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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 12 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Savior, we need You every hour of every day. We not only need You during crisis moments but also in the solitary moments of daily living.

Our lawmakers need You. As they open their hearts to You, fill them with power for today's tasks. Lord, show them Your will for our times and give them the wisdom to say: Speak Lord, for we are listening.

May the inspiration they receive from You keep their hearts pure, their minds clear, their words true, and their deeds compassionate.

And Lord, we pray for the Iranian people, who mourn the death of their President.

We pray in Your loving 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 20, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH 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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Krissa M. Lanham, of Ari-

zona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

### IRAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, last night, Iran confirmed that its President and Foreign Minister died in a helicopter crash. The condolences from sympathetic regimes were swift. The PRC declared that the Chinese people had "lost a good friend." The Kremlin mourned "a reliable partner." And Prime Minister Orban of Hungary, whose government has pursued deeper trade relations with Tehran, in spite of Western sanctions, offered his "thoughts and prayers."

Well, I, too, would like to extend my condolences to the people of Iran—for their long suffering under the brutal, theocratic rule of the Islamic Republic. I suspect a great many Iranians would rather Western admirers stop lionizing a man known as the "Butcher of Tehran" for executing political prisoners. They might prefer that foreign leaders not further legitimize the regime that actively represses all of them.

In the meantime, conjecture about key players in the chain of succession and the relative strength of reform and hardline elements has already begun in earnest. To focus on this sort of speculation is to miss something more fundamental about the regime in Tehran, something I warned the Biden administration about when President Raisi was installed through a customary sham

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



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election 3 years ago: We should remember the President of Iran is just a figurehead. The real power rests with the aptly named Supreme Leader and the State institutions he controls.

Supposed “reformers” and “moderates,” along with hard-liners, have come and gone from Iran’s Presidency without fundamentally changing how Tehran operates at home or abroad. Meanwhile, the regime’s revolutionary orthodoxy has endured for decades, preserved by the clerical establishment and the IRGC.

Iran’s leaders, its diplomats, and its enablers abroad can say anything they want about the regime’s character and outlook, but actions speak far louder than words. And, for years, Tehran has moved steadily in just one direction: toward more terrorist violence abroad and more repression at home.

And no matter who Iran’s President has been, the regime in Tehran has continued to engage in rampant proliferation of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and UAVs while making steady progress toward nuclear weapons capabilities.

So I would also like to extend my condolences to Iran’s neighbors who still live under the constant threat of a regime that practices what it preaches: Death to Israel, death to America, war on international commerce, and chaos across the Middle East.

The untimely death of the President of Iran does not change the underlying threats this regime poses to its own citizens, to its region, and to the free world. These threats continue to demand our collective attention.

#### ISRAEL

Madam President, on a related matter, since the immediate aftermath of October 7, Israel, her allies, and Jewish people around the world have faced pernicious efforts to equate a sovereign nation’s self-defense with barbaric acts of terrorism.

We have seen it in the specious media tropes about “cycles of violence,” in university statements bemoaning Israel’s self-defense actions, and in our own elected leaders’ attempts to browbeat Israel’s coalition government for seeking to restore its people’s security.

But today—today—the most noxious attempt at moral equivalence comes from unelected international bureaucrats brandishing a contrived and perverted authority. In the same breath, the self-aggrandizing prosecutor of the International Criminal Court applied for arrest warrants—arrest warrants—for both Hamas’s chief terrorist and Israel’s duly elected Prime Minister.

It is a damning development but not for the supposed subjects of the application. The ICC has succeeded only in discrediting itself even further as a rogue kangaroo court, utterly untethered to morality or justice.

For those who have long rejected this international farce of a Court and its efforts to gobble up jurisdiction, this fact was hardly news. I have refused to acknowledge any ICC authority to con-

duct politicized investigations of American servicemembers, as it has tried illegitimately to do—literally for years.

And weeks ago, several of our colleagues and I warned the institution specifically against lighting any last shred of credibility on fire in an attempt to equate—equate—Hamas’s calculated cruelty with Israel’s right to self-defense.

Putting its ignorance on full display, the judicial junta in The Hague responded by claiming that holding it accountable for this power grab would somehow violate international law.

Unfortunately, there are still plenty here in the Senate and in the administration who need reality to be spelled out more clearly. This isn’t about Prime Minister Netanyahu. It isn’t about so-called international law. In fact, the leader of Israel’s opposition condemned the ICC decision as “a complete moral failure.”

But too many Senate Democrats require frequent reminders of how Israel’s National Unity Government works and what the Israeli people expect of it.

Even as glaring evidence exposed the moral rot and terrorist complicity of another international organization, UNRWA, the Biden administration was reluctant to ignore its loud base of campus radicals and end U.S. funding.

Well, today’s news lays down another gauntlet. It is time for the President and other Western leaders to finally pick it up. Support Israel’s right to defend itself against terrorist savages like Sinwar, reject the fiction that unaccountable bureaucrats in The Hague have any power over a sovereign nation that isn’t a signatory to its authority, commit to imposing significant costs on the Court and its agents if it pursues shameful and baseless charges against Israel, and choose—choose—once and for all between actual justice and the rule of the loud campus mob.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, tomorrow the Senate Judiciary Committee—which I chair—will hold a hearing on competition in the prescription drug market and its impact on the prices that Americans pay for medication.

Patients in the United States pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world. Nearly three times what people in other developed countries pay for common medications and sometimes for exactly the same drug as prescribed in America. Take a well-known name, Jardiance, a diabetes treatment—you can almost hear the young lady singing the song, can’t you? It retails for \$700 a month in the United States. Do you know what the exact same drug made by the same company in the same place goes for in Canada? It is \$150. Madam President, \$700 for American citizens; \$150 for Canadians for exactly the same drug.

What is the difference? The difference is the Canadian Government cares, and the Canadian Government started acting years ago to protect the consumers in their country.

The average new cancer drug entering the market last year had an annual list price of more than \$200,000, and the prices keep going up. In 2022, drug manufacturers raised prices on more than 1,200 medications by an average—an average—of 32 percent, four times the rate of inflation.

For patients already facing a gut-wrenching diagnosis, the last thing they should have to worry about is whether they can afford lifesaving treatment. Yet 20 percent of seniors report that the sky-high cost of their medication forces them to skip doses or cut pills.

No drug is more representative of this problem than insulin, the life-or-death drug for those with diabetes. Do you know when it was discovered? One hundred years ago. By Americans? Not this time. Canadian inventors not only found this new, lifesaving drug, they surrendered their patent rights—the rights to control it, and their rights to receive profit from it—for \$1.

Why? They said a life-and-death drug should not be a matter of bargaining, and they believe no one should profit off this lifesaving medicine.

When Eli Lilly launched its insulin product—Humalog—in 1999, a vial cost a modest \$21, but over the next 20 years, the company raised its price more than two dozen times to more than \$330 for a vial.

Thankfully, President Biden and Democrats in Congress capped the price of insulin at \$35 a month under Medicare in the Inflation Reduction Act. It is unfortunate and impossible to explain—not a single Republican joined us in voting for this historic legislation to cap the price of insulin at \$35 a month for Medicare.

Eight pharmaceutical companies raced to the Federal courthouses in the hopes of stopping another component of that bill, which enables Medicare to negotiate for lower drug costs.

Big Pharma participates in the Veterans Health Administration, which has the authority to bargain for lower costs for our veterans, thank goodness. They have had that authority for decades. Yet we heard cries of price controls and socialism from Big Pharma as they opposed letting Medicare simply negotiate a better deal on behalf of senior citizens and taxpayers.

Last fall, President Biden announced the first 10 drugs that would see price reductions from these negotiations. These drugs cost the Medicare Program more than \$50 billion last year alone. When the President announced his list, I am sure many Americans already recognized the names of all 10 popular drugs. Why would we recognize them? Because they are the most heavily advertised drugs on television.

Here is a trivia question you want to take to the next party you attend: How

many countries on Earth make it legal to advertise prescription drugs? Two. We know one; it is the United States. Anybody know the other one? New Zealand. The United States and New Zealand are the only countries in the world where you can legally advertise prescription drugs.

Americans see an average of nine drug ads on television every single day. By filling the airwaves with these ads, Big Pharma is inflating demand for the most expensive drugs on the market. Some manufacturers are willing to spend more than \$100 million a year to make sure that all of us can spell “Xarelto” and ask the doctor for it, but they never tell you the price, do they? You see all those ads and all the information and all the gibberish they put at the end of it. Don’t you think it is worth knowing that Xarelto costs more than \$500 a month in the United States, when a generic or other lower priced alternative may be just as effective? That is why Senator GRASSLEY, Republican Senator of Iowa, joined me in introducing a commonsense, bipartisan bill to end the secrecy surrounding drug prices in advertising. Our bill would require Big Pharma to disclose the price on the ad.

Incidentally, in 2020, Xarelto’s manufacturer, Johnson & Johnson, spent \$22 billion that year on advertising—nearly double the \$12 billion it spent that year on research for new drugs.

Big Pharma will tell you that the high prices paid by Americans are just the cost of innovation. They point to the money they spend on research and development to create the next generation of lifesaving drugs. I want them to come up with new drugs. I want them to make a profit in doing that. But I want them to be reasonable in the process.

They always fail to mention one fundamental fact that we as taxpayers should not forget: Taxpayers fund the bulk of basic biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health. In fact, studies have shown that 99 percent of drugs introduced by the drug companies and approved by the FDA between 2010 and 2019 benefited from NIH research to get their start.

Too often, the prices charged by Big Pharma do not reflect scientific advancement; rather, they are the result of manipulation, not by researchers or doctors but by lawyers in the patent system.

Take the blockbuster drug Humira—at one time, the most heavily advertised drug on television. Its manufacturer, AbbVie, introduced the drug in 2002. For more than 20 years, the company exploited intellectual property laws to build a thicket of 165 patents.

The way it works is this: If you discover a new drug, you have a legal right to be the exclusive salesman of that drug during a certain period of time. If there is a variation on that formula on that drug, the patent time can be extended. So patent lawyers are al-

ways at work to make sure they extend the patent period of price monopoly for these drug companies. It is supposed to reach a point where there is competition over a generic form of a drug. The lawyers do their darndest to make sure they don’t reach that point. The result: more than \$200 billion in revenue over Humira’s 20 years of exclusivity.

That drug is not unique. A recent study found that the top 10 bestselling drugs in 2021 had a combined 1,429 patent applications filed, 72 percent of which were filed after the FDA approved the drug for sale. These blockbusters were covered by an average of 42 active patents, blocking generic competition and generating windfall profits for the drug companies.

The Judiciary Committee has taken a leadership role in addressing Big Pharma’s abuse. Last year, the committee unanimously reported five bipartisan drug-pricing bills to address anticompetitive pay-for-delay agreements, sham citizen petitions, patent thickets, and product hops, among other issues. This includes my bill with Senators TILLIS, COONS, and GRASSLEY to improve information sharing between the FDA and the Patent Office to ensure accuracy in the representations made by pharmaceutical companies to prevent gamesmanship.

Tomorrow’s hearing is going to be co-chaired by my colleague and friend from Vermont, Senator PETER WELCH. He told me when he recently came to the Senate, replacing Senator Pat Leahy, that this was an issue near and dear to him. I assured him there would be a hearing on this subject because it is so important to the country and so many people have an interest in it.

I have been watching all those drug ads day in and day out like everybody else. It is time that we have the facts put in front of the American people instead of just the advertising and the jingles.

Our committee work is far from done. Tomorrow’s hearing will shed light on additional obstacles to reducing drug prices and how our committee can help solve this problem for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I would like to begin with a statement about the ICC prosecutor’s announcement from earlier this morning.

