	Egyptian Pound			548.29	548.29
Tom Melia:					
Cyprus	US Dollar	1,174.58			1,174.58
United States	US Dollar		6,063.70		6,063.70
Delegation Expenses:*					
Cyprus	Euro			278.90	278.90
Senator Pete Ricketts:					
Germany	US Dollar	2,045.03			2,045.03
Andrew Pantino:					
Germany	US Dollar	1,350.94			1,350.94
United States	US Dollar		6,322.03		6,322.03
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			5,688.78	5,688.78
Senator James E. Risch:					
Germany	Euro	2,319.67			2,319.67
Italy	US Dollar	625.03			625.03
United States	US Dollar		13,090.00		13,090.00
Anna Devanny:					
Germany	US Dollar	1,882.00			1,882.00
Italy	US Dollar	625.02			625.02
United States	US Dollar		14,305.30		14,305.30
Christopher Socha:					
Germany	Euro	2,188.56			2,188.56
Italy	US Dollar	625.02			625.02
United States	US Dollar		14,500.40		14,500.40
Hannah Thoburn:					
Germany	US Dollar	1,777.50			1,777.50
Italy	US Dollar	591.14			591.14

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
United States	US Dollar	10,209.80			10,209.80
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			14,221.95	14,221.95
Italy	Euro			4,844.31	4,844.31
Senator Brian Schatz:					
Germany	US Dollar	2,073.58			2,073.58
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			6,421.49	6,421.49
Senator Christopher Murphy:					
Germany	US Dollar	1,954.67			1,954.67
Hungary	US Dollar	450.00			450.00
Turkey	US Dollar	856.28			856.28
United States	US Dollar		12,973.80		12,973.80
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:					
Germany	Euro	1,801.72			1,801.72
Hungary	Forint	321.36			321.36
Turkey	Turkish Lira	719.65			719.65
United States	US Dollar		11,390.50		11,390.50
Jessica Eledge:					
Germany	US Dollar	2,002.00			2,002.00
Hungary	US Dollar	450.00			450.00
Turkey	US Dollar	856.28			856.28
United States	US Dollar		16,521.00		16,521.00
Amy English:					
Germany	Euro	1,114.36			1,114.36
Hungary	US Dollar	386.25			386.25
Turkey	Turkish Lira	775.85			775.85
United States	US Dollar		16,913.90		16,913.90
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			18,531.76	18,531.76
Hungary	Forint			4,859.20	4,859.20
Turkey	Turkish Lira			3,055.82	3,055.82
John Tomaszewski:					
Djibouti	US Dollar	795.60			795.60
Ethiopia	US Dollar	6,169.50			6,169.50
Kenya	US Dollar	566.34			566.34
Somalia	US Dollar	405.50			405.50
United States	US Dollar		14,340.20		14,340.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
Djibouti	Djibouti Franc			690.18	690.18
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Birr			494.00	494.00
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling			586.00	586.00
Francesca Amodeo:					
Egypt	US Dollar	819.00			819.00
Jordan	US Dollar	607.39			607.39
United States	US Dollar		6,124.48		6,124.48
Delegation Expenses:*					
Egypt	Egyptian Pound			2,034.00	2,034.00
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			39.17	39.17
Jennifer Hendrixson White:					
Maldives	US Dollar	923.34			923.34
Sri Lanka	US Dollar	1,093.12			1,093.12
United States	US Dollar		12,464.03		12,464.03
Delegation Expenses:*					
Maldives	Rufiyaa			3,888.14	3,888.14
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Rupee			2,682.27	2,682.27
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			41.93	41.93
Senator Todd Young:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,111.35			1,111.35
United States	US Dollar		8,945.60		8,945.60
Vietnam	US Dollar	921.76			921.76
John Pinegar:					
Singapore	US Dollar	1,140.13			1,140.13
United States	US Dollar		9,074.70		9,074.70
Vietnam	US Dollar	845.51			845.51
Delegation Expenses:*					
Singapore	Singapore Dollar			568.00	568.00
Vietnam	Dong			158.66	158.66
Total		98,593.75	440,470.65	130,886.54	669,950.94

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

SENATOR BENJAMIN CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Apr. 25, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Roger Marshall:					
Japan	US Dollar	232.33			232.33
Philippines	US Dollar	343.31			343.31
South Korea	US Dollar	538.71			538.71
Vietnam	US Dollar	672.87			672.87
Charyssa Parent:					
Japan	US Dollar	377.14			377.14
Philippines	US Dollar	313.32			313.32
South Korea	US Dollar	781.91			781.91
Vietnam	US Dollar	664.23			664.23
Delegation Expenses:*					
Japan	Yen			753.71	753.71
Philippines	Philippine Peso			43.01	43.01
South Korea	Won			2,355.29	2,355.29
Vietnam	Dong			520.14	520.14
Matthew Harmon:					
Israel	US Dollar	1,452.92			1,452.92
United States	US Dollar		10,860.14		10,860.14

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			1,025.39	1,025.39
Daniel Winkler:					
Italy	Euro	1,132.65			1,132.65
United States	US Dollar		11,151.20		11,151.20
Delegation Expenses:*					
Italy	Euro			637.07	637.07
Delegation Expenses:*					
Mexico	Mexican Peso			156.00	156.00
Total		6,509.39	22,011.34	5,490.61	34,011.34

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

SENATOR GARY PETERS,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs,
Apr. 24 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Israel	US Dollar	642.64			642.64
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	1,079.66			1,079.66
United States	US Dollar		24,229.03		24,229.03
Ryan Geary:					
Israel	US Dollar	579.50			579.50
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	983.46			983.46
United States	US Dollar		24,229.03		24,229.03
Katherine Nikes:					
Israel	US Dollar	694.68			694.68
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	935.64			935.64
United States	US Dollar		24,229.03		24,229.03
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			4,124.69	4,124.69
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal			708.09	708.09
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			19.29	19.29
Craig Abele:					
United States	US Dollar		1,913.30		1,913.30
Taylor Stephens:					
Germany	US Dollar	4,497.55			4,497.55
United States	US Dollar		2,358.50		2,358.50
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			5,389.92	5,389.92
Senator Thom Tillis:					
Germany	US Dollar	267.72			267.72
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			1,452.66	1,452.66
Senator Cory Booker:					
Israel	US Dollar	1,188.18			1,188.18
Jordan	US Dollar	560.34			560.34
United States	US Dollar		23,387.65		23,387.65
Samantha Schirin:					
Israel	US Dollar	1,186.16			1,186.16
Jordan	US Dollar	207.15			207.15
United States	US Dollar		14,934.63		14,934.63
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			889.78	889.78
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			419.00	419.00
Corey Becker:					
Poland	US Dollar	559.26			559.26
Ukraine	US Dollar	201.83	429.49		631.32
United States	US Dollar		8,643.40		8,643.40
Delegation Expenses:*					
Germany	Euro			954.28	954.28
Poland	Zloty			1,284.15	1,284.15
Ukraine	Hryvnia			1,308.57	1,308.57
Taylor Reidy:					
Israel	US Dollar	981.57			981.57
Saudi Arabia	US Dollar	875.99			875.99
United States	US Dollar		12,980.33		12,980.33
Delegation Expenses:*					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			162.44	162.44
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal			667.95	667.95
Total		15,441.33	137,334.39	17,380.82	170,156.54

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

SENATOR RICHARD DURBIN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, May 2, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Senator Richard Durbin:					
Lithuania	Euro	938.49			938.49
Senator Thom Tillis:					
Lithuania	Euro	939.49			939.49

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2023—Continued

			Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
	Name and country	Name of currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Chris Homan:						
Lithuania		Euro	762.34			762.34
Martin Martinez:		Euro	762.68			762.68
Lithuania						
Delegation Expenses:*		Euro			1,828.31	1,828.31
Lithuania		Kuna	1,017.71			1,017.71
Katherine Nikas:		Euro	305.21			305.21
Croatia		US Dollar		5,358.55		5,358.55
Montenegro						
United States						
Nicholas Myers:		Kuna	982.68			982.68
Croatia		Euro	305.21			305.21
Montenegro		US Dollar		5,358.25		5,358.25
United States						
Corey Becker:		Kuna	1,195.61			1,195.61
Croatia		Euro	305.21			305.21
Montenegro		US Dollar		5,358.25		5,358.25
United States						
Chastidy Burns:		US Dollar		35.00		35.00
United States						
Madilyn Reno:		Kuna	972.09			972.09
Croatia		Euro	305.21			305.21
Montenegro		US Dollar		5,358.35		5,358.35
United States						
Delegation Expenses:*		Kuna			12,081.51	12,081.51
Croatia		Euro			1,666.63	1,666.63
Montenegro						
Joshua Altman:		US Dollar	2,188.59			2,188.59
United Kingdom		US Dollar		842.35		842.35
United States						
Delegation Expenses:*		Pound Sterling			3,977.95	3,977.95
United Kingdom						
Senator Lindsey Graham:		US Dollar	969.00			969.00
Egypt		US Dollar	818.01			818.01
Ireland		US Dollar	3,093.08			3,093.08
Italy		US Dollar	303.50			303.50
Slovenia						
Alice James:		US Dollar	937.02			937.02
Egypt		Euro	818.01			818.01
Ireland		US Dollar	2,112.97			2,112.97
Italy		US Dollar	303.50			303.50
Slovenia						
Taylor Stephens:		US Dollar	823.11			823.11
Egypt		US Dollar	818.01			818.01
Ireland		US Dollar	2,112.97			2,112.97
Italy		US Dollar	303.50			303.50
Slovenia						
Delegation Expenses:*		Egyptian Pound			1,249.34	1,249.34
Egypt		Euro			2,053.22	2,053.22
Ireland		Euro			6,938.00	6,938.00
Italy		Euro			2,334.72	2,334.72
Slovenia						
Chris Homan:						
Malawi		Malawi Kwacha	540.00			540.00
United States		US Dollar		10,683.97		10,683.97
Delegation Expenses:*		Malawi Kwacha			676.40	676.40
Malawi						
Total			24,933.20	32,994.92	32,806.08	90,734.20

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

SENATOR RICHARD DURBIN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Apr. 25, 2024.

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

			Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
	Name and country	Name of currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Peter Welch:						
Bosnia		US Dollar	220.07			220.07
Montenegro		US Dollar	273.75			273.75
North Macedonia		US Dollar	507.34			507.34
United States		US Dollar		10,366.20		10,366.20
Amanda Thorpe:						
Bosnia		US Dollar	220.06			220.06
Montenegro		US Dollar	273.75			273.75
North Macedonia		US Dollar	758.00			758.00
United States		US Dollar		6,220.80		6,220.80
Delegation Expenses:*		Convertible Mark			2,903.68	2,903.68
Bosnia		Euro			2,250.85	2,250.85
Germany		Euro			999.67	999.67
Montenegro		Denar			1,127.00	1,127.00
North Macedonia						
Senator Lindsey Graham:						
Egypt		US Dollar	405.83			405.83
Saudi Arabia		US Dollar	1,464.87			1,464.87
Ryan Geary:						
Egypt		US Dollar	405.83			405.83
Saudi Arabia		US Dollar	1,438.23			1,438.23
Katherine Nikas:						
Egypt		US Dollar	292.75			292.75
Saudi Arabia		US Dollar	1,513.20			1,513.20
Delegation Expenses:*		Egyptian Pound			601.10	601.10
Egypt		New Israeli Sheqel			1,061.21	1,061.21
Israel		Saudi Riyal			2,747.22	2,747.22
Saudi Arabia						
Senator Richard Durbin:						
Guatemala		US Dollar		346.10		346.10

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

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Honduras	US Dollar	230.00	.....	.....	230.00
Senator Laphonza Butler:					
Guatemala	US Dollar	347.15	.....	.....	347.15
Honduras	US Dollar	246.05	.....	.....	246.05
Senator Peter Welch:					
Guatemala	US Dollar	347.15	.....	.....	347.15
Honduras	US Dollar	231.05	.....	.....	231.05
Chris Homan:					
Guatemala	US Dollar	447.10	.....	.....	447.10
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	349.30	.....	349.30
Marvin Figueroa:					
Guatemala	US Dollar	349.47	.....	.....	349.47
Honduras	US Dollar	233.37	.....	.....	233.37
Samir Sheth:					
Guatemala	US Dollar	373.15	.....	.....	373.15
Honduras	US Dollar	257.05	.....	.....	257.05
Delegation Expenses:*					
Guatemala	Quetzal .....	.....	.....	3,237.80	3,237.80
Honduras	Lempira .....	.....	.....	2,897.15	2,897.15
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Qatar	US Dollar	970.50	.....	.....	970.50
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	16,661.90	.....	16,661.90
Craig Abele					
Qatar	US Dollar	1,086.94	.....	.....	1,086.94
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	16,661.90	.....	16,661.90
Taylor Stephens					
Qatar	US Dollar	1,198.82	.....	.....	1,198.82
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	17,423.90	.....	17,423.90
Delegation Expenses:*					
Qatar	Qatari Rial .....	.....	.....	4,089.48	4,089.48
Total .....	.....	14,437.58	67,684.00	21,915.16	104,036.74