The ICC prosecutor’s decision seeking arrest warrants for Israeli leaders alongside Hamas terrorists is not only

profoundly unfair, but it is reprehensible. As disappointing as the ICC’s decision is, it comes as no surprise because, for decades and decades, the ICC has shown it harbors deep biases against Israel. This decision suggesting an equivalency between Israel and Hamas is another glaring example of that bias against Israel.

As I have said many times, there has never been and there can never be any equivalence between Israel’s right to defend itself against terror and Hamas’s barbarity. The ICC’s decision seeking warrants against Israeli leaders is not only shameful, but it also fails to follow protocol and process in a country where it has zero jurisdiction. I fiercely oppose the ICC’s decision, and I will work with President Biden and Members on all sides to keep support for Israel strong and unwavering.

BORDER ACT

Now, Madam President, on the border, 3 months ago—3 months ago—Senate Republicans blocked the strongest, most comprehensive border security bill we have seen in a generation. This week, Republicans will get another chance to do the right thing.

Border security, we all know, is one of the most contentious issues that we have to wrestle with in Congress, but most people agree the status quo cannot continue. Our southern border is in desperate need of more resources, and our immigration system is in serious need of repair.

President Biden, in recent weeks, has taken many actions to increase sanctions against human rights abusers, reform asylum, and enhance drug enforcement to the maximum extent his office allows. But, as our Republican colleagues have said for years, the only long-term solution to the border is bipartisan—bipartisan—legislation from Congress.

Well, there is good news. Such bipartisan legislation does exist and is ready to go. I am talking, of course, about the bipartisan border act negotiated earlier this year by Senators MURPHY and SINEMA and LANKFORD and endorsed by the National Border Patrol Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the very conservative Wall Street Journal editorial page. This week, the Senate will have an opportunity to move again on this bill.

For the information of my colleagues, tomorrow I plan to file cloture on the motion to proceed to the bipartisan Border Act. The Senate will then vote on our bipartisan border bill on Thursday. All those who say we need to act on the border will get a chance this week to show they are serious about fixing the problem.

Let me repeat: The Senate will vote on our bipartisan border bill on Thursday. All those who say we need to act on the border will get a chance this week to show they are serious—serious—about fixing the border.

I implore my Republican colleagues to join us in advancing this bill. We are going to need bipartisan support if

there is any hope of getting this bill done.

I will be clear: We do not expect every Democrat or every Republican to come out in favor of the bill, but as I have said before over and over again, the only way to pass this bill is with broad bipartisan support. I expect to see that on the Democratic side, and I hope we will see it on the Republican side as well.

This bill was written explicitly with the goal of getting support from both parties, unlike messaging bills like H.R. 2, which did not have bipartisan support to get through both Chambers.

The bill we are voting on this Thursday is practically the same bill that Senators Murphy and Sinema and Lankford and others negotiated 3 months ago. Republicans agreed to the substance of this bill. It is not at all some new measure or something that comes only from the Democratic side. The bill we will vote on this Thursday reforms asylum, boosts staffing at the border, cracks down on drugs like fentanyl, and gives emergency powers to shut the border when crossings meet a certain threshold—all issues Republicans have said we must address.

If our bipartisan border bill was good enough to win the support of the union that represents Border Patrol officers, it should be good enough to win the support of Senate Republicans.

If you judge this bill by its substance and take out the partisanship injected by Donald Trump, it is an objectively tough, serious-minded, and critically bipartisan—bipartisan—solution to the border. In fact, when we released this bill earlier this year, many of our Republican colleagues were surprised at how strong it was, at least in private.

For a short while, it seemed like we finally had a bill both parties could link arms on and pass together. Of course, we all know what happened. Donald Trump happened. He barged into the border debate and publicly came out against the bill, and the rest of his Republican supporters fell into place like dominoes.

Let me be clear: The border bill did not fail 3 months ago because it was too weak. On the contrary, the border bill failed because it was too strong for Donald Trump's liking, and it risked taking away an issue he wanted to exploit on the campaign trail. He said that himself.

Again, the border bill did not fail 3 months ago because it was too weak. It failed because it was too strong—too strong for Donald Trump's liking—and it risked taking away an issue he wanted to exploit on the campaign trail.

As we all know, he was explicit about his intentions. He said, "Blame it on me," as if this were all one giant game to Donald Trump. He really doesn't care about the border. He just cares about the politics and the gamesmanship.

Well, we the American people do not have the luxury of playing games with border security. The issue is too impor-

tant to ignore, and the bill we negotiated earlier this year is too good to pass up. So we are going to give Republicans another chance this week.

In the words of one of my Senate Republican colleagues, when we worked on the border bill earlier this year, "this moment will pass. Do not let it pass."

I couldn't agree more.

#### JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

Madam President, now on judge shopping, today was supposed to be a significant day for gun safety in America. Today was supposed to be the day new rules closing loopholes on background checks went into effect—rules that Democrats and Republicans worked on together when we passed the bipartisan gun safety bill 2 years ago.

But surprise, surprise, MAGA radicals have put background check reforms on ice by going to their favorite judge in the entire country, in the Northern District of Texas, and getting him to rubberstamp a nationwide injunction.

Today's ridiculous injunction is, yet again, another consequence of judge shopping, that deeply unfair practice where radicals virtually guarantee favorable outcomes in court by going to a sympathetic judge of their choice. I say "judge" in this case because there is only one judge sitting in that district. They know when they go to court, they are getting him to hear the case.

Judge shopping jaundices our legal system like few other abuses do. There is no conceivable definition of "justice" where hard-right litigants can pull a fast one on the will of the American people by getting extremist judges they align with to rubberstamp their agenda.

Congress should fix this abuse soon with appropriate legislation. The Constitution clearly allows Congress to exercise oversight of the courts when appropriate. Even the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court—hardly a liberal—has acknowledged that judge shopping is a problem that ought to be addressed.

A few weeks ago, I led a group of 40 Senators in introducing a bill that would curtail judge shopping and restore fairness to the judicial system. I hope both sides can work together on this bill to ensure that nobody gets an unfair advantage in a court of law, simply based on a judge's personal ideological preferences.

We will continue weighing legislative options to ensure that the Federal judiciary remains committed to equal justice under law. Judge shopping moves us away from that noble ideal in a very big way.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on nominations, this week, the Senate will confirm more of President Biden's outstanding judicial nominees for lifetime appointments to the Federal bench and will hit a major milestone along the way.

Later this afternoon, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Seth

Aframe of New Hampshire to be a circuit court judge on the First Circuit.

Mr. Aframe would make an exceptional addition to the First Circuit and was given a unanimous rating of "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. A longtime member of the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Hampshire, he has argued approximately 100 cases before the First Circuit on a broad range of criminal and civil cases.

When confirmed, Mr. Aframe will be the 198th judge confirmed since President Biden took office. As soon as tomorrow, I expect the Senate will reach a significant milestone of 200—200—judges under Senate Democrats and under President Biden.

I salute Senator DURBIN and the Judiciary Committee for the good work they have done in this regard. It is a figure—200—that we can all be proud of and shows how intensely focused we are on filling the bench with jurists who will make our democracy stronger and uphold the rule of law.

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. BARRASSO. Madam 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.

#### ECONOMY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak about the economy.

Joe Biden is clearly the President of high prices. People all across the country, all 50 States, are well aware that this is going to be Joe Biden's enduring legacy.

Prices spiked again in April. The statistics are out. Prices have been rising again and again and again. Price increases have been now above 3 percent for the last 37 months. This is the longest period in history of high prices since the late 1980s.

President Biden continues to repeat a falsehood—you could call it a lie—because he has said time and again that inflation was 9 percent when he came into office. This is pure confusion on his part. Even the liberal fact checkers—people at CNN, people at the Washington Post—have said what President Biden is saying about inflation is flatout false; it is wrong.

In January of 2021, the day that the President—current President Biden—took the oath of office, the inflation rate in America was 1.4 percent. Today, prices are almost 20 percent higher than they were the day he took the oath of office. The burden of Bidenomics on the American public is crushing; it is compounding; and, of course, it is cumulative. It continues to add on every single day.

But Democrats in this Chamber and around the country deny this economic reality. Certainly, the Democrat in the

White House denies this economic reality. And President Biden proved that he was completely disconnected from the suffering American families. Earlier this month, he said Americans have “the money to spend.” I am not sure whom he is talking to, but that is not the case across America, and it is not the case of my home State of Wyoming.

Democrats are completely out of touch with the economy because they are out of touch with American voters, the citizens of this country. Rising prices have plagued Americans for the last 3 years. Everyday life costs more and more and more. Under Joe Biden, Americans are squeezed; they are stressed; and they are struggling to get by.

More than half of Americans will tell you that the economic conditions that they see day in and day out are poor—poor—for them personally. More than 80 percent of Americans say that high prices are their No. 1 concern. That is what Americans are suffering from today. President Biden’s policies are not the cure for inflation in our economic anxieties. Joe Biden and the Democrats’ policies are the cause of our economic struggles.

Joe Biden and the Democrats in this Chamber and in the House of Representatives at a time when NANCY PELOSI was Speaker approved more than \$3 trillion—\$3 trillion—in wasteful Washington spending. The President added more than \$1 trillion additionally on stifling and punishing economic regulations.

He launched a war on American energy, hiked energy costs for families, gas prices went up, electricity prices went up. Because of failed Bidenomics, Americans are paying over \$12,000 more a year—this year—than they did the year that he came into office just to buy the same things that they could buy the day he came into the White House. It is over \$1,000 a month. That is what the American people are seeing today. A \$100 cart of groceries in 2019, the cost now for that same cart of groceries—not very full—is \$137. A gallon of gas in 2021 was \$2.38. Today, in many of the battleground States—Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania—it is approaching \$4 a gallon.

Now, of course, high prices aren’t the only problem. Interest rates are at the highest level in 23 years. High interest rates are a bitter fruit of Bidenomics. People are suffering when they have to take out a loan. This is causing significant affordability crises all across the country and in all age groups.

Under these failed policies of the Biden administration, younger people— younger Americans—are being demoralized. They are delaying life’s biggest moments. Homeownership is slipping clearly out of the reach of most young married couples and young people trying to start a family.

Young Americans are facing the costliest housing market ever. Borrowing costs have soared. When Biden took of-

fice, they were 2.7 percent. Today, they are over 7 percent. Home prices today are nearly six times higher than the average household income. That is a record ratio—six times higher than the average household income. Other costs—utility costs, insurance costs—all costs are climbing, and they are all caused by the amount of spending we have had under this administration.

Younger Americans are having trouble buying a car. The price of car loans has gone way up as well as the price of automobiles themselves.

Younger Americans are also forced to rely on credit cards more and more. They are developing mounting debt, which is going to continue to saddle them in their future. Young Americans will tell that you they are overextended and they are distressed and they are begging for relief. Today’s high prices and high interest rates are going to create tomorrow’s troubles.

Now, President Biden has failed to protect the American dream. We now have an entire generation of young Americans who can’t afford to buy a home, can’t afford to start a business, can’t afford to begin a family, and certainly can’t afford to begin to grow any savings that they may have.

Americans are absolutely fed up with big-spending, high-price Democrats. People are financially exhausted by Joe Biden’s high prices. People are ready to move beyond Bidenomics and beyond Joe Biden.

It is time for a change. Senate Republicans are ready to put America back on track. We are fighting to lower costs. That is what we are hearing every weekend at home: Get down the prices of things that are up under Joe Biden; stop the wasteful Washington spending; and please unleash American energy. That is the solution to the problems facing America today. This is how we can help make life more affordable for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### RECRUIT AND RETAIN ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, in 1969, the city of Montreal, Canada, discovered what it is like to live in a world without police. For 16 hours on October 7, the city’s full police force went on strike. What ensued is now called Montreal’s “Night of Terror.” The city rang out with gunshots, glass shattering, and flames erupting.

Just 3 hours after the strike began, the first bank was robbed. Robbers stormed nine more before the police returned. Thefts, vandalism, and mob violence took the city by storm. There were 450 break-ins and over 30 armed holdups. A crowd 800 strong overturned a bus and sent vehicles ablaze.

The government sent Provincial police and army officers into the city. But by then, the chaos was already in full force. A sniper shot one officer, killing him. The result of Montreal’s “Night of Terror” was two dead men, dozens of injuries, over 100 arrests, and close to \$3 million in property damage.

Less than a day without police was a nightmare for Montreal.

Here in America, we often take our strong police force for granted. We enjoy the safety and protection of law enforcement, sometimes without even realizing it. But if trends continue, we will inch closer to living the nightmare of a world without police.

In 2022, almost 50 percent more officers resigned than in 2019. Almost 20 percent more officers retired. The number of police officers nationwide decreased by 4,000 between 2020 and 2023.

A study in 2023 found that over the prior 2 years, at least 12 American towns completely dissolved their police departments.

I have been speaking with law enforcement in Nebraska and around the country about growing staffing challenges for years. I greatly respect the State and local control of law enforcement agencies so I always ask them how I can make existing Federal tools more supportive of their work. Based on those conversations, I introduced the Recruit and Retain Act, which the House passed last week.

I am thankful to the Nebraska officers and sheriffs who collaborated with me to craft legislation with bipartisan appeal. As retirements increase and new applications decline, departments are shrinking, burdening the officers who are trying to keep them afloat. Understaffed departments are doing their best to keep up, but they don’t always have the resources to hire all the officers that they need.

The Recruit and Retain Act offers them better access to resources to reverse this trend. My legislation improved the Department of Justice’s community-oriented policing services, or COPS, a hiring grant program. The bill expands COPS grants for specific onboarding expenses like background checks and psychological evaluations.

It also provides clear guidance to the understaffed agencies applying for this funding, and it alleviates administrative burdens that come with those applications. These changes will allow departments to consider more applicants and hire more officers.

Recruit and Retain also establishes the Pipeline Partnership Program to promote student interest in law enforcement careers. Departments and local schools will work together to launch mentorship opportunities that give young people an inside look at law enforcement work. This will not only create a hiring pipeline for police departments, but it will also strengthen community relationships with law enforcement.

Finally, my bill directs the Government Accountability Office to investigate the causes of recent recruitment challenges and those effects on public safety. We see some of these causes and effects already: Anti-police movements like far-left “defund the police” that has demonized our law enforcement. We have seen rising crime levels in places like Portland, in Minneapolis, in

New York City after they cut funding for their police departments. Nonetheless, we haven't seen comprehensive studies that evaluate all levels of law enforcement in agencies of all sizes across the country. To address staffing issues, we need to have the data on exactly what is causing these problems and how they are compromising the safety of our communities.

These are practical changes that take our law enforcement a step forward in rebuilding their departments, a goal that will serve officers, will serve local communities, and it will serve our Nation as a whole. Our police and other law enforcement officers do the essential work to keep us safe and secure. Choosing not to support them is to choose chaos, lawlessness—a nightmare.

But by passing my bill, the House and the Senate have both chosen to support our police as they face these staffing challenges. I urge President Biden to do the same by signing the Recruit and Retain Act into law.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

#### HOUSTON STORMS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last Thursday night, as I was sitting on my airplane scheduled to go into Houston, TX, a severe storm slammed the entire southeastern portion of our State, bringing heavy rains, roaring winds, and flooding to millions of people in the area.

Now, Houston and Southeast Texas are no strangers to hurricanes and natural disasters, but this was something altogether different. Madam President, 100-mile-per-hour winds ripped through the region, tearing windows out of skyscrapers in downtown Houston and toppling transmission towers, power lines, and uprooting trees. Homes, businesses, roads, and vehicles were damaged by the storms, and, sadly, at least eight Texans have lost their lives.

Shortly after the storm, more than 1 million Texans lost power, and it is starting to get warm in Texas as we approach the summer, and some 200,000 homes remain without electricity or air-conditioning. Today, more than 50 campuses across the Houston Independent School District are closed due to power outages.

As I said, the Houston region is no stranger to storms, and Texans did as they always do: They immediately mobilized to support those who suffered the worst impact. I want to commend the brave first responders and volunteers and just the good neighbors who supported the emergency response over the last several days as well as the crews who are working to clear debris and restore power even as I speak.

As we move from rescue to recovery efforts, my team and I are prepared to help in any way we can to help those communities rebuild.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, we know we are about 6 months out from the next elec-

tion, and as President Biden campaigns for another term, he seems desperate to convince the American people that America's economic troubles aren't his fault and are somehow a figment of their imagination.

Last week, he said inflation "was at 9 percent when I came in and it's now down [to] 3 percent." This marked the second time in only a handful of days that the President made this claim, and it would be great if it were true. The fact is, under President Biden's economic policies, inflation has reached a 40-year high and is stubbornly resisting efforts by the Federal Reserve to bring it down.

In reality, inflation was at only 1.4 percent when President Biden took office, and under his leadership, Washington Democrats went on a crazy spending spree that sent inflation skyrocketing to the highest in 40 years.

I know we are all familiar with the Federal Reserve and its role to try to bring down inflation by making money tighter, and they do that by raising interest rates. But that is not without a cost, and the ability of hard-working Texas families and other Americans to buy a car, buy a house—obviously those have been negatively impacted. If you went to the grocery store and filled up a basket with groceries the day President Biden took office and then did it again recently, you would see that your grocery prices went up 36 percent thanks to President Biden's policies.

Mainly what that is—it is not about the Federal Reserve; it is about all the spending our Democratic colleagues have done here—about \$2.7 trillion of partisan spending bills, which are like gasoline on the inflation fire.

Finally, as a result of tight money policies by the Federal Reserve, inflation has cooled somewhat, but prices remain unbearably high for most families, and inflation is still more than double what it was when President Biden took office.

This may be the President's latest attempt to try to divert attention and misrepresent his record, but it certainly isn't the only one.

Last month, the President tweeted this. He said:

Donald Trump was very proud of his \$2 trillion tax cut that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy and biggest corporations and exploded the federal debt. That tax cut is going to expire. If I'm reelected, it is going to stay expired.

Well, forget for a minute that President Biden has misrepresented who benefited from the tax cut and bringing more foreign investment back to the United States by bringing our corporate and business tax rates in line with other democracies around the world. As a matter of fact, before COVID, the economy was about the best it has ever been in my adult lifetime because the economy was roaring back, in part because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act bill that we passed in 2017.

First, this is an interesting time for the President to start paying attention to the national debt—something he has forgotten about entirely for the last 3½ years. On his watch, our national debt is now approaching \$35 trillion. As I said, he and congressional Democrats spent nearly \$2.7 trillion in less than 18 months on things like handouts for union bosses and money for something they called climate justice, whatever that is. But apparently tax relief for working families is where he draws the line.

But the second issue that I can't ignore is this: Allowing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to expire would raise taxes on virtually everybody, including working families.

The Wall Street Journal recently took a look at this. This was 10 days ago, May 10. They looked at data from the Tax Foundation and determined that "if the tax cuts expire," which is something President Biden said he would see to, "about 62% of households would pay more, 9% would pay less and the rest would be largely unaffected," according to the Tax Foundation, as I said. So based on President Biden's tweet that he would let the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expire, 62 percent of households in America would pay more taxes.

Given the financial pain mainly caused by inflation that families are already feeling, a larger tax burden is the very last thing American families need, but that seems to be the path on which President Biden is headed. It would be salt in the wound for the families who are already struggling to cover their basic living expenses, like that basket of groceries that costs 36 percent more now than it did 3½ years ago.

Another thing to note is that this would actually break President Biden's marquee promise to never raise taxes on households making under \$400,000 a year. Once that was pointed out, the President's team quickly shifted into damage control and said: Well, the President really doesn't want all of this law to expire—just the portions that affect people making more than \$400,000 a year.

But it is hard to know whether the President is coming or going when he makes these statements, and every time you take him at his word, his political team comes in and does cleanup and says: No, he really didn't mean that.

But the President already made his statement in the clearest of possible terms. The tax cut will expire unless extended, and if he is elected, he said it will stay expired, raising taxes on 62 percent of households.

Of course, it is no surprise that President Biden would allow tax increases on working families. After all, his Presidency has been defined by give-aways for unlikely winners.

First, there is the handout for wealthy electric vehicle purchasers. The horribly misnamed Inflation Reduction Act included massive handouts

for some of the most expensive vehicles on the market—vehicles that many Americans simply cannot afford. Yet they are being asked to subsidize rich people getting fancy new electric vehicles. Wealthy Americans earning hundreds of thousands of dollars a year can receive up to \$7,500 in taxpayer assistance to buy an electric vehicle, including those made in China.

Democrats passed this bill at a time when many people couldn't—still can't—afford basic expenses. Democrats responded by forcing every person in America to subsidize expensive electric vehicles for well-to-do people. The initial estimate pegged the cost of these EV tax credits at just over \$30 billion—\$30 billion. But private forecasters later released an updated estimate which found that the actual cost of these electric vehicle tax credits is more than \$196 billion—six and a half times higher than advertised. Of course, hard-working families are the ones footing the bill for these tax credits which disproportionately benefit wealthy people.

Then there is the President's attempt to "cancel" student debt for millions of borrowers. Now, his administration has offered multiple plans to wipe away loans for millions of borrowers and stick taxpayers with the bill. The Supreme Court told him he couldn't, and he went back to the drawing board and figured out a way to go ahead and do it.

To state the obvious, the vast majority of Americans do not benefit from that. Eighty-seven percent of Americans do not have outstanding student loan debt, so the 87 percent are going to pay for the 13 percent who do. Many people decided not to go to college either because they couldn't afford it or because they pursued some other course of study. Many worked while pursuing a degree. Many paid off their loans after graduating, just as they agreed to do. Still, President Biden expects every single person without college debt to shoulder the cost for someone else's degree.

This is something they agreed to do by contract, to pay that money back.

His student debt cancelation plan would cost taxpayers \$475 billion even though only 13 percent of Americans reap the benefits. The new plans he rolled out earlier this year would cost an additional \$84 billion.

It is fundamentally unfair to expect taxpayers with no student loan debt to pay for someone else's degree, especially when that person agreed to pay it back.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which President Biden wants to see expire, isn't the problem. This law puts money back in the pockets of hard-working Texans by allowing workers to keep more of what they earn.

See, that is the problem here in Washington, DC. So many bureaucrats and insiders think that the money you earn is actually what you are allowed to keep by the government because it

is really all the government's, and the government just allows you to keep some of it.

Well, they have it exactly backward. It is the money of the people who earn it, and the people who earn it pay their taxes, as they are required to do. But it is their money, and every dollar of a tax increase that Washington orders is a dollar less in their pocket to spend on their family. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts gave tax relief to small businesses and job creators, unleashing a wave of economic growth; and it encouraged companies who had invested their money abroad to bring that money back home and build new businesses or expand their businesses here and not overseas.

After this bill became law, unemployment decreased, wages increased, and communities across America experienced a wave of economic success.