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

SENATOR RICHARD DURBIN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Apr. 25, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Leah Hill:					
Kenya	US Dollar	236.53	.....	.....	236.53
Tanzania	US Dollar	274.10	.....	.....	274.10
United States	US Dollar .....	.....	15,301.24	.....	15,301.24
Delegation Expenses:*					
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling .....	.....	.....	1,275.53	1,275.53
Tanzania	Tanzanian Shilling .....	.....	.....	2,043.95	2,043.95
Total .....	.....	510.63	15,301.24	3,319.48	19,131.35

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

SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
Apr. 19, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Peter Metzger:					
Country 1	628.23	.....	.....	628.23
Country 2	369.22	.....	.....	369.22
Country 3	387.36	.....	.....	387.36
Country 4	9,520.70	.....	9,520.70
Steve Smith:					
Country 1	628.23	.....	.....	628.23
Country 2	369.22	.....	.....	369.22
Country 3	490.08	.....	.....	490.08
Country 4	9,520.70	.....	9,520.70
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1	96.94	96.94
Maria Mahler-Haug:					
Country 1	230.00	.....	.....	230.00
Country 2	707.39	.....	.....	707.39
Country 3	7,331.60	.....	7,331.60
Tommy Nguyen:					
Country 1	230.00	.....	.....	230.00
Country 2	909.08	.....	.....	909.08
Country 3	7,331.60	.....	7,331.60
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 2	157.77	157.77
Andrew Polesovsky:					
Country 1	1,623.00	.....	.....	1,623.00
Country 2	3,180.61	.....	3,180.61
Valli Sammugalingam:					
Country 1	1,310.00	.....	.....	1,310.00
Country 2	2,210.61	.....	2,210.61

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Caroline Wadhams:					
Country 1		1,623.00	2,405.61		1,623.00
Country 2					2,405.61
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				22.00	22.00
Sarah Ister:					
Country 1		785.02			785.02
Country 2		897.52			897.52
Country 3			15,188.83		15,188.83
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 1		785.02			785.02
Country 2		897.52			897.52
Country 3			15,179.13		15,179.13
Shannon Richter:					
Country 1		785.02			785.02
Country 2		897.52			897.52
Country 3			15,188.83		15,188.83
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				77.00	77.00
Country 2				625.06	625.06
Nathan Heiman:					
Country 1		620.25			620.25
Country 2			3,570.76		3,570.76
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 1		784.00			784.00
Country 2			3,570.76		3,570.76
Samantha Roberts:					
Country 1		682.10			682.10
Country 2			3,570.76		3,570.76
Valli Sammugalingam:					
Country 1		542.04			542.04
Country 2			3,570.76		3,570.76
Senator Marco Rubio:					
Country 1		873.50			873.50
Country 3			12,880.30		12,880.30
Bethany Poulos:					
Country 1		942.37			942.37
Country 3			11,646.90		11,646.90
Samantha Roberts:					
Country 1		899.29			899.29
Country 3			11,671.90		11,671.90
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				4,381.98	4,381.98
Country 2				551.52	551.52
Eric Losick:					
Country 1		1,060.02			1,060.02
Country 2		623.00			623.00
Country 3			15,091.70		15,091.70
Brian Walsh:					
Country 1		1,207.00			1,207.00
Country 2		623.00			623.00
Country 3			12,875.00		12,875.00
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				209.00	209.00
Senator John Cornyn:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		333.47			333.47
Country 4			21,406.31		21,406.31
Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		1,213.47			1,213.47
Country 4			26,079.16		26,079.16
Senator Mark Kelly:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		327.94			327.94
Country 4			15,135.41		15,135.41
Senator Angus King, Jr.:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		331.37			331.37
Country 4			15,986.41		15,986.41
Senator Jon Ossoff:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		647.47			647.47
Country 4			13,813.61		13,813.61
Senator Mark Warner:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		1,213.47			1,213.47
Country 4			20,614.41		20,614.41
Nicolas Adams:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		546.47			546.47
Country 4			19,285.68		19,285.68
Benjamin Loewy:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		1,088.47			1,088.47
Country 4			21,849.01		21,849.01
Heather Melancon:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		500.28			500.28
Country 4			32,347.18		32,347.18
Michael Pevzner:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		1,213.47			1,213.47
Country 4			12,411.68		12,411.68
Steve Smith:					
Country 1		232.00			232.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Country 2		707.39			707.39
Country 3		555.37			555.37
Country 4			12,411.68		12,411.68
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				1,512.19	1,512.19
Country 2				403.39	403.39
Country 3				4,635.41	4,635.41
Courtney Fellows:					
Country 1		824.15			824.15
Country 2		531.00			531.00
Country 3		329.57			329.57
Country 4			10,312.40		10,312.40
Russell Willig:					
Country 1		824.15			824.15
Country 2		531.00			531.00
Country 3		907.57			907.57
Country 4			10,382.40		10,382.40
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				1,732.02	1,732.02
Country 2				794.00	794.00
Sarah Isterl:					
Country 1		1,122.85			1,122.85
Country 2			6,329.10		6,329.10
Andrew Polesovsky:					
Country 1		1,122.85			1,122.85
Country 2					
Caroline Wadham:					
Country 1		1,122.85			1,122.85
Country 2			6,223.90		6,223.90
Russell Willig:					
Country 1		1,122.85			1,122.85
Country 2			6,294.10		6,294.10
Dennis Wischmeier:					
Country 1		1,122.85			1,122.85
Country 2			6,224.10		6,224.10
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				1,520.16	1,520.16
Elnigar Itibar:					
Country 1		764.70			764.70
Country 2		809.00			809.00
Country 3			16,504.30		16,504.30
Rafi Martina:					
Country 1		916.71			916.71
Country 2		809.00			809.00
Country 3			16,504.30		16,504.30
Arjun Ravindra:					
Country 1		916.72			916.72
Country 2		809.00			809.00
Country 3			16,504.30		16,504.30
Dennis Wischmeier:					
Country 1		916.72			916.72
Country 2		809.00			809.00
Country 3			16,504.30		16,504.30
Delegation Expenses:*					
Country 1				1,335.10	1,335.10
Country 2				1,097.00	1,097.00
Total		58,026.06	494,854.90	19,150.54	572,031.50

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

SENATOR MARK WARNER,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Apr. 26, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 30, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Piero Tozzi:					
United States	Dollars				
Republic of Korea	Won	1,900.05	6,440.70		6,440.70
Scott Flipse:					
United States	Dollars				
Republic of Korea	Won	1,897.00	12,887.70		12,887.70
Delegation Expenses:*					
Republic of Korea			1,762.00	3,803.00	5,565.00
Total		3,797.05	21,090.40	3,803.00	28,690.45

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Congressional-Executive Commission on China,
Apr. 12, 2024.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
Robert Karem:					
Belgium	Euro	1,246.33			1,246.33

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency			
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling	1,598.64	1,598.64
United States	US Dollar	7,996.80	7,996.80
Delegation Expenses.*					
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling	393.46	393.46
Total	2,844.97	7,996.80	393.46	11,235.23

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

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, Apr. 15, 2024.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
May 15, 2024.

Hon. KAMALA HARRIS,
President of the U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

MADAM: I have the honor to submit a full and complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate, showing in detail the items of expense under proper appropriations, the aggregate thereof, and exhibiting the exact condition of all public moneys received, paid out, and remaining in my possession from October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, in compliance with Section 105 of Public Law 88-454, approved August 20, 1964, as amended.

Sincerely,

SONCERIA A. BERRY,
Secretary of the Senate.

BORDER ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, it has been 98 days—almost 100 days—since Senate Republicans killed the toughest border security bill, the toughest bipartisan border security bill that has been before the Senate in nearly a generation.

We are proud that our Nation is a nation with a robust history of immigration. We know that our future involves inviting people to come to this country to seek a better life, to be part of our growing economy, to start their own businesses, and to flee violence or terror or torture. We are proud of our history of immigration. We know that America only thrives in the future by committing ourselves to a future of robust immigration.

But what has been happening at the border over the past several years is unsustainable. We want people to come to this country, but we cannot handle 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, 10,000 people arriving on a daily basis.

Our system of legal immigration is broken. People come to the United States; they apply for asylum; and they often don't get their chance to make their case for 10 years. That is not fair to those individuals, but it is also not fair to others who have been waiting outside of the United States to apply to come here.

Our immigration system is outdated. It is in need of reform. Our border is underresourced, with statutes that are equally outdated.

Right now, there is only one party—the Democratic Party—that is serious about adding resources to the border, about updating our outdated laws because it has been 98 days since a bipartisan border security bill—negotiated by Senate Republicans, including Senate Republican leadership, and Senate Democrats—came to this floor and was defeated because Republicans would not vote for it.

Republicans would not vote for the bipartisan border security bill not because it was an ineffective bill—in fact, it is quite the opposite. Senate Republicans defeated the bill because it would be effective.

Now, that doesn't make sense, right? Why would that be? Why would Senate Republicans vote against a bipartisan border security bill that would have been effective at bringing order to the southwest border?

The reason is this: Republicans have decided that they don't want to solve the problem at the border. Republicans have decided that they want this issue to be outstanding. They want the border to be chaotic. They want the border to be a mess because it helps their political purposes. It helps win an election. If the border was under control, if there were less people presented, if it was more orderly, that would be good for the country, but that might not be good for electoral prospects.

Therein lies the reason that we have not had action on the bipartisan border bill—because Democrats want to get something done; Republicans want to keep this issue open. They want to keep the border a mess for political purposes.

You don't have to listen to me. Senator MCCONNELL said it out loud. Senator LANKFORD said it out loud. The reason that this bill was defeated 98 days ago was because Donald Trump told Republicans that it is better for Republicans to keep this issue alive and to not change the law to secure the country.

Tomorrow, I am going to reintroduce the bipartisan border bill. My hope is that we will bring that bill to the floor for a vote to give my Republican colleagues another chance to do the right thing, another chance to choose the safety and security of this country over the political prospects of their candidate for President.

Americans want us to come together to pass border and immigration reform. They support compromise between the two parties. That is exactly what the bipartisan border bill represented.

Senator LANKFORD and I do not share views on the border. Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER do not share views on the border. But we all sat in a room for 4½ months, along with Senator SINEMA, in order to find a compromise that would better secure our border and create a more humane, more efficient mechanism to bring people into this country legally.

Let me just briefly talk about what this bill does. This will make sense to Americans when you hear it. There is nothing radical in this bill. These are commonsense changes to our laws.

First, it gives the President new authority to better control the border. Listen, we can't handle 10,000 people crossing a day. So what this bill does is it says that at periods of time when there are unusually high numbers of people crossing the southwest border, the President can close portions of the border, stop accepting asylum applications until the numbers are reduced to the point where our resources at the border meet the number of people who are arriving.

This is a bold new power, a bold new authority for President Biden, but it is necessary because there are simply some times, some days, some weeks when the numbers are too high.

The second thing this bill does is significantly reform our asylum application system. As I mentioned, you come to the southwest border; you present an application for asylum; and we are so backed up in that system that it often takes people 5 to 10 years before their claim is heard. That is not right for that individual or for the country at large. So this bill shortens that timeframe with new laws and new resources so that instead of it taking 10 years for a migrant to have their asylum claim heard, it could now take 10 days or a few months. That is the right thing to do.

But it also has the effect of dramatically changing the calculus for people who are thinking about paying a trafficker \$5,000, \$10,000 to come to the United States. If they know that they have an illegitimate claim and it is

going to be judged as illegitimate within weeks, they won't pay the \$5,000 to come to the United States. Today, they might be willing to pay it because even if they have an illegitimate claim, they may get to stay in the United States for 5 or 10 years. This fundamentally changes the calculus and decreases the amount of risk that people are willing to take.

This bill also understands that we should have more legal pathways to come to the United States, and when people come to the United States and are waiting to have their claims heard, they shouldn't be living in the shadows. So this bill also increases the number of work and family visas by 250,000 over the course of 5 years to allow more legal, planned pathways for people to come to the United States.

The bill also allows for individuals who arrive at the border to get immediate work authorizations in most cases so that while their application is pending, they can work so that you don't have a situation we have today, where people are being warehoused in homeless shelters and in hotels without the ability to work while they are waiting for their claim to be processed.

And this bill does create some pathways for individuals who are here today to become citizens. In particular, our Afghan partners who fought with us, who stood with us in Afghanistan, under this bill, get the opportunity to become American citizens. And the children of high-tech workers who are here on temporary visas who might have been born outside of the United States but were raised here in the United States, they get a chance to stay here as well.

That is just a handful of the changes in the bill that enhance protections and benefits for individuals who are awaiting for the determination of their claim to be processed.

But the combination of these changes—the new authorities at the border, the emergency authority, the new asylum system, combined with some new protections for individuals who are coming to the United States—it represents a true compromise between Republicans and Democrats, between right and left. It is exactly what the American people want.