Unfortunately, the pandemic threw a wrench into our humming economy, and then President Biden came along with a sledgehammer, seemingly determined to destroy every economic gain we made under President Trump.

His policies ushered in the worst inflation in 40 years; and as a result, hard-working families are struggling to make ends meet. Costs of groceries, gas, rent have skyrocketed, while household incomes remain anemic.

Many Americans who have been scrimping and saving for years in order to buy a home have had to keep that dream on hold because of high interest rates. And now the President seems intent on allowing the 2017 tax cuts to expire, ensuring that millions more of Americans will pay more in taxes.

If President Biden manages to win another term in the White House, I worry about how much more economic pain he will inflict on families. Inflation is up; interest rates are up; and, according to President Biden, another term in office for him means your taxes will go up, too.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FDIC

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, with me today is a current member of my staff, one of my colleagues, Mr. Josh Dunn.

I want to talk, Madam President, about a topic I hate to talk about. It is very unpleasant, but it is necessary that we talk about this. Some of my colleagues want it to go away, but it is not going away.

I thought that we had all agreed that sexual predators and bigots are not welcome in America's workplaces. We have all heard of the #MeToo movement. The #MeToo movement, Presi-

dent Biden endorsed it. Many of my colleagues have actively supported it, as have I. The #MeToo movement reminds us all that America is no place for creepy old men who sexually harass and demean their employees. I thought we had agreed to that.

I don't remember seeing any exceptions in the #MeToo movement for President Biden's appointees to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. We call it the FDIC. There is not supposed to be a carve-out for bigots and perverts at the FDIC to harass their coworkers when they are supposed to be regulating America's banks.

So why hasn't—why hasn't President Biden shown FDIC Chairman, Mr. Martin Gruenberg, and his leadership team the door? Why hasn't he fired them?

Based on the latest report from the Agency, not a single Biden appointee should keep his or her job at the FDIC.

Now, Mr. Gruenberg released a statement a few minutes ago. He didn't say he resigned. He said he is prepared to resign as soon as his successor is confirmed by the U.S. Senate. In the meantime, he is going to continue on as FDIC Chairman. It triggers my gag reflex.

I mentioned this report. This report, 234 pages, it was done by a law firm called Cleary Gottlieb at the request of the FDIC. The FDIC and Mr. Gruenberg were forced to ask for this report because the Wall Street Journal published a series of articles about the sexcapades at the FDIC, and the FDIC leadership was forced to respond.

Cleary Gottlieb issued this report. I was very suspect at first because Mr. Gruenberg and others had picked Cleary Gottlieb to do it. But after the report has been issued and I have had a chance to read it, it is clear to me the law firm—as it should have—pulled no punches.

The report tells us that nearly 1 in 10 employees—1 in 10—at the FDIC has experienced sexual harassment, racial discrimination, verbal abuse, or other inappropriate behavior while working at the Agency.

I want you to listen to this. I hate to have to say it, but I want the American people to understand what has been going on under Mr. Gruenberg's leadership at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

This is what the report told us: One Hispanic employee told investigators with the Cleary Gottlieb law firm that his FDIC supervisor made him recite the Pledge of Allegiance at work to "prove that they were American." Another FDIC employee reported that her supervisor told her "You're a mother. You don't belong in the workplace."

The report goes on. One senior FDIC official who had a reputation for visiting brothels during his work trips—isn't that special—sent his coworker a photograph of his penis.

Another senior FDIC official, who allegedly was thrown out of a strip club during a work trip because he groped the dancers, this official, the same day,

asked his female coworker “Does your husband eat you?”

An FDIC field officer pursued sexual relationships with several female employees, including a student intern. Another employee reported that a former FDIC executive “grabbed her and rubbed himself on her after a happy hour.” My God.

One female employee recounted more than 6 years of persistent sexual harassment from a senior FDIC bank examiner. She said the examiner continuously sent her disturbing text messages, including one that said “get naked Bitch.” The employee said the behavior bordered on the edge of stalking. You think?

Look, I could go on for hours here. I am not sure my stomach can stand it.

In total, there are 6,000 workers at the FDIC. In total, more than 500 reported misconduct by their bosses—creepy old men. They reported 145 incidents of sexual harassment; 436 reports of gender-, sexuality-, or race-based discrimination; and 320 incidents of verbal abuse and bullying.

The investigators in this report noted that many of these employees had never previously reported the harassment because the employees at the FDIC had a real and widespread fear of retaliation from the Agency’s management.

The FDIC employees who did report, through the years, who did report their harassment to the Agency, quickly realized that it was a mistake and a waste of time.

From 2015 to 2023, 92 brave employees directly reported incidents and instances of harassment or abuse to the Agency. Good for them. The management at the FDIC didn’t fire or demote or dock the pay of a single creep because of these reports. In fact, the FDIC often punished the victims rather than the predators. They would move the victims from the victim’s job, not the predator.

The predator got to stay. The victims were moved. It didn’t matter if they were experienced. It didn’t matter if the victim enjoyed his or her job. They had to move because a creep was molesting them.

In fact, when a male examiner called his colleague “a grizzly bear with tits,” the FDIC relocated the woman instead of the man who made the comment.

Again, I am sorry to do this, but I am just reciting the details of just eight of the hundreds of reports of harassment at the FDIC.

Now, FDIC Chairman Mr. Martin Gruenberg has been a top official at the FDIC for two decades, as the FDIC has devolved into what apparently is a hellscape for its employees. Mr. Gruenberg has been Chairman of the FDIC for 10 of the last 13 years. He started at the Agency in 2005.

Mr. Gruenberg didn’t just supervise the harassment at the FDIC. According to the report, he participated in it. According to Mr. Gruenberg’s employees, Chairman Gruenberg repeatedly

“disrespected, disparaged, and mistreated” his staff—not the predators but his staff that was trying to help him manage the Agency. According to the report, Mr. Gruenberg would berate them, threaten to fire them, participate in “embarrassing and inappropriate” group chats with them and throw temper tantrums; or he would throw papers his staff prepared for him against the wall.

One of his loyal staff members told investigators: In my entire career of 35 years—in my entire career of 35 years—I have never had anybody treat me like that.

Reports of Chairman Gruenberg’s abusive behavior ranged from 2007 to just last year, showing that he has been a menace to his employees for just about as long as anyone can remember. Yet when my friends in the House of Representatives asked him if he had ever been formally accused of abuse, do you know what he said? He seemed to forget he was the target of an abuse allegation. He said: “No.” He had to go back and later correct the record to confirm that he was.

Mr. Gruenberg didn’t just struggle with holding himself responsible for bad behavior, but he also refused to hold others accountable too. He even handpicked a known abuser. He picked one of these creepy old men, someone whose outburst had cost the FDIC more than 100,000 bucks in a settlement, for a key promotion to serve as the FDIC’s general counsel.

Employees told investigators that they expect Chairman Gruenberg’s leadership team to “pay, promote, or move” the serial predators within the FDIC. It is all in the report.

Mr. Gruenberg has not once—not once—taken responsibility for his failed leadership. He said he was sorry, but he has never taken responsibility. When he was speaking with the investigators who compiled this report, Mr. Gruenberg denied every single, solitary allegation.

Now, the role of the investigators was not to advise the FDIC about whether Mr. Gruenberg and his leadership team should resign. But if you read the report—200-plus pages—it is clear what they think. The investigators said: Mr. Gruenberg’s “apparent inability or unwillingness to recognize how others experience certain difficult interactions with him” would make it difficult—I would use the word “impossible”—for him to restore the FDIC to something that resembles a respectable workplace.

Chairman Gruenberg is far from the only bad apple at the FDIC. That much is clear from the report. Not everyone is a bad apple at the FDIC. There are employees who are very good employees there, but not all of them. And they have been getting away with this for years.

In my opinion, after you read this report, you would conclude that everyone in senior management either knew of the gross, disgusting, and bigoted be-

havior and did nothing, or they have proven themselves to be such incompetent leaders that they don’t deserve to oversee a pet goldfish, much less a Agency.

If the executives at the FDIC had any sense of decency, they would resign today, not issue some weeny statement that “Yeah, I know things are bad at the FDIC, and I will consider resigning as soon as the Senate confirms my successor, but I am going to continue in the meantime.”

That is the statement that Mr. Gruenberg issued. And do you know what we have heard out of the Biden White House? Nothing. Zero. Zilch. Nada.

If I could fire Mr. Gruenberg, I would. But the only person who can fire Mr. Gruenberg is President Biden. Yet no one at the White House wants to talk about this. No one seems interested in firing Chairman Gruenberg or demanding his resignation, and President Biden won’t even address it. He sent a spokeswoman out to suggest that President Biden has not fired Mr. Gruenberg because Chairman Gruenberg apologized and has committed to the recommendations that have been provided by the independent report.

Let me get this straight. Chairman Gruenberg is going to implement the recommendations, which investigated the abuse while he was chairman of the FDIC.

Let’s take a look at a few of the recommended changes that President Biden thinks Chairman Gruenberg is qualified to implement. One recommendation that the report includes says that the FDIC must work to protect the victims of sexual harassment, discrimination, and bullying.

Do you think?

How is Mr. Gruenberg, who issued a statement today, saying, “Well, I might resign as soon as the Senate confirms my successor”—how is Mr. Gruenberg, who has proven for more than two decades that he has no interest in protecting his employees—supposed to get that job done? He won’t even admit that he is a bully. How does the White House think he is going to recognize and deter other bullies and predators?

Another recommendation in the report is to enact a culture transformation—a culture transformation—within the FDIC. The investigators recommended that the Board of the FDIC hire an individual to oversee this transformation.

I thought that is why we had a Chairman. I thought that is why we had a Chairman. If Mr. Gruenberg’s past hiring decisions are any indication, he and the Board will probably promote the Agency’s top pervert to the post.

The most important recommendation the investigators made, in my view, is that the FDIC must hold leadership accountable for their harassment. Does President Biden really believe—does he really believe—that Chairman

Gruenberg is going to hold himself accountable? Are the dozens of creepy old men that the Chairman has protected for two decades?

Put down the bong.

Wouldn't firing Mr. Gruenberg and every other bigot or predator and senior management at the FDIC be the obvious first step in holding leadership accountable for this abuse?

As one employee put it, allowing Mr. Gruenberg to oversee improvements to the FDIC's culture is like "foxes guarding the henhouse."

I would put it another way. It is like asking Alec Baldwin to teach a course on gun safety.

Mr. Gruenberg and every single member of senior management ought to hide their heads in a bag. The #MeToo movement ought to mean something. And, frankly, the White House should hide its head in a bag.

I don't read an exception to moral order in the #MeToo movement for the FDIC because Mr. Gruenberg happens to be of a particular party—the same party as the President's.

These folks ought to quit, and they ought to quit today. And if they don't, President Biden should fire them. Anything short of firing them will show that President Biden condones this behavior.

The FDIC employees—and there are many good ones—are only responsible for making sure that our banks are secure in the wealthiest and most powerful country in all of human history. Those FDIC employees deserve a professional workplace. They deserve a workplace where they can do their jobs with dignity. And young women don't deserve to be sexually harassed and sent pictures of their boss's genitals. The taxpayers deserve this too, and the banks being examined deserve this as well.

You know, when President Biden took office, in 2021, I remember in one of his press conferences—I don't know how the subject came up, but the subject of appropriate workplace conduct came up—President Biden correctly said that he would fire on the spot any appointee who disrespected other members of his staff. Those are the President's words: "on the spot." And he told his appointees that he expected them to do the same.

The evidence is plentiful that Chairman Gruenberg disrespected his staff and allowed a toxic culture to bloom at the FDIC. He should resign. He should resign immediately. It is time to clean house at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator HASSAN and I both be allowed to finish our remarks before the scheduled vote.

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

NOMINATION OF SETH ROBERT AFRAME

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm

Seth Aframe to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Mr. Aframe has deep ties to the First Circuit. Born in Boston, he received his B.A., summa cum laude, from Tufts University and his J.D., magna cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center before clerking for Justice Judith A. Cowin on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. He then entered private practice in Boston, where he worked at a large firm and primarily practiced employment law. In 2003, he moved to New Hampshire, where he clerked for Judge Jeffrey R. Howard on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Concord.

In 2007, Mr. Aframe joined the civil division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire as an assistant U.S. attorney. In 2010, he was appointed to serve as the appellate chief within the criminal division, and he was promoted to chief of the criminal division in 2023. Mr. Aframe has tried 19 cases to verdict, including 18 jury trials; and he has argued approximately 100 cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. In addition to his work as a litigator, Mr. Aframe also serves as the District of New Hampshire's elections officer and civil rights coordinator, and he represents the U.S. attorney on the District of New Hampshire's alternative drug court.

Mr. Aframe is strongly supported by both of his home State Senators—Mrs. SHAHEEN and Ms. HASSAN—and the American Bar Association unanimously rated him as "well qualified" to serve on the First Circuit. His significant litigation background and extensive experience in Federal court ensure that he will be a valuable addition to the First Circuit.

In a letter supporting Mr. Aframe's nomination, a bipartisan group of former U.S. attorneys for the District of New Hampshire wrote that, "[t]o our minds, there is no one better-suited or better qualified to join the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit." I am of the same mind. I am proud to support this nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today in support of Seth Aframe's nomination to the First Circuit Court of Appeals. Without a doubt, the depth of Mr. Aframe's legal expertise and his extensive experience at the U.S. Attorney's Office make him eminently qualified to serve on the First Circuit. The American Bar Association agrees. They gave Mr. Aframe a unanimous rating of "well qualified."

But I think what might be most impressive about Mr. Aframe is his overwhelming dedication to serving his community. In fact, one of Mr. Aframe's earliest formative experiences as an aspiring public servant was when he served as a Senate page on this very floor. As we hope all pages will do when their time in the Senate comes to an end, Mr. Aframe carried a passion for public service with him,

and it informed his professional trajectory.

After graduating from college, Mr. Aframe decided to pursue a law career, going on to attend Georgetown University Law Center. From Georgetown, he spent 3 years in private practice, developing his skills in complex civil litigation before moving to New Hampshire, where he clerked for Judge Jeffrey Howard on the First Circuit. From there, he went on to join the U.S. Attorney's Office in Concord. He has served as Chief of both the Criminal Division and the Appellate Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office. During his tenure, Mr. Aframe has tried 20 cases in Federal district court and has argued more than 100 appeals before the First Circuit, giving Mr. Aframe more appellate experience than almost any attorney in New Hampshire.

Still, in his limited free time, Mr. Aframe has made it a priority to give back to the next generation of legal minds.

Outside of the courtroom, he is an adjunct professor at the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law, where he teaches First Amendment law. He is also a frequent and popular volunteer at Civics 603!, which is a nonprofit that provides civics education to New Hampshire students, ranging from elementary to high school.

Beyond the classroom, Mr. Aframe has continued to take on numerous leadership positions, including as the U.S. Attorney's Office representative to New Hampshire's LASER Program, which allows low- and mid-level drug defendants to participate in a yearlong recovery program that centers on rehabilitation and productive reintegration into society.

Mr. Aframe's commitment to his community and to sharing the wealth of his legal experience to better the lives of others is truly commendable. I am confident that Mr. Aframe will carry his sentiment with him to the First Circuit and will continue to make the Granite State proud.

Before I close, though, I want to address some of the misinformation that has been circulated in an attempt to portray Mr. Aframe—a 17-year Federal prosecutor—as soft on crime. There have been distortions of Mr. Aframe's record in two specific cases, and I want to talk about those now. Notably, in both of those cases, the court handed down a shorter sentence than what was requested by Mr. Aframe.

In one of the cases, the government didn't seek a life sentence because doing so would have required the young victim to appear at a sentencing hearing. After consulting with the victim's family, the government concluded that to call the victim would have likely imposed unwarranted additional trauma. As a result, Mr. Aframe requested a 405-month sentence. The court ultimately sentenced the defendant to 384 months. To allege that Mr. Aframe is soft on crime because of his decision to

abide by the wishes of a victim's family is not only deeply misguided, but it also sets a dangerous precedent.

In the second case, as Mr. Aframe has noted, the government requested a sentence of 60 years. The court, in deciding the government's request was too harsh, issued a sentence of 50 years—10 fewer than Mr. Aframe had requested. Unfortunately, the allegations against Mr. Aframe are not only inaccurate and unfair, but they are based on partisan opposition to any judge that is nominated by this President. Those of us who know Mr. Aframe and his record know he has been a dedicated prosecutor and that he will be a fair jurist.

Once again, let me emphasize that I am grateful that the State of New Hampshire has had a career prosecutor like Mr. Aframe, who has so diligently fought for justice on behalf of the victims of horrific crimes, and it has become abundantly clear that all who work with him feel the same way.

In a joint letter, all four former U.S. attorneys whom Mr. Aframe has served under and who were appointed by both Republican and Democratic Presidents said:

Each of us regards Mr. Aframe as a distinguished and persuasive appellate advocate who has successfully represented the government and earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence. His knowledge of the law is extensive. His writing is pristine and persuasive. We doubt there is any practicing attorney who has briefed and argued more cases before the First Circuit.

Mr. Aframe's praise doesn't come just from prosecutors. A group of defense attorneys whom he litigated against many times has also lauded his nomination, stating:

[W]e believe Seth has a perfect judicial temperament. . . . In what is often a difficult role as a prosecutor, he epitomizes open-mindedness, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias, and commitment to equal justice under the law.

To name a few others, Mr. Aframe has received letters of support from the former president of the New Hampshire Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, from New Hampshire law enforcement officials, and from past presidents of the New Hampshire Bar, and I have some of these letters of support here.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD.

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

OCTOBER 23, 2023.

Re Seth Robert Aframe, Nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Hon. RICHARD J. DURBIN,  
*Chair, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN AND RANKING MEMBER GRAHAM: As former United States Attorneys for the District of New Hampshire, it is our honor to enthusiastically support the

confirmation of our former colleague, Assistant United States Attorney Seth Robert Aframe, to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

As prosecutors, we have abiding faith in the rule of law and, as long-time practitioners before courts in the First Circuit, we understand the vital role of the First Circuit Court of Appeals in deciding appeals affecting every aspect of American life. We have unwavering confidence in Mr. Aframe's qualifications to join the distinguished First Circuit bench by reason of his deep appellate and trial experience, and his scholarship, legal acumen and compassion.

Attorney Thomas Colantuono hired Mr. Aframe as an Assistant U.S. Attorney following his tenure as a law clerk to the Honorable Judith A. Cowan, Associate Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and to the Honorable Jeffrey R. Howard, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. At the time, Mr. Aframe impressed Mr. Colantuono as a bright, able and articulate attorney who would meet the Office's highest standards of excellence and be a strong asset to the complement of Assistant United States Attorneys.

During his long tenure in the Office, Mr. Aframe has fulfilled that promise and more: each of us regards Mr. Aframe as a distinguished and persuasive appellate advocate who has successfully represented the government and earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence. His knowledge of the law is extensive. His writing is pristine and persuasive. We doubt that there is any practicing attorney who has briefed and argued more cases before the First Circuit, or who has an equal reputation for outstanding scholarship, candor toward the tribunal and fidelity to the rule of law. Indeed, none of us was ever more proud than we were to see the Office's name, and ours, inscribed on the cover of a brief authored by Mr. Aframe, or a decision rendered by the Court thereafter.

While Mr. Aframe readily grasps and articulates the most sophisticated legal concepts, as United States Attorneys, we also valued his pragmatism, candor and generosity. He has traveled easily in the rarified environment of appellate advocacy, but has also diligently earned the trust of juries and of victims of some of the most heinous crimes imaginable. He has frequently volunteered as trial counsel in complex cases, served his colleagues as a trusted advisor, and taken a leadership role in numerous initiatives, including the LASER program, the District Court's drug court. In recognition of this, and of his considerable talents, he now serves as the Criminal Bureau Chief at the USAO-DNH.

Mr. Aframe is a person of the highest integrity who will consistently demonstrate patience, courtesy, empathy and equanimity as a member of the Court. He will serve the cause of justice and decide all cases before him according to the rule of law, and without fear or favor. To our minds, there is no one better-suited or better qualified to join the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and we urge the Committee on the Judiciary to unanimously confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

THOMAS P. COLANTUONO,  
ESQ.,  
*USA-DNH 2001-2009.*  
JOHN P. KACAVAS, ESQ.,  
*USA-DNH 2009-2015.*  
EMILY GRAY RICE, ESQ.,  
*USA-DNH 2016-2017.*  
SCOTT W. MURRAY, ESQ.,  
*USA-DNH 2018-2021.*

OCTOBER 20, 2023.  
Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,  
*Chair, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*  
Hon. LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIR DURBIN AND RANKING MEMBER GRAHAM: We, the undersigned law enforcement officers, submit this letter in support of the nomination of Seth Aframe to the distinguished position of Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Each of us have forged strong working relationships with Seth in his current position as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire.

As case agents and task force officers of multiple federal investigations, ranging from a single individual to multi-defendant, complex conspiracies, each of us has worked closely with Seth and experienced his expertise in all areas of criminal prosecution. From drafting search warrants and Title III applications to interviewing cooperating witnesses to negotiating with defendants and their counsel, Seth played an integral role in the planning and execution of legal strategy for each investigation. Through his leadership and guidance, each member of the prosecution team grew their investigative abilities, all culminating in many successful prosecutions.

Seth's magnetic personality fosters his ability to coordinate and collaborate with multiple law enforcement agencies from federal, state, county and local entities. Seth's dedication and willingness to work all hours of the day, including holidays and weekends, is a testament to his commitment to his peers and his community. Without reservation, we believe Seth will bring that same passion and work ethic to his duties on the Court.

We have observed, firsthand, Seth's professionalism and unmatched abilities as a federal prosecutor. His honesty, straightforward demeanor and overall compassion for people have distinguished him in that role. Those qualities and his commitment to be firm, but always fair, will undoubtedly prepare him for his new role. We, the undersigned law enforcement officers, unequivocally support Seth's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Very Respectfully,  
Christopher Gosselin, Detective, York Police Department; Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Steven Hamel, Detective (Retired), Kittery Police Department, Detective, Berwick Police Department, Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Robert Lukacz, Detective, Portsmouth Police Department, Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Michael McGee, Detective, Manchester Police Department, Task Force Officer, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation; Pat Broderick, Lieutenant, Hudson Police Department, Former Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Christopher Day, Detective (Retired), Manchester Police Department, Former Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Joseph DeWitt, Sergeant, Nashua Police Department, Former Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Juan Infante, Detective Sergeant, New Hampshire State Police, Former Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Michael Molloy, Lieutenant, Hillsborough County Sheriff, Former Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Kevin Rutina, Trooper First

Class (Retired), New Hampshire State Police, Deputy, Strafford County Sheriff, Former Task Force Officer, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

OCTOBER 20, 2023.