My hope is that our Republican colleagues have had the chance to rethink their vote from several months ago. My hope is that Republicans will decide to do the right thing for the country, the right thing for the border.

We negotiated this bill at the request of Republicans. The chief Republican negotiator, Senator LANKFORD, was chosen by the Republican conference. Senator MCCONNELL and his staff were in the room for all of those negotiations. The Republicans voted against it—with the exception of four of our colleagues—for one reason and one reason only: President Trump said it would be better for Republicans to keep this issue open, to keep the border a mess, better for Republican Presi-

dential and congressional campaign prospects.

So, tomorrow, I will reintroduce this legislation. I don't expect it will get every single Democratic vote because it is a true compromise, but I expect it will get enough Democratic votes that if half of the Senate Republican caucus votes for it, it will pass, and we will be a step closer to doing what America wants: continuing our tradition of robust legal immigration, building upon our tradition as a country founded upon immigration but doing it in a legal way and creating a much more orderly system at the border. That is what America wants: Keep our system of legal immigration; get the border under control. The bipartisan border bill does both of those things, and my hope is that we can come together and Republicans will choose this country and border security over the political prospects of their Presidential candidate, Donald Trump.

I am glad to be joined on the floor by a number of my Democratic colleagues today to talk about the importance of this measure, the chance the Senate has to act in a bipartisan way on border security.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MR. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my colleagues. I will be brief.

I want to thank my friend Senator MURPHY for bringing us to the floor this evening to talk about the need to fix our southern border with bipartisan—bipartisan—action.

Senator MURPHY did outstanding work earlier this year, along with Senators SINEMA and LANKFORD and others, by doing what many thought impossible: producing a real, necessary, and bipartisan border bill.

When our bill was first released, a lot of our Republican colleagues were surprised with how strong it was. But then, as we all know, Donald Trump came barging in and told his MAGA supporters to kill the bill.

Democrats have not walked away from this issue. We believe, if you are going to call something an emergency, then we cannot wait to act. We hope, despite Republicans' opposition a few months ago, that our colleagues are willing to join us to secure the border, as they said they wanted to do. After all, how many times have we heard from our Republican colleagues through speeches, press conferences, letters that fixing the border cannot wait? They said it cannot wait. Well, we don't want to wait any longer.

Just listen to the words from the other side going back years about the need to act.

This crisis requires swift, serious, and substantive action.

That was what my colleague from Wyoming said recently.

How about this:

[T]he time to act on it is yesterday.

That is what Speaker MIKE JOHNSON said, standing at the border at the beginning of this year.

How about the words of Donald Trump:

Tonight, I am asking you to defend our very dangerous southern border out of love and devotion to our fellow citizens and to our country.

That is what Donald Trump said in his 2019 State of the Union Address.

And, you know what, Democrats agree Congress should act. We believe the status quo cannot continue. But here is the thing: The only real, long-term solution to the southern border is bipartisan legislation. That is the only way you get things done around here—bipartisan—bipartisan legislation like the bill we had here in the Senate 3 months ago, bipartisan legislation like the one we wrote to hire thousands more border agents and thousands more asylum officers and invest billions to stop the flow of fentanyl and other drugs.

The conservative Wall Street Journal editorial board—hardly a friend of this side of the aisle—here is what they said:

A Border . . . Bill Worth Passing.

The head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce called it “a commonsense measure.”

Maybe most importantly, the president of the National Border Patrol Council—a union, extremely conservative, very close with President Trump—called it “far better than the status quo.”

I ask my Republican colleagues: If a border security bill was good enough to win the support of actual border agents, shouldn't it have been good enough to win the support of the Republican Senate?

If we want to fix asylum and stop fentanyl and hire more agents, shouldn't we pass a bill that actually fixes asylum, stops fentanyl, and hires more agents? That is precisely what our border bill would have done. That is precisely why we made such a strong push to pass it in the Senate 3 months ago. And that is precisely the bill that Donald Trump killed in a vain attempt to gain an edge on the campaign trail. He was clear about what he did. He said, “Please, blame it on me,” as if it were all a game to Donald Trump.

I am used to Donald Trump saying it. Speaker PELOSI and I were at the White House when he was thinking about shutting down the government, and he said: Blame it on me. It didn't work out so well for him. It is not going to work out so well for him this time either.

The American people do not have the luxury of playing partisan blame games. They want bipartisan action to secure our border. Democrats stand ready to work with Republicans to pass bipartisan border security. We hope our Republican colleagues stand ready to take action too.

Madam President, I want to thank my colleagues for being here. Democrats are going to continue to pursue this issue. We believe the public agrees with us.

Passing a bipartisan bill is a lot better than making a lot of speeches, doing a lot of finger-pointing, and getting nothing done on the border.

I again thank my colleagues. I thank Senator MURPHY for his great leadership. We have a number of our colleagues here tonight. I thank them for coming. It shows the importance we give to this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, as my colleague from Connecticut said, it has been nearly 100 days since my Republican colleagues walked away from a bipartisan border security agreement. That is nearly 100 days that my State of Arizona and other border States have had to live with the consequences of that failure.

We could have been on our way to hiring more than 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents and paying them better. We could have new technology to detect fentanyl and more personnel to seize those drugs, keeping them from getting into our communities and killing people. We could have new authorities to prevent the border from being overwhelmed—authorities that the President committed to using. That includes an updated asylum system with more officers to quickly screen claims. All of these things are things that my Republican colleagues have wanted for years. Arizona, today, has none of it, and I think the Presiding Officer knows why.

The Federal Government has failed Arizona on the border for decades. Sadly, it is almost expected at this point. But no past failure is as baffling and as cynical as this one because for once we all agreed that the business-as-usual approach wasn't working; that our immigration process and infrastructure can't handle the new realities at the border—because for once there was a real plan, worked on and agreed to by Republicans and Democrats, ready to be signed into law by the President.

We had an opportunity to defy the low expectations that the American people have for Congress and actually do something in a bipartisan way to start fixing the border, but that is not what happened. Senate Republicans walked away. Well, actually, they ran away from this agreement because too many politicians would just prefer to keep talking about a problem than actually solve it.

This failure isn't theoretical in my State. Over the past 3 months, the Tucson Sector has remained the busiest for illegal crossings in the country. Our communities and nonprofits have been stretched to the breaking point to prevent mass releases of migrants onto the streets. Border Patrol and local law enforcement—they are strained. So are ports of entry, where long wait times impact families and businesses.

Did I mention that we could have had 1,000 more Border Patrol agents—1,000?

It is a difficult situation that would be more manageable if the Senate had

done its job 3 months ago. That is not just me saying this. That is what you will hear from anyone who lives or works on the border, including the Border Patrol union. It is what I assume my colleagues are hearing from mayors and law enforcement when they do their factfinding missions, tours, and field hearings on the border.

So why don't we just listen to the folks who are most affected by the crisis at the border and actually do something about it. Let's pass this bipartisan border agreement. The only thing that has changed from 3 months ago is that we have wasted more time. The problem still exists. The solutions are the same ones we negotiated together.

If you aren't convinced by every piece of it, let's debate it. If you think it needs something added or taken away, let's vote on amendments. We just need some—some—of our Republican colleagues to join us, and we can open up the debate on this legislation. Think about it. We can be the Senate that finally breaks through the gridlock and does something meaningful on the border.

Madam President, let's defy those low expectations the American people have for us. That is what they deserve from us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, what a wonderful thought the Senator from Arizona said: Defy expectations, and actually get something done.

You know, we have attempted so many times to do immigration reform and border security reform, and somehow it has always gotten stuck, unfortunately, over politics.

And this is the moment. I was so excited when Senator MURPHY and Senator SINEMA and Senator LANKFORD came together and everyone was focused on actually negotiating a strong, bipartisan bill. Unfortunately, because of politics again, it has not yet happened.

On April 2, Donald Trump came to Grand Rapids, MI, lamenting what is happening at the border and using the tragic death of a young woman, who was a domestic violence victim, to politicize what has happened. While he lied and said he met with the woman's family—and the family indicated he did not—he was more willing to exploit her death for his own politics than to support the passage of our strong, bipartisan border bill.

As we know, Republicans like to portray themselves as being the party of national security. If you want your family to be safe, then Republicans say you should vote for Republicans. Well, 98 days ago, they had a chance to boost our national security by voting for a strong border security bill written by Republicans and Democrats together, and 98 days ago, they killed the bill. And we all know why.

Unfortunately and, honestly, amazingly to me, after all that incredible

work to get this done, they end up voting no. They killed the bill because Donald Trump told them to. As he was calling around, he shockingly said just tell them—"Please, blame it on me." Well, in fact, we are blaming it on him at his request because he is the one who stepped in because of politics and said: No, I don't want to solve this. I don't want to solve this. I want chaos at the border. I don't want to solve this. This will help the President or will help somebody else other than him. And he convinced Republicans to vote no.

Madam President, Democrats want to address the challenges at the border. We know they are real. We know they are serious. We want to do the things that will make a difference. We want to give the Biden administration additional tools to solve them. And that is exactly what this legislation does.

I want to, again, say this was legislation—strongly bipartisan—negotiated by Senator MURPHY and Senator LANKFORD and Senator SINEMA and a group of our colleagues coming together on both sides of the aisle in good faith for months—months—of work. And it is clear that this legislation would significantly improve our Nation's security in a number of important ways.

It would fix the broken asylum system we keep hearing about. It needs to be fixed. It would stop the flow of deadly fentanyl. And as I know the Presiding Officer knows, this is serious. It is not just at the southern border. It is in New Hampshire; it is in Michigan; it is across the country. This bill is an effective tool providing resources and technology to protect our kids, to protect people from fentanyl overdoses.

It gives the President tools to manage the border. It invests in border agents and security. The border security unions, Border Patrol unions, said: Yes, this will make a difference. Please support this bill. And this union supported former President Trump, but they said: We want to fix the border. We support this bill.

It is incredibly important that the tools be put in place for the President and the resources be put in place to address the issues. It is also important to know that this importantly expands legal pathways to citizenship and increases access to work authorizations. And those immigrants who serve in our military would gain quicker access to citizenship, something I think we can all agree that they have earned. It is important that this get done.

I would just emphasize again, it is not just about the southern border. As a northern border State in Michigan, this bill would provide up to \$100 million in grants to my State, to northern States, to local and Tribal law enforcement Agencies to secure our country's northern border.

And there is so much more in here that solves a series of problems while treating people with dignity and creating opportunity. We stand ready to

pass this legislation. We are committed to border security. This is no joke. This is something that we all should come together about. And we want to keep our communities safe. That is what this monthslong process was all about—the serious negotiations, people working hard to come together on really tough issues. And they did. We did.

And just before we were going to vote—just before we were going to vote—Donald Trump appeared and said: Wait, stop, stop. You are not seriously going to solve this, are you? No, no, no. I want the pictures of chaos at the border. I don't want you actually governing and solving the problem. I don't want people coming together, Republicans and Democrats, and actually getting something done.

But that is what we were poised to do. And 98 days ago—98 days ago—Republican colleagues killed the toughest border security bill in decades. We are not done. We are not giving up. We are not giving up. This is so important. We are not giving up. Our message is: It is time to stop the politics. It is time to put the earplugs on when it comes to Donald Trump and focus on what really needs to get done, what is the right thing to do. It is time to fix the problems at the border. And we remain ready, willing, and able to get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am honored to follow my colleagues who have spoken so powerfully on this issue and grateful to my colleague from Connecticut for his leadership, as well to Leader SCHUMER.

We are a Nation of immigrants, proudly and gratefully. Immigrants have made this Nation the greatest in the world, and yet we have a broken immigration system.

Fortunately for our Nation, people want to come here. Every week, I try to go to the immigration and naturalization ceremonies in my State of Connecticut. They are held in the courthouses. And I tell new citizens on those occasions that they are to be thanked for wanting to become United States citizens. They will never take it for granted. They pass the test that most Americans couldn't pass, and they smile or laugh because they know it is true. They have already contributed to their communities. Some have served in uniform.

I look at them, and I say: This is what America looks like. This is what my dad looked like in 1935 when he came to this country speaking no English, knowing no one, having not much more than the shirt on his back.

My immigrant story is not unlike many in this Chamber—certainly in this Nation. And this broken immigration system is unworthy of our great Nation. We need to fix it. We tried with comprehensive immigration reform in 2013. I was part of that effort and helped to write the bill that was passed

overwhelmingly in the U.S. Senate on a bipartisan basis with support on both sides of the aisle and never was given a vote in the House.

We can do bipartisan immigration reform. And we know how to do it. In fact, Democrats and Republicans came together about 100 days ago and arrived at some solutions that put us on a path to fixing our broken border. It is not the 2013 bill because it is not comprehensive. That bill provided a path to earn citizenship for undocumented people in this country—millions of them. It provided a path for Dreamers. It provided for border security—literally, tens of millions of dollars—and for more visas.

The bill that was negotiated 100 days ago and that should have passed 100 days ago would have begun the painstaking, laborious, difficult, complex task of immigration reform. We often hear Republicans talk about the need to secure the border. At almost every Judiciary Committee meeting that I attend, Republicans talk about the border. And they want to talk about the border so much that they actually sent us contrived Articles of Impeachment against a Cabinet Secretary for the first time in 150 years, knowing that it would go nowhere.

They are making border security a political weapon. Really, it is a political stunt. And that is why they refused to vote for the negotiated compromise that will be before us beginning tomorrow again and next week.

The conversation on the floor tonight is a prelude to the battle that we will have again tomorrow and, I hope, next week when we will all be given a chance to go on record. All we are asking of our Republican colleagues is that they put their votes where their mouths are.

America is angry—and America should be angry—about the lack of border security and about the lack of serious purpose on the part of my Republican colleagues and on their failing to do their job simply because of the political directive of one Donald Trump. It is another example of how the cult of Donald Trump has infected our political process to the grave damage and detriment of all America.

Democrats spent months negotiating with Republicans and developed that compromised border bill, the strongest bill in a generation, endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council, and the union of Border Patrol agents. And it would have reformed our asylum system, as you have heard, and empowered the President to help manage challenges at the border. But it also would have expanded work opportunities and some legal pathways to enter the United States, including Afghan nationals who assisted our Armed Forces and our diplomats, stood by them at grave risk to themselves. It was a tough compromise. And it limited asylum claims in ways that many Democrats and I were wary of, because it was a compromise.

As soon as the bill was released and after it was agreed to by Republicans' chosen negotiator, the Republicans torpedoed it. And they torpedoed it for one reason: Because they wanted it as a political issue. They killed the bill because Donald Trump demanded it. As we have heard tonight, Donald Trump said: "Please, blame it on me." And we are here tonight to do it, because the blame is well-deserved.

So Trump and his allies have repeatedly shown that they prefer talk over action, that they prefer political gamesmanship over the hard work of bipartisanship on this issue. But we are not giving up. We are not going away. We are not abandoning this effort. It will continue to be our work, my life's work as the son of an immigrant, dedicated to sensible and responsible immigration reform—comprehensive reform.

This bill is not the last word, but it is a start. And we will pursue bipartisan action over political gamesmanship. Republicans need to decide if they want to take action or just continue to talk.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I want to join the Senator from Connecticut in thanking Senator MURPHY for his leadership, not only in bringing this group together today but also of this very important bill and effort to take on the issues on the border.

As we face global and domestic threats, including a surge at the border, securing our borders and points of entry could not be more important. We had this opportunity to move forward in a bipartisan manner on a broad reform bill that Senators Murphy, Lankford, and Sinema spent months negotiating. For those of us who had bills that were part of that effort, including the Afghan Adjustment Act, I saw firsthand the detailed work they did, the work that they did—that hard work of coming together for what is best for our country.

We have seen these efforts before with immigration every time we have gotten so close. When I first got to the Senate, Senator GRAHAM and Senator KENNEDY invited me to be in the group that negotiated legislation supported by President Bush.

We came so close to getting that done in comprehensive reform which, of course, included funding for order at the border.

After that failed, we moved into President Obama's time. Again, this time, it was the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I served, that came together with Senator GRASSLEY's support and Senator Leahy's, and reached an agreement, passed it through the Senate, and then it failed over in the House of Representatives.

Time three was when Senator ROUNDS, Senator Kaine, and many of us came together. I remember Senator COLLINS' office was the place of the meeting. I believe the Presiding Officer

was part of that, too, and we reached an agreement. We had enough votes. And then, unfortunately, President Trump gut punched the people in his own party and came out against the bill—again, significant funding for order at the border, significant work that would have been done to allow people to seek citizenship who had been here for years, many of whom know no other country, like the Dreamers.

This bill that was negotiated came with incredible headwinds that they were up against. It would have fixed the asylum system. It would have given the President emergency powers to shut the border down when needed. It also would have invested in hiring more Border Patrol agents and immigration judges, while giving law enforcement the tools and technology they need to secure our borders.

As the Presiding Officer knows, strengthening our border security means investing in both our southern and our northern borders, and I note that Senator STABENOW of Michigan also touched on this very important issue.

America shares the longest border in the world with the country of Canada. It stretches over 5,500 miles, and more than 400,000 people and \$2 billion in goods and services cross it every day. A strong northern border is critical for maintaining our trade relationships with Canada and the world.

As I like to say, in Minnesota, we can see Canada from our porch, and they are our closest trading partner. I just met with a number of leaders from the Canadian Parliament today. But that border is also critical for our national security.

We know that more people on the Terrorist Screening Database attempt to enter the United States from Canada than through Mexico, and we have witnessed terrible instances of drug smuggling and human trafficking across this border.

Like so many others, I was horrified and heartbroken when a family of four froze to death in a blizzard at the Minnesota-Canada border, just 2 years ago, in an incident related to human smuggling. That is why we must ensure that Federal, State, and local officials have the information and resources they need to protect our northern border.

And when there are issues at the southern border, they often rely on Customs, as the Presiding Officer knows, and others to come down from northern border offices, and that creates its own set of issues.

That is why these negotiations that Senators Murphy and Lankford and Senator SINEMA, with strong support from Senator SCHUMER, engaged in and this product of a bill were so important, and that is why I supported it.

Beyond addressing the situations at both the northern and southern border, the Border Act would expand legal pathways by including 250,000 new family and employment visas over the next 5 years. These visas would go a long

way toward filling worker shortages in my State—and I know in the Presiding Officer's State—that are impacting businesses in my home State, impacting farmers, hospitality, hospitals, clinics, and the like.

This bill also included the Afghan Adjustment Act, with some changes that had been suggested by a number of Republican Senators, which we included. That bill would have been a savior. There are 80,000 Afghans here, so many of whom helped our troops—a major priority for the American Legion, a major priority for the VFW—and they now have a trapdoor under them. They don't know whenever they could be sent back to the Taliban. Yet these are people we made a covenant to. And just like after the Vietnam war, we kept that covenant—we kept that covenant with those that stood with us—we must keep that covenant again.

That is why Senators like Senator GRAHAM was the lead sponsor of that bill with me, along with Senator MORAN, the ranking member of Veterans' Affairs. Senator RISCH is on the bill from Foreign Relations. We have support from Senator MULLIN on that bill. Senator WICKER is on that bill. It is an incredible group of Republican and Democratic cosponsors, and I thank Senator MURPHY, Senator LANKFORD, and Senator SINEMA for their work to incorporate it into the bill. It is strongly supported by the Chamber of Commerce as well.

So the bill not only included the work that I just mentioned on the border and on some of these other very important issues; the bill also would have made a major effort in taking on fentanyl by strengthening our borders.

We did make progress on border security legislation that was signed into law last month as part of the national security package, the FEND Off Fentanyl Act. This critical legislation, championed by our colleagues Senators SHERROD BROWN and TIM SCOTT, declares fentanyl trafficking a national emergency and imposes tough new sanctions on fentanyl traffickers, from the chemical suppliers in China to the Mexican cartels that traffic the drugs into our country.

We also recently provided funding for Customs and Border Protection to detect and seize fentanyl and other narcotics at our ports of entry.

These are important steps in the right direction, but there is so much more to do. Law enforcement officers across my State and our country must be very concerned about this every day. One seizure, actually, of fentanyl was enough to kill every single person in Hennepin County, our most populous county.

In Minnesota alone, fentanyl is involved in 92 percent of opioid deaths. Just last month, police in my husband's hometown of Mankato arrested six suspected drug dealers and seized almost 6,000 pills laced with fentanyl. And earlier this year, Minnesota's U.S.

attorney, Andy Luger, announced that law enforcement busted a Twin Cities drug ring and seized over 30,000 grams of fentanyl pills. That is enough to kill everyone in our State with over 5 million people more than two times over.

These aren't just numbers. Each of those pills could kill one of our friends and neighbors, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters.

I am thinking about Devin Norring from Hastings, MN. Devin was struggling with dental pain and migraines. So he bought what he thought was Percocet over Snapchat to deal with the pain. But it wasn't really Percocet. It was laced with fentanyl, and it immediately killed him. He was only 19. One pill can kill, and every pill we keep out of our country represents a potential life saved.

That is why we have to pass this legislation. But I join my colleagues and will continue to advocate for the bipartisan Border Act. Why? More funding for cutting-edge technology to intercept fentanyl, more secured border, more order at the border. We need this at the southern border, as well as the northern border.

Next week, I hope we will have an opportunity to take action on this bill. We have worked on this bill for months, making changes from multiple Senators from both parties. At this point, there shouldn't be any controversy about what is in the bill. People have had plenty of time to read it. They have had plenty of time to see the support from groups like the conservative union of the border agents at the border. They have had plenty of time to see the support that the bill has from so many groups across the country.

They have had plenty of time to hear about the horror stories, like the one I just mentioned on fentanyl, and they have had plenty of time to get to the place: That is enough about politics, enough about finger pointing. Let us pass this bipartisan border bill to make our country safer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, let me thank my colleagues for coming to the floor tonight to reinforce the opportunity that we have. I think we have gotten used to immigration being a perpetual political football in this country. It almost feels and seems unsolvable—that it is just the subject for campaign ads, for cable news shows, for fundraising emails.

It doesn't have to be that way. We could choose to make progress. We could choose to pass legislation that treats migrants a little bit more humanely, that gives a pathway for individuals like those Afghan partners to be able to become U.S. citizens and gives the President updated powers at the border to make sure that we are doing immigration at the southwest border in a humane, orderly way.

That is not impossible. In fact, it is more possible than ever before because

a group of Senators sat in a room for 4 months, in good faith, and hashed out a compromise that involves a lot of Republican priorities, a lot of Democratic priorities; that is endorsed by the progressive-leaning immigration lawyers group and the conservative-leaning Border Patrol union; that is endorsed by the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal.

I know we are not used to finding common ground on immigration. It seems to happen only once a decade. But we found it. We found it. And I am going to be reintroducing this bill because I believe that there is a chance Republicans will choose to do the right thing.

I get it. The border being a mess is good politics for Republicans. I get it. Keeping this problem unsolved might provide an advantage for Republicans in this next election. But we don't go into this business to win elections, to just put our name on the door.

Senator LANKFORD said it on this floor. He said every one of us is given a pen. Every one of us has a unique ability to make law, to make the country better. What is the point, Senator LANKFORD said, of having this job if you are just going to do press conferences, if you are not going to actually engage in the hard work of compromise to make this country better and safer? That is what we did.

Senator LANKFORD, Senator SINEMA, myself, Senator SCHUMER, Senator McCONNELL—we sat in a room for 4½ months. We forged a compromise that unquestionably—unquestionably—will bring order to the southwest border. And, because of that, Donald Trump is telling Republicans: Ditch it. Vote no. We don't want there to be order at the southwest border because that would be bad politics for us.

What is the point of having this job if you aren't willing to make tough compromises that make this country better?

And so I understand there may be long odds to convincing Republicans to change their vote. I understand that, because the bill is a compromise, there will be some Democrats who will vote against it.

But I think this is so important. I take Republicans at their word that it is an emergency to make sense of what is happening at the border, that it is worth it to bring this bill back before the floor. I hope our leadership will decide to schedule a vote on this bill.

I will introduce the bill imminently, I think, with many of my colleagues supporting it. And I am deeply grateful to many of my friends in the Democratic caucus for underscoring the importance of bringing order to the southwest border, investing in border security, and supporting our migrant communities, as the bipartisan border security bill does.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 58

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII and 5 USC 802 and at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, no later than May 24, 2024, if S.J. Res. 58 is discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, it be in order for Senator CRUZ or his designee to move to proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 58; further, that if the motion is agreed to, there be 10 hours of debate, equally divided, between proponents and opponents of the joint resolution; further, upon the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; and, finally, that all other provisions under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, remain in effect except the 60-session-day clock.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 109

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding 5 USC 802, that upon the conclusion of morning business on Thursday, May 16, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 109, which was received from the House and is at the desk; further, at 11:30 a.m., the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, with all other provisions under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, remaining in effect except the 60-session-day clock; further, that following the disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate proceed to executive session and execute the order of May 7, 2024, with respect to the Theeler nomination; finally, that upon disposition of the Theeler nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Aframe nomination.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, for the information of the Senate, as a result of this agreement, Senators should expect two rollcall votes tomorrow beginning at 11:30 a.m. and one rollcall vote at 1:45 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. So noted.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, reappoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: the Honorable Eric M. Ueland of Oregon.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate Resolutions: S. Res. 689, S. Res. 690, S. Res. 691, S. Res. 692, and S. Res. 693.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate complete its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 16; 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.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:04 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 15, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

SANKET JAYSHUKH BULSARA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

ERIC C. SCHULTE, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COURTNEY DIESEL O'DONNELL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE
UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CUL-
TURAL ORGANIZATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBAS-
SADOR.