Re Nomination of Assistant United States Attorney Seth Aframe to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: We are former Presidents of the New Hampshire Bar Association writing to you as individuals and as New Hampshire attorneys to endorse the nomination of Assistant United States Attorney Seth Aframe, of the United States Attorney's Office in New Hampshire, to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Attorney Aframe has been an Assistant United States Attorney since 2007. He has tried many cases in federal district court as a prosecutor, and he has litigated more than 100 appeals at the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He was appointed Chief of the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office in New Hampshire in 2023. He is also the Appellate Chief for that office. In addition to his extensive work on criminal cases, Attorney Aframe worked in the Civil Division, handling defense and asset-forfeiture cases.

As members of the New Hampshire Bar, we know Attorney Aframe either personally or by his excellent reputation. He is highly regarded for his commitment to justice, his character and integrity, and his intellect. Attorney Aframe is a skilled prosecutor, but he is also one who pays careful attention to the goals of justice and fairness for all involved. The citizens of this country would be well-served to have him as a judge on the Court of Appeals.

By our authorized "signature" below, we endorse Attorney Seth Aframe's nomination and hope that he will be confirmed by your committee.

Thank you,

Jonathan M. Eck, 2022-23; David W. McGrath, 2018-19; Scott H. Harris, 2017-18; Lawrence A. Vogelman, 2012-13; Jennifer L. Parent, 2011-12; Ellen L. Arnold, 2008-09; Eleanor Wm. Dahar, 2007-08; Russell F. Hilliard, 2003-04; George R. Moore, 1999-2000; Randall F. Cooper, 1998-99; Patrick T. Hayes, 1997-98; Bruce W. Felmy, 1995-96; Jack P. Crisp, Jr., 1994-95; Philip R. Waystack, 1987-88; Walter L. Mitchell, 1984-85.

OCTOBER 23, 2023.

Re Nomination of Seth Robert Aframe to the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Hon. RICHARD J. DURBIN,  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN AND RANKING MEMBER GRAHAM: I am writing as a representative of a group of New Hampshire criminal defense lawyers who represent the bulk of the federal criminal defendants in this jurisdiction. Please note we write in our individual capacities and not on behalf of any law firm or organization with which we may be affiliated. We offer the highest possible recommendation for Seth Aframe to become a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

I have been a criminal defense lawyer for almost 20 years, and prior to that I was a state and federal prosecutor. I have previously served as president of the New Hampshire

Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. The group of signatories to this letter have many decades of combined experience representing hundreds of criminal defendants in the federal court here in New Hampshire. We have all come to know Seth in one form or another, many of us coming to know him quite well. Quite simply, he will be an excellent appellate judge.

As defense attorneys in federal court, we have all had difficult cases and clients that make our jobs sometimes especially challenging. They sometimes face years and decades in prison. Due to his abilities, Seth is often assigned the most challenging—factually and/or legally—cases that the United States Attorney's Office handles here. In each case in which Seth has represented the United States, he has demonstrated to his surpassing intellect, professionalism, and integrity. He is a difficult adversary when he needs to be, but he is never unfair. He takes the idea of prosecutor's role to seek justice very seriously, and he embodies that throughout his prosecutorial practice. Through handling difficult cases, and this being a very small federal bar, many of us have come to know Seth personally. I consider him a friend at this point, and I have been glad for him (and the USAO) to see him rise in the ranks in that office over the years. He is an exemplary member of the federal bar.

Seth demonstrates the highest professional competence in his practice. In addition to handling many, if not all, of the truly intricate legal matters that make their way through the criminal division of his office, he also oversaw the Court's drug court program for many years. His writing ability is unparalleled, as are his analytical abilities. Due to his abilities, Seth handles most, if not all, of the appellate matters that come through his office, as well. He always understands the core issues quickly, frames them succinctly, and addresses them in such an analytical manner that it makes it quite easy for the court to understand the central legal issues. His knowledge of federal criminal law, both substantive and procedural seems to be limitless.

As well, Seth has demonstrated the highest and most unwavering integrity during the time that we have known him. He has always—whether it be in an individual case, representing the government in drug court, or advocating for certain policy positions in the office, demonstrated that his sole focus was justice and fairness in a system that is often dictated by factors and players outside the courtroom.

Finally, we believe Seth has a perfect judicial temperament. He shows compassion to victims, witnesses, those he prosecutes, and those with whom he interacts in any other respect in a case. He is and has always been open-minded, but he is quite decisive. In what is often a difficult role as a prosecutor, he epitomizes open-mindedness, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias, and commitment to equal justice under the law.

Seth is what any good lawyer would want in an appellate judge. He is smart, he works hard, he has a large mind, and seeks to do the right thing under the law. I hope that he is approved without reservation. It would serve all who appear before him.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am happy to discuss this matter further with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Keefe, Esq.; Donald Kennedy, Esq.; Robin Melone, Esq.; Adam Bernstein, Esq.; William Christie, Esq.; Michael Iacopino, Esq.; Jeffrey Odland, Esq.; Eric Wolpin, Esq.; Theodore Lothstein, Esq.; Michael Connolly, Esq.; Jeffrey Levin, Esq.; David

Vicinanzo, Esq.; Matthew Vicinanzo, Esq.; Steven Gordon, Esq.; John Newman, Esq.; Robert Carey, Esq.; Daniel Deane, Esq.; Mark Knights, Esq.; Brian Quirk, Esq.; Mark Sisti, Esq.

OCTOBER 12, 2023.

Re Nomination of Seth Robert Aframe to the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Hon. RICHARD J. DURBIN,  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LINDSEY GRAHAM,  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN AND RANKING MEMBER GRAHAM: I write to enthusiastically support the nomination of Seth Aframe to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. I have been a criminal defense lawyer for over 40 years and have served as past President of the New Hampshire Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Board Chair of the New Hampshire Public Defender Program. I have represented many people in our federal court and have come to know Attorney Aframe extremely well. He possesses all of the attributes that an appellate judge should have.

Attorney Aframe certainly has the intellectual capacity to excel as an appellate judge. He has been the member of the United States Attorney's Office most often called upon to handle its appellate work as well as the office's most complicated cases. His writing is clear and persuasive, and his legal analysis is first rate.

What sets Attorney Aframe apart and makes him such a wonderful choice for this role is his judgment as well as his capacity for empathy and compassion. I have observed him deal with defendants, victims, witnesses, law enforcement and all stakeholders in the criminal justice system. He treats everyone with the respect that they deserve in our judicial system. He is a man of great integrity, and I have come to completely trust him. We have had difficult cases together, but he keenly understands that his role is to do justice, and he has the ability to be open-minded, listen, and consider what is fair in a particular situation.

I have spoken with numerous fellow criminal defense lawyers about this nomination. The widespread sentiment is strong support for his confirmation, with the uniform comment that he will be missed as a force for justice and fairness in the United States Attorney's Office. It is not that he is viewed as a soft or lenient prosecutor, but we know him as a good and empathetic person who is committed to the cause of justice. I am confident that he will be a highly competent and deeply compassionate judge who will be an asset to the Court.

Sincerely yours,

CATHY J. GREEN.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Seth Aframe is uniquely positioned to serve on the Federal bench, and I know that his unwavering integrity and deep appellate experience will make him an exceptional addition to the First Circuit.

I was pleased with the cloture vote last Thursday, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I rise today to add my voice to that of my colleague's, Senator SHAHEEN, in supporting the confirmation of Seth Aframe of Hopkinton, NH, to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for

the First Circuit. As you have heard from Senator SHAHEEN, Mr. Aframe would be a valuable addition to the First Circuit bench.

Granite Staters know Mr. Aframe as someone who brings thoughtful judgment and a commitment to fairness to whatever work he is undertaking. He has demonstrated this unwavering commitment to fairness, to justice time and again in his work at the U.S. Attorney's Office, including when he argued cases before the First Circuit.

He exemplified those same values in his work on the LASER Docket, which is a drug court that helps people struggling with addiction to get the treatment that they need—an issue that is particularly important to the people of New Hampshire who have been hit hard by the fentanyl crisis.

His excellence on the job goes hand in hand with the commitment to his community. Even in the midst of his demanding legal career, he continues to find time to give back to his community. He has served both as a member of his local school board and as president of his synagogue, Temple Beth Jacob. Mr. Aframe has also been dedicated to raising up our next generation of advocates and judges. He taught at the University of New Hampshire's law school for 15 years, where he has regularly given his time to serve as a judge at student mock trials.

Mr. Aframe's commitment to the law as well as to his community extends far beyond the confines of his office or work schedule and reflects the values of someone who understands that the commitment to equal justice so essential to our democracy must be highlighted and revered at every level and in every corner of our society.

Throughout the nomination process, members of New Hampshire's legal community have also voiced their strong support for Mr. Aframe's confirmation. Four previous U.S. Attorneys for the District of New Hampshire—appointed by Presidents from both parties—wrote a letter, stating:

Each of us regards Mr. Aframe as a distinguished and persuasive appellate advocate who has successfully represented the government and earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence.

It is not only Mr. Aframe's fellow prosecutors who have confidence in his abilities; New Hampshire defense attorneys, including public defenders, also trust and support Mr. Aframe.

Charles J. Keefe, in a letter on behalf of New Hampshire defense attorneys, wrote:

In what is often a difficult role as a prosecutor, he epitomizes open-mindedness, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias, and commitment to equal justice under the law.

Mr. Aframe also has the backing of many New Hampshire law enforcement officers, including one letter that highlighted:

We have observed, firsthand, Seth's professionalism and unmatched abilities as a Federal prosecutor. His honesty, straightforward demeanor, and overall compassion for people have distinguished him in that role.

I will add that at Friday's New Hampshire Police Memorial Day ceremony, there was more than one member of law enforcement who approached me and said that Seth Aframe is the right person for this job.

It speaks to Mr. Aframe's capabilities and character that he has received such enthusiastic support from both sides of the courtroom—from the legal community and law enforcement alike.

Mr. Aframe receives such widespread support because people from across our legal system see in him someone who is skilled and thoughtful in equal measure; who is always looking for more ways to serve his community and his country; who serves in every role without fear or favor; who needs to be confirmed so that he can continue his lifetime of service—next on the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

#### VOTE ON AFRAFME NOMINATION

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

Ms. CANTWELL. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 172 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Coons	Kelly
Bennet	Cortez Masto	King
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Luján
Booker	Durbin	Manchin
Brown	Fetterman	Markey
Butler	Gillibrand	Merkley
Cantwell	Hassan	Murkowski
Cardin	Heinrich	Murphy
Carper	Hickenlooper	Murray
Casey	Hirono	Ossoff
Collins	Kaine	Padilla

Peters	Shaheen	Warren
Reed	Sinema	Welch
Rosen	Smith	Whitehouse
Sanders	Stabenow	Wyden
Schatz	Van Hollen	
Schumer	Warner	

#### NAYS—40

Barrasso	Ernst	Ricketts
Blackburn	Fischer	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Romney
Braun	Grassley	Rounds
Britt	Hoover	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Sullivan
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Vance
Cramer	Lummis	Wicker
Crapo	McConnell	Young
Cruz	Mullin	
Daines	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—11

Hagerty	Menendez	Tester
Hawley	Moran	Tuberville
Klobuchar	Rubio	Warnock
Marshall	Scott (SC)	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). 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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 571.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dena M. Coggins, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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. 571, Dena M. Coggins, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

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.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 552.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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. 552, Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Mark R. Warner, Patty Murray, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Debbie Stabenow, John W. Hickenlooper.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 20, be waived.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-57, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$250.2 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-57

*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: NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$0.

Other \$250.2 million.

Total \$250.2 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(i) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales case W4-D-QAF was below the congressional notification threshold at \$40.26 million (\$0 in MDE) and included Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) system equipment and support, including: AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. This notification is for the combined non-MDE AGS system equipment and services, including: AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; communications equipment spares; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables, accessories, repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$250.2 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of NATO partners that are a force for political stability and economic progress in the North Atlantic region.

The proposed sale will improve NATO's capability to meet current and future threats by improving and sustaining Allied intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. NATO will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: The following non-MDE items are included: AGS system equipment and support; AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; communications equipment spares; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables, accessories, repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(ii) Military Department: Air Force (W4-D-QAF).

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

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

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

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 16, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

NATO Support and Procurement Agency—Alliance Ground Surveillance Program Equipment and Support

The NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) has requested to buy communications equipment spares and additional items and services that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales case, valued at \$40.26 million, included Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) system equipment and support, including: AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables, accessories, repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. This notification is for the combined non-MDE AGS system equipment and services, including: AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; communications equipment spares; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables, accessories, repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$250.2 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of NATO partners that are a force for political stability and economic progress in the North Atlantic region.

The proposed sale will improve NATO's capability to meet current and future threats by improving and sustaining Allied intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. NATO will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services 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 Northrop Grumman located in Mojave, CA. 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 NATO.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-57

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. This sale includes sensitive classified and unclassified spare components to sustain the aircraft, engine, and AN/APG-68 Synthetic Aperture Radar.

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 advance capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that NATO 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 NATO.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended,

we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-45, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 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.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-45

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\* \$0

Other \$100 million.

Total \$100 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-MDE: Equipment and services for sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and/or Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), as well as other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UP-B-KUP, UP-B-KWA).

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

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technologies Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 16, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—Blanket Order Sustainment of U.S. Army Supplied Systems

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services for sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and/or Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), as well as other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

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 strengthen local sustainment capabilities to maintain high operational rates for U.S.-provided vehicles and weapon systems. This sustainment support will directly contribute to Ukraine's battlefield effectiveness through improved logistics and will contribute to more resilient and rapid repair cycle times.

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

The principal contractor(s) will be determined from approved vendors. 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.

VERMONT SHOOTING

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, on November 25, 2023, three Palestinian American students—Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad—were shot by a local resident while they were walking along a quiet street in Burlington, VT. The three friends had gone to Burlington to celebrate Thanksgiving with Hisham's uncle and grandmother, who lives there. Instead, shots rang out, and they fell to the ground bleeding, for no apparent reason other than that they were speaking a mix of Arabic and English and wearing Palestinian kaffiyehs. Hisham was paralyzed from the chest down and now uses a wheelchair.

This despicable crime shocked and outraged Vermont. This despicable act of violence is a tragic reminder that even relatively tranquil and tolerant communities like Burlington cannot escape the curse of Islamophobia, racism, and other forms of hate, such as anti-Semitism and homophobia. We all have a responsibility to speak out against hatred, extremism, intolerance, and stereotypes that divide our communities and can lead to violence.

The alleged perpetrator of this senseless attack was quickly arrested and is in jail awaiting trial. We can be reasonably confident that justice will be done. But the lives of Hisham, Kinnan and Tahseen have been changed forever.

One of the things that is especially insidious about this crime is that if these three young Palestinians had been shot and wounded or killed back home in the West Bank, the chances that anyone would be arrested or appropriately punished is next to zero, nor would they have access to anything remotely resembling the quality of medical care Hisham is receiving in this country.

Hisham wrote about his experience and what daily life is like for Palestinians in the West Bank in a moving guest essay published in the New York Times on May 16, 2024. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD. I encourage all Senators read it.

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

[May 16, 2024]

I WAS SHOT IN VERMONT. WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN IN THE WEST BANK?

(BY HISHAM AWARTANI)

That frigid autumn night in Burlington, Vt., was not the first time I had stared down the barrel of a gun. It was not even the first time I had been fired at. Half a world away, in the West Bank, it had happened before.

On a hot day in May 2021, a classmate and I, both of us 17 at the time, were protesting near a checkpoint in Ramallah. Bullets, both rubber and metal, were flying into the crowd, even though we were unarmed. I was

hit with one of the former; my classmate, the latter. Before, we had been students cramming for our chemistry final; then, on the other side of Israeli rifles, we were a mass of terrorists, disqualified from humanity.

So that night in November, when my two friends and I were shot while we were walking on North Prospect Street, I was not particularly surprised to find myself lying on the lawn of a white house and blood splattered across the screen of my phone. Back home in Ramallah, I knew that I was one wrong move away from bleeding out; Israeli soldiers have been known to prevent or hinder paramedics from tending to injured Palestinians. But I had never expected to feel this on a quiet street in Vermont, on a stroll before Thanksgiving dinner.

The shooting of three Palestinian Americans in Burlington has received more sustained coverage than any single act of violence against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank since Oct. 7. Why did reporters and news channels interview our mothers and take our portraits when young men my age have been shot at by snipers, detained indefinitely without trial and treated as a statistic? It's a question that has eaten away at me these past months. Was it the shock of such a violent crime in peaceful Vermont? Was it that my friends and I went to well-known American colleges? Did the timing of our shooting during a holiday weekend play a role? I'm sure it did, but to me, the determining factor is the renaming of the crime: Instead of settlements, the Oslo Accords or the intifada, the conversation around our shooting involved terms such as "gun violence," "hate crimes" and "right-wing extremism." Instead of being maimed in Arab streets, we were shot in small-town America. Instead of being seen as Palestinians, for once, we were seen as people.

Death and dehumanization are status quo for Palestinians. We grow used to being funneled through checkpoints and strip-searched, assault rifles trained on us all the while. The result is a constant existential calculus: If an unarmed autistic man, an 8-year-old boy and a journalist wearing a vest emblazoned "Press" could be perceived to be such a threat that they were shot dead, then I must accept that by existing as a Palestinian, I am a legitimate target.

This dynamic was so ubiquitous to me that I could not quite put it into words until I left the West Bank to attend college in the United States. My classes gave me the vocabulary to understand dehumanization, the portrayal of the colonized as a violent primitive. I realized that the infrastructure of the occupation—the checkpoints, the detentions, the armed settlers encroaching—is built around the violence I am assumed to be capable of, not who I am.

This system of othering—Israeli-only roads, fenced-off settlements, the "security" wall—is an inherent part of the Israeli state psyche. Yet far from ensuring Israelis' safety, it instead inflicts mass humiliation on Palestinians. Close to half of the Palestinians alive today were born after the violence of the second intifada, and have interacted with Israelis only in the confines of the security apparatus built in its wake. The military apparatus in my home in the West Bank is a judge, jury and executioner. While settlers in the West Bank are subject to Israeli civilian law, Palestinians are subject to military law. It is as if we are all already combatants.

The dehumanization we face is twofold: Beyond the day-to-day aspects of our lives, it permeates the media coverage of what we experience. In the news, our militancy is presumed, our killers unnamed, and our deaths repackaged into statistics. Somehow, we die

without being killed. The very veracity of our deaths is called into question. The extent of the civilian death toll in Gaza should not come as a surprise when Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, can speak unchecked of "human animals."

My story is one drop in the ocean of suffering faced by Palestinians, and compared to the immense and indescribable suffering of the people of Gaza, frankly trivial. As I wheeled myself down the smooth corridors of the hospital where I received care after the shooting, I thought of those in wheelchairs in Gaza, struggling to navigate the rubble-strewn streets as they fled their homes. I thought of the reports about a woman being shot dead as she held her grandson's hand while he clutched a white flag. I thought of a 17-year-old shot in the back by settlers in the West Bank. The pain of knowing their fates is fathomless, and it has yet to cease.

I think back to the circumstances in which I was shot with my two friends, Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Aliahmad, and imagine them instead in the context of the West Bank. A Hisham, Kinnan and Tahseen shot there could have been left to die. Our names would circulate for a day or two in pro-Palestinian circles, but in the end, we would be commemorated only on a poster in the streets of Ramallah, our faces eventually worn down with time like the countless others I've walked past in the streets of my home. If that scenario does not stir the same feelings in you as my shooting, if your first instinct when a Palestinian is shot, maimed or left handicapped is to find excuses, then I do not want your support.

When I was still in the hospital, my family and I were visited by a friend who had just recently made it out of Gaza. He recounted how he saw the beginning of the Israeli bombing from his balcony, and soon after showered and left his house with a prepacked bag. He told me of tents, of hunger, of explosions, but there is one thing that really stood out for me as he recounted his ordeal.

He explained how the only way for him to survive in Gaza was to accept that he had already died. Only after he had come to terms with the realization that his life as he knew it was over could he enjoy a puff of a cigarette and a sip of coffee in the morning. This acceptance is the goal of the Israeli dehumanization complex. To be Palestinian today is to accept this fate.

I have been back on campus since February, and the adjustment has been tough. The man who is accused of shooting me has pleaded not guilty to three counts of attempted second-degree murder. But my mind is elsewhere. Every morning when I wake up, I check for one number. It has exceeded 35,000. It's difficult for me to come to terms with the reality of so much loss.

In class, between Mesopotamian myths and commutative algebra, a few thoughts play on a loop in my mind: How can we come back from so much grief? How could we let this happen? What are we supposed to make of the world when Palestinian deaths are excused by talking points, repeated again and again on the news? I yearn to return to my home, to my olive trees, my cats and my family.

I realize, though, that when I cross the King Hussein Bridge from Jordan into the West Bank, I will return to my designation as a potential terrorist. I cease to be a junior at Brown University, a student of archaeology and mathematics, a San Francisco Giants fan, a Balkan history nerd. My entire identity will be reduced to my capacity for violence, not as a human being, but as a Palestinian.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTANA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing the Montana Youth Challenge Academy's—MYCA—25th anniversary.

The Youth Challenge Academy in Dillon, MT, is one of approximately 40 programs of its kind across the country and the only one located on a college campus. Over the past 25 years, MYCA has graduated almost 4,000 successful cadets. These young people are empowered to complete their education and choose a new path in life, whether that be enlisting in military service, becoming skilled in the trades industry, or enrolling in college classes; this program lays the foundation for a successful future through their implementation of a quasi-military training model.

Academy leaders and mentors teach valuable life skills while forging trusted relationships with program participants, their parents and guardians, and a network of supporters. Mentorship continues to be among the most unique and important aspects of this program, as it ensures each cadet is receiving support that best fits their needs and promotes a seamless transition into the next phase of their journey. Upon completion of the program, each graduate is connected with a local community mentor for 1 year to help them see how the skills they have learned in the program translate beyond the academy to benefit not just themselves, but their communities. It is clear that when cadets successfully exit the program, they bring with them a renewed sense of confidence, responsibility, and positivity they are ready to share with others.

The Montana Youth Challenge Academy exemplifies what it means to look out for your neighbor and pour into the next generation of Montanans.●

### RECOGNIZING RUTHVEN MEAT PROCESSING

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Ruthven Meat Processing of Ruthven, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2002, Terry and Beth Kraft founded Ruthven Meat Processing in Ruthven in the former Farmers' Creamery building. Ruthven Meat Processing offers customers a wide range of meats, custom meat processing, meat storage, and seasoning rubs. In 2018, Ruthven Meat Processing opened a location in Spirit Lake, IA, and the "Locker at the Park" in Arnolds Park Amusement Park. In 2022, Ruthven Meat Processing

continued to expand with a location in Spencer, IA, named “The Butchery on Grand.” Ruthven Meat Processing also has a retail shop that offers beverages, smoked meats, and cheeses. In addition to their meat and grocery selections, the team at Ruthven Meat Processing provides informational classes on cooking and food preparation.

Ruthven Meat Processing is an exemplary family business. In 2014, Terry and Beth’s son Chris and his wife Suzie moved from Los Angeles to Iowa and began working at Ruthven Meat Processing. In 2019, Terry and Beth Kraft sold Ruthven Meat Processing to their son Chris. Today, Chris serves as the president and CEO. Suzie serves as the vice president of marketing. In addition to handling the marketing for Ruthven Meat Processing, Suzie writes “The Butcher’s Wife” blog. The blog started in 2018 and gives readers a glimpse into life as a butcher, tasty recipes, and insider information on talking to your local butcher about different cuts of meat.

The Ruthven Meat Processing team is well-recognized for their hard work. They have won numerous awards from the Iowa Meat Processors Association, notably the 2017 Grand Champion Innovative Beef and 2016 Reserve Grand Champion Summer Sausage awards. They have also garnered national recognition for their contributions to the meat processing industry. The American Association of Meat Processors awarded Ruthven Meat Processing the 2016 Best of the Midwest Reserve Grand Champion Flavored Bacon award for their pepper bacon. In 2020, the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce named Ruthven Meat Processing the Business of the Year.

The Ruthven Meat Processing team is actively involved in the northwest Iowa community. They are proud supporters of the Special Olympics and sponsored the 2024 Okoboji Winter Games Chili Cook-Off. In 2024, Chris and Suzie participated in Spencer Main Street’s Celebrity Waiter fundraiser to support grants for community development in Spencer. Chris and Suzie Kraft are passionate about their employees and have been designated by the Iowa Economic Development Authority as one of “Iowa’s Best Places for Working Parents.” In 2024, Ruthven Meat Processing celebrated its 22nd business anniversary under the Kraft family’s leadership.

Ruthven Meat Processing’s commitment and passion is clear. I want to congratulate the Kraft family and the entire team at Ruthven Meat Processing for their dedication to providing quality meat, cheese, and butcher services to the northwest Iowa community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13303 OF MAY 22, 2003, WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ—PM 54

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

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, Executive Order 13438 of July 17, 2007, and Executive Order 13668 of May 27, 2014—is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2024.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 2024.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Sec-

retary of the Senate, on May 16, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

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.

H.R. 3935. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed on May 16, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 354. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8146. An act to require a report by the Attorney General on the impact the border crisis is having on law enforcement at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level.

H.R. 8369. An act to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel and other matters.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 354. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 8146. An act to require a report by the Attorney General on the impact the border crisis is having on law enforcement at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4361. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for border security and combatting fentanyl for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 8369. An act to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel and other matters.

## ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

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

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.

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#### 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-4569. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the UK in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTG 24-003); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4570. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Finland, the Netherlands, and the UK in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTG 23-075); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4571. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4572. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the intent to exercise under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to provide assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4573. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Memorandum of Justification for the Emergency Arms Transfers to Ukraine under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4574. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Special Access Program Reporting"; to the Committees on Foreign Relations; Appropriations; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4575. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4576. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4577. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4578. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's annual report for calendar year 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4579. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Norway in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTG 24-003); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4580. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4581. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment, with a sales value of approximately \$95,752,446 (Transmittal No. RSAT-24-10259); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4582. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Index of Legally Marketed Unapproved New Animal Drugs for Minor Species" (Docket No. FDA-2006-N-0239) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4583. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress: Qualifying Payment Amount Audits"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4584. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting proposed legislation entitled "To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act to eliminate withdrawal liability when, pursuant to a Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) contract competition, a new contractor is selected to continue operations at a government-owned, contractor-operated facility or site of DOE/NNSA pursuant to a cost reimbursement contract, and to make the changes provided in Section 1"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4585. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Non-Compete Clause Rule" (RIN3084-AB74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4586. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of

Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities" (RIN1190-AA79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4587. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2023 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4588. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4589. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2023 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4590. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of Federal Prison Industries, Inc., Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to corrections of misstatements in previously issued Federal Prison Industries's financial statements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4591. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation entitled "To permanently establish an Alternative Personnel System based on the National Nuclear Security Administration's current Pay Bending and Performance-Based Adjustment Demonstration Project and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4592. A communication from the Director, Government Publishing Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's annual report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4593. A communication from the Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Service's fiscal year 2023 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4594. A communication from the Administrator of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (Note: OMB has concluded that this memorandum is not a 'rule' within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 804(3). Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, OMB is submitting it to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General consistent with the procedures set forth in 5 U.S.C. 801(a))" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4595. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to exempting "S" nonimmigrants; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4596. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the second session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4597. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, fourteen (14) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4598. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unaccompanied Children Program Foundational Rule" (RIN0970-AC93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4599. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Classification for Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons; Eligibility for 'T' Nonimmigrant Status" (RIN1615-AA59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4600. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Premerger Notification; Reporting and Waiting Period Requirements" (RIN3084-AB36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4601. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Merger Guidelines" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4602. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities-Building Markets and Investing in America's Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers & Forest Owners to Strengthen U.S. Rural and Agriculture Communities" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4603. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indigenous Knowledge Technical Rule" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4604. A communication from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus Thuringiensis Cry1B.868 and Cry1Da.7 Proteins; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 11674-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of

the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4605. A communication from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tetraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 11958-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4606. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Agency Treasury account 1291701D, Economic Research Service; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4607. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4608. A communication from the President of the United States transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts received during adjournment of the Senate on April 25, 2024; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4609. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to discretionary appropriations legislation within seven calendar days of enactment (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays); to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4610. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "OMB Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2024"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Joint Committee on Taxation; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

#### 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. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4367. A bill to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 4368. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require, as a condition of receiving Federal Medicaid funding, that States do not prohibit in vitro fertilization (IVF) services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 4369. A bill to require the Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center to develop a strategy and conduct outreach to United States industry, including shipping companies, port operators, and logistics firms, on the risks of smartport technology of the People's Republic of China and other related risks, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 138

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

S. 210

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to expand employees eligible for leave and employers subject to leave requirements.

S. 831

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 831, a bill to address transnational repression by foreign governments against private individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1516

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1516, a bill to authorize funding to expand and support enrollment at institutions of higher education that sponsor construction and manufacturing-oriented registered apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1631

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

S. 2150

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2150, a bill to establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to require the

Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2477, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2895

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 3197

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3197, a bill to establish and authorize funding for an Iranian Sanctions Enforcement Fund to enforce United States sanctions with respect to Iran and its proxies and pay off the United States public debt and to codify the Export Enforcement Coordination Center.

S. 3297

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3297, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program.

S. 3308

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3308, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the number of local wage areas allowable within a General Schedule pay locality.

S. 3502

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

S. 3959

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3959, a bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to streamline the enrollment processes for individuals applying for a Transportation Security Administration security threat assessment for certain programs, including the Transportation Worker Identification Credential and Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment programs of the Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4141

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts

(Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4141, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the FIFA World Cup 2026, and for other purposes.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) 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. 4283

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4283, a bill to establish grants to provide education on guardianship alternatives for older adults and people with disabilities to health care workers, educators, family members, and court workers and court-related personnel.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) 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. 4317

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4317, a bill to appropriate funds for the Federal Communications Commission's "rip and replace" program and Affordable Connectivity Program, to improve the Affordable Connectivity Program, to require a spectrum auction, and for other purposes.

S. 4321

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4321, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the payment of annuities and retired pay to individuals convicted of certain sex crimes.

S. 4360

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4360, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Edward J. Dwight, Jr., the first African American astronaut candidate in the United States.

S. 4362

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4362, a bill to increase parking opportunities for persons recreating at Federal recreational lands and waters, and for other purposes.

S. 4363

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

of S. 4363, a bill to secure the rights of public employees to organize, act concerted, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 76

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) 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. 86

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 86, 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 for Interagency Cooperation".

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Charlie November and Quinn Eisenfeld, who are interns in my office, be granted floor privileges until May 21, 2024.

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

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4361

Mr. SCHUMER. I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4361) making emergency supplemental appropriations for border security and combatting fentanyl for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 8369

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8369) to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel and other matters.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 115-123, on behalf of the Majority Leader of the Senate, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships: Carol B. Kellermann of New York (For a two year term beginning June 6, 2024).

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 21; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lanham nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during Thursday's session ripen at 11:30 a.m.; and that following the cloture vote on the Lanham nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture has been invoked on the Lanham nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. JORGE M. FONSECA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. NICOLE M. BALLIET

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

##### To be brigadier general

COL. CINDY M. SALADIN-MUHAMMED

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. THOMAS C. FRILOUX

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

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

##### To be major

CHRISTOPHER J. ROLLINS

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

##### To be major

NYREE Y. WATTS

##### IN THE ARMY

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

##### To be lieutenant colonel

EDWARD Y. PARK

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

##### To be lieutenant colonel

BRIDGETTE R. BELL

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

##### To be major

JAMAL D. SNELL

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

##### To be major

TERENCE W. PHILLIPS II

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

##### To be major

ZACHARY T. GOEHLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

##### To be major

KEITH M. SANDERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

##### To be major

CHELSEA M. TRUAX

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

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

##### To be major

TAYLOR B. EVANS

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

##### To be major

JACOB C. PIPPING

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

##### To be lieutenant colonel

SHAWN R. LOUGHMAN

#### IN THE NAVY

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

##### To be lieutenant commander

HANA LEE

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

##### To be lieutenant commander

TIMOTHY P. FLETCHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

##### To be captain

MARK K. ANDERSON

DAVID J. KRUG

JONATHAN P. PHILLIPS

JASON D. SHELL

GERALD V. WEERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

##### To be commander

ANASTASIA S. ABID

DOMINIC D. BAGLEY

BRANDON W. BEAM

MARK T. BRANDAU

STEVEN L. BRIGGS II

DOYE A. BYRD

JUSTIN S. CARTER

RUSSELL D. CONWAY

JONATHAN R. DAVIS

MATTHEW C. DENHERDER

TAMFU G. FOMUSO

GASTON A. HATFIELD, JR.

VINCENT A. JUNOR

CHRISTOPHER M. MAROLT

KAFAYAT O. OLANIRAN

NICHOLAS E. PRESLEY

TIMOTHY A. REEVES II

THOMAS M. SMITH

ABDOU LAYE SYLLA

JABBUR H. TOMA

ASHLEY L. WARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

##### To be lieutenant commander

ADAM D. AHLSTROM

ANDREW D. ANDERSON

JOHN G. BELANGER

KWAZEL A. BERTRAND

TYLER H. BOLLMAN

SEAN M. BRENNAN

RYAN J. BREZNICK

KENNETH W. BUCHANAN

WILLIAM C. DAVISON

DREW W. DENNO

MATTHEW W. ECKES

ALFRED P. GARVEY

THOMAS O. HILL

PAUL W. JOHANNES

BRADLEY W. KETTERER

BRYAN A. LABOY

CHRISTOPHER A. LAMBACH

KURT C. LYNN

CHRISTOPHER J. MALERK

ROBERT R. MANGINI

MATHIAS J. MCDONOUGH

RILEY J. MILLER

LAURENCE H. MOORE

NICHOLAS S. NALBONE

PATRICK H. NEGUS

BRIAN K. REESE

TAYLOR B. SETNESS

RYAN M. SHOWS

PATRICK R. SIMMONS

ZACHARY D. SLADE

TREVOR W. STEFANSKI

ANTHONY J. TAGARIELLO

FRANKLIN E. TENNEY

SHARIKA S. TUCKER

KEVIN J. WEEKS

SHARI L. YURICK

JEREMIAH J. ZAMORA

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 20, 2024:

##### THE JUDICIARY

SETH ROBERT AFRAME, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT.