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:

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. The leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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
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, protected by the clerical establishment and the JCPOA.

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 pro-violence rhetoric, deploying missiles, cruise missiles, and UAVs while making steady progress toward nuclear weapons capabilities.

So I would also like to extend my condolences to the neighbors and friends of those 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 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 bureaucracies branding a contrived and perverted authority. In the same breath, the self-aggrandizing prosecutor of 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 conduct politicized investigations of American servicemen, 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 an attempt to equate—equate—Hamas’s calculated cruelty with Israel’s right to self-defense.

Putting its ignorance on full display, the judicial bureaucracy 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 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 done, to 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, to-morrow the Senate Judiciary Com-mittee—which I chair—will hold a hearing on competition in the prescrip-tion drug market and its impact on the prices that Americans pay for medica-tion.

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 the same 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 $75. 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 price of $137,000, 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.

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 at 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. Yes, just $1.

They said a life-saving 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 passed 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 $25 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 con- traction 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 these heavily advertised drugs on television.
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 to your citizens.

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 Americans 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 never fail to mention: 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, AbVie, 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 for 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 always 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 $1 trillion 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, patent thickets, and product hops, among other issues. This includes my bill with Senators TILLS, COONS, and GRASSLEY to improve information sharing between the FDA and the Patent Office to ensure transparency in the representations made by pharmaceutical companies to prevent gamesmanship.

Tomorrow’s hearing is going to be cochaired 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I would like to begin with a statement about the ICC prosecutor’s announcement about the arrest warrants for four individuals.

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 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 tragic 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 terrorism 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—Senator Murphy and I brought what we hoped was the 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 contented 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 is not only 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—seriously serious—about fixing the problem. I implore my Republican colleagues to join us in advancing this bill. We are going to need bipartisan support if
There is no 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 the 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 past immigration 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 reflects 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 my 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 tradition, bipartisanship is with 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 fall 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 fall 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 important 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 signature achievement in African American history. 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 extend ajudiciary to rubberstamp a president 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 Afrome of New Hampshire to be a circuit court judge on the First Circuit.

Mr. Afrome would make an exceptional addition to the First Circuit and was given a unanimous rating of “well qualified” by the American Bar Association. Afrome, a former staffer in 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. Afrome will be the first Jewish 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 tem. 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 since President Biden took office. 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 Wall Street Journal, the New York Times—are right that what President Biden is saying about inflation is patently false; it is wrong.

In January of 2021, the day that President—in 2020—President Biden— took the oath of office, the inflation rate in America was 1.4 percent. Today, prices are almost 29 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 it is not the 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 backbone 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—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 additional 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 25 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 office, 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 have gone 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 you that they are overextended and they are distressed and they are begging for relief. Today’s high prices and high interest rates are going to that. It 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.

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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 raged out with guns, shattering, flames erupting. Just 3 hours into the strike began, the first bank was robbed. Robbers stormed nine more before the police returned. Thieves, vandalism, and mob violence took the city by storm. There were 450 break-ins and over 30 armed holdups, and one 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 results 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 we 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 best to 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 worked with me on crafting 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 our communities safe. 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 certainty 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, sometimes without ever even realizing it. But if trends continue, we will inch closer to living the nightmare of a world without police.

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, it makes sense 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 still require ongoing investment by our federal government. and the Senate have both chosen to support our police as they face these staffing challenges. I urge President Biden to continue by signing the Recruit and Retain Act into law.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

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, President Biden, 100-mile-per-hour winds ripped through the region, tearing windows out of sky-scrapers in downtown Houston and toppling transmission towers, power lines, and uprooting trees. Homes, businesses, roads, and vehicles were damaged or destroyed, 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 as much as we can to help those communities rebuild.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, we know we are about 6 months out from the next election, 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 economy, Texas has reached a 40-year high and is stuck 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 unacceptably 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 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’s going to stay expired.

Well, forget for a minute that President Biden has misrepresented who benefited from the tax cut and bringing more money 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. The storm 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 mentioned, 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 have based on President’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 he would walk back 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 giveaways 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 tax- write-off assistance to buy an electric vehicle, including those made in China.

Democrats passed this bill at a time when many people couldn’t—if you 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 the government’s 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 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, many Americans who have been scrimping and saving for years in order to make ends meet. Costs of groceries, gas, rent have skyrocketed, while household incomes remain anemic.

Many Americans who have been experiencing pain 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 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, President 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 all agreed to that. Do you 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. Why are the workers of 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 much. He said he’s going 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, 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 workforce.’’

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 ‘‘cum on his knee.’’

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 her 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 ran his hand up her shirt 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 shouted at 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 verbal abuse and bullying; 60 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 at the FDIC, 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 creeper because of these reports. In fact, the FDIC had a real and widespread fear of retaliation from the Agency’s management.

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.

Mr. Gruenberg’s employees there, but not all of them. And they did report their harassment at 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, he compiled this report. Mr. Gruenberg died every single, solitary allegation.

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, he compiled this report. Mr. Gruenberg died 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: Gruenberg’s “apparent inability or unwillingness to recognize how others experience certain difficult interactions with him” would make it “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 and 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 behavior 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 Federal Agency.

If the executives at the FDIC had any sense of decency, they would resign today, not delay. I am not sure my stomach can stand it.

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 appoint a spokesperson 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 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 that was 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
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 Judge 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 2005, he moved to New Hampshire, where he served as Chief of the Civil 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.

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 sentence below the statutory minimum. The judge ultimately sentenced the defendant to 361 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 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. 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 there is any practicing attorney who has briefed and argued more cases before 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.

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 he also diligently earned the trust of juries and has prosecuted 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, 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.

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 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 decision rendered by the Court thereafter.

[We 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 for all.]

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 Graham,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR DURBIN AND RANKING MEMBER GRAHAM:

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, 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,

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Chair, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

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U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

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Sincerely,
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 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 Appellate 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 someone 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.

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

Thank you,


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. DOUG 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 of 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 30 years. I am proud to tell you of the unique and challenging skills of Seth Aframe, a state and federal prosecutor. He has 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 system 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 job sometimes especially challenging. They sometimes face years and decades in prison. Due to his abilities, Seth is often assigned the most challenging—factually and legally any briefs 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 a prosecutor’s role to serve 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. 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 cases that may 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 the office. Attorney Aframe 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 unwavering integrity during the time that we have known him. He has always—whether in a criminal 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. It 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 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 well. Thank you for considering this matter. I am happy to discuss this matter further with you at any time.

Sincerely,


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 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 who has been 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 he would likely have 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. I believe the uniform sentiment is that he will be more than qualified to serve on the federal bench, and I know that he 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.
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 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 has the backing of many New Hampshire law enforcement officials, including one letter that highlighted:

We have observed, firsthand, Seth’s professionalism and unmatched abilities as a Federal Prosecutor. His Integrity, 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 life-time 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 AFRAME 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 Senate 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:

(Pollcall Vote No. 172 Ex.)

YEAS—49

Baldwin
Benet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Butler
Canwell
Cardin
Casey
Collins

Coons
Cortez Masto
Dukakis
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Reisch
Hassan
Heinrich
Hirono
Kaine

Kelly
King
Lugar
Markley
Merkley
Markowitz
Marcher
Murphy
Nelson
Padilla

Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Butler
Canwell
Cardin
Collins

Dukakis
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Hassan
Heinrich
Hirono
Kaine

Duckworth
Emhoff
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hassan
Hirono

Kelly
Kaine

The nomination was confirmed.

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 has 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 B. Butler, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood
LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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.

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

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


Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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 unlimited in period of time 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–425.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY

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 Letters 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—Alliance Ground Surveillance Program


(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.

*1AAs defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The 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/AGP–68 radar processors; classified and unclassified AGS system equipment and services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $250.2 million.

The NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) for defense articles and services estimated to cost $250.2 million.

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/AGP–68 radar processors; classified and unclassified AGS system equipment and 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.

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

The principal contractor will be Northrop Grumman, 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

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
COORDINATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.
Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington DC.

Dear 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 Support Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), as well as other related elements of logistics and program support.

(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 the sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Support 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 Northrop Grumman, 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 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, Kinan Abdulhamid, and Tahseen Ali Alham—were shot and killed 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.

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, Kinan 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 to 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 the Israeli occupation 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 classmates, the latter. Before, we had been students cramping 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 walking home from school on North Prospect Street, I was not particularly surprised to find myself lying on the lawn of a white house and blood splattered on the asphalt. The main reason of my phone home in Ramallah, I knew that I was one wrong move away from bleeding out; Israeli soldiers have been known to prevent or hinder the delivery of medical aid to Palestinian civilians. But I had never expected to feel this on a quiet street in Vermont, on a stroll before Thanksgiving dinner.

The 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 cease to be a junior journalist wearing a vest once, we were seen as people. Instead of being seen as Palestinians, for streets, we were shot in small-town America. The man who is accused of shooting me has a 17-year-old shot in the back by settlers in the West Bank. A Hisham, Kinnan and Tahseen's story is one drop in the ocean of suffering faced by Palestinians, and compared to the immense and inescapable suffering of the people of our land, it can be seen as a drop in the bucket.

My story is one drop in the ocean of suffering faced by Palestinians, and compared to the immense and inescapable suffering of the people of our land, it can be seen as a drop in the bucket. If an unarmed autistic man, an 8-year-old boy and a journalist wearing a vest were not to come as a surprise when Israel's defense minister, Yuli Edelstein, can speak unchecked of “human animals.”

This dynamic was so ubiquitous to me that I could not quite put it into words until I left my classmate, a 17-year-old shot in the back by settlers in the West Bank, a Hisham, Kinnan and Tahseen's story is one drop in the ocean of suffering faced by Palestinians, and compared to the immense and inescapable suffering of the people of our land, it can be seen as a drop in the bucket.

The dehumanization we face is twofold: Being shot, I thought of those in wheelchairs in Gaza, struggling to navigate the rubble-strewn streets as they fled their homes. The realization that his life as he knew it was over could he enjoy a puff of a cigarette in his room. 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, Yuli Edelstein, can speak unchecked of “human animals.”

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 cease to be a junior journalist wearing a vest once, we were seen as people. Instead of being seen as Palestinians, for streets, we were shot in small-town America. The man who is accused of shooting me has a 17-year-old shot in the back by settlers in the West Bank. A Hisham, Kinnan and Tahseen's story is one drop in the ocean of suffering faced by Palestinians, and compared to the immense and inescapable suffering of the people of our land, it can be seen as a drop in the bucket.

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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 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 the butcher’s life, 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 received 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 also active 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 Winter 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 BEFORE 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 main­tention 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 Sec­retary 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.

S. 3939. 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. 3184. 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. 3939. 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 time and 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. 3184. 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. 3939. 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 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 and require government agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–4560. 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. DDTC 23–081); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4567. 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. DDTC 23–080); 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 Committee 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–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 of Defense (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, 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. DDTC 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 $90,752,446 (Transmittal No. RSAT–24–10259); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4583. 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 18, 2024, 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 (NNNSA) contract competition, a new contractor is selected to continue operations at a government-contractor-operated facility or site of DOE/NNSS in 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” (RIN3098–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, 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 28, 2024, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4587. A communication from the Chairmen of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s 2023 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Special 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 Employees Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) 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’ 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 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4594. 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–4595. A communication from the Administrator of Information and Programs, 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 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 28, 2024, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

At the request of Mr. Trujillo, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Boozman) 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

At the request of Mr. Tillis, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Bickertts) 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.

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.

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.

At the request of Ms. Ernst, 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.

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.

At the request of Mr. Bennett, 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.

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.

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 concertedly, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

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 combating 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

TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL

COL. JORGE M. FRONSECA

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 12200 AND 12211:

TO BE MAJOR GENERAL

BRIG. GEN. NICOLE M. BALLIST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12200:

TO BE MAJOR

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 12200 AND 12211:

TO BE MAJOR GENERAL

BRIG. GEN. THOMAS C. FELOUX

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 12200:

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 12200:

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 MAJOR

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 MAJOR

BRIDGETT 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

TRENCE 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. GOHSLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 6324 AND 6764:

TO BE MAJOR

KEITH M. SANDERS

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 6764:

TO BE MAJOR

CHELSEA M. TISAX

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 R. 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 BRIGADIER GENERAL

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 MAJOR

ANASTASIA A. ARID

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 BRIGADIER GENERAL

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 BRIGADIER GENERAL

TIMOTHY P. FLETCHER

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

TO BE MAJOR

MARK K. ANDERSON

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

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 20, 2024: THE JUDICIARY

S3782

RUTH ROBERT APRIAME, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT.
SENIATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will print in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
MAY 22

Time to be announced
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Business meeting to consider S. 3772, to amend the Small Business Act to require that plain writing statements regarding the solicitation of subcontractors be included in certain subcontracting plans, S. 3971, to amend the Small Business Act to require reporting on additional information with respect to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, S. 491, to require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, and an original bill entitled “The STEP Modernization Act of 2024”.

9:45 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to consider S. 4589, to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize that Act, S. 3584, to amend title 48, United States Code, to include Indian Tribes among entities that may receive Federal surplus real property for certain purposes, S. 3880, to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to make improvements to that Act, S. 1283, to designate the United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, as the “Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex”.

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the Family First Prevention Services Act, focusing on successes, roadblocks, and opportunities for improvement.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine restoring Congressional oversight over emergency power focusing on exploring options to reform the National Emergencies Act.

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

10:30 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine water scarcity in a changing climate.

11:45 a.m.
Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies—2024
Organizational business meeting to designate the Chair, designate the 2025 Inaugural site, approve the Inaugural budget, and designate official staff representatives.

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Sergeant at Arms and Architect of the Senate and the United States Capitol Police.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Economic Policy
To hold hearings to examine protecting consumers’ pocketbooks, focusing on lowering food prices and combating corporate price gouging and consolidation.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety
To hold hearings to examine new standards and practices in mining, focusing on health and safety.

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine public safety and justice resources in Native communities.

4:45 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy’s atomic energy defense activities and Department of Defense nuclear weapons programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program.

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and for the National Science Foundation.

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the Older Americans Act, focusing on the local impact of the law and the upcoming reauthorization.

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the National Institutes of Health.

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the front lines of the opioid crisis, focusing on supporting communities and combating addiction through prevention and treatment.

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 3079, to authorize the Department of Labor to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, S. 3765, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program, S. 4351, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control programs, S. 3775, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act, S. 4325, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program relating to lifespan respite care, S. 3707, to reauthorize the congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, S. 4945, to require a study on public health impacts as a consequence of the February 3, 2023, train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, the nomination of Stephen H. Ravas, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

10 a.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
Closed committee meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.
Corporation for National and Community Service, and other pending calendar business.  

Committee on the Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program.  

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for Indian Country.  

Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Fish and Wildlife Service.  

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe  
To hold hearings to examine supporting Georgia’s sovereignty and democracy.  

TBA
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3763–S3782

Measures Introduced: Three bills were introduced, as follow: S. 4367–4369

Appointments:

Commission on Social Impact Partnerships: The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 115–123, on behalf of the Majority Leader of the Senate, reappointed 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).

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a 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; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–54)


A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 21, 2024; that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2024, ripen at 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday, May 21, 2024; and that if cloture has been invoked on the nomination all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.

Coggins Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Dena M. Coggins, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Angela M. Martinez, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Dalton Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Dena M. Coggins, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 49 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 172), Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

4 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Measures Read the First Time:

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Executive Communications:
House of Representatives

Chamber Action
The House was not in session. The House will meet at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS
(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D485)
H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs. Signed on May 16, 2024. (Public Law 118–63)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Army, 10 a.m., SD–192.
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense space activities in review of the Defense Authoriza-
tion Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports, to hold hearings to examine the roadway safety crisis and highlighting community solutions, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the opportunities, risks, and challenges associated with growth in demand for electric power in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.
Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine child savings accounts and other tax-advantaged accounts benefitting American children, 10 a.m., SD–215.
Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine trade enforcement and entry of merchandise at U.S. ports, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.
Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of State, focusing on American diplomacy and global leadership, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, to hold hearings to examine feeding a healthier America, focusing on current efforts and potential opportunities for Food is Medicine, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine fraud and Zelle, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.
Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine competition in the prescription drug market, focusing on ensuring affordable and accessible medications, 10 a.m., SD–226.
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine prison labor in America, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

House
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, markup on the Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025, 6 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4763, the “Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act”; H.R. 5403, the “CBDC Anti-Surveillance State Act”; and H.R. 192, to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia, 4 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 21 through May 24, 2024

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Krissa M. Lanham, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Krissa M. Lanham, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Angela M. Martinez, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Also, Senate expects to consider S.J. Res. 58, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces”.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: May 21, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Army, 10 a.m., SD–192.

May 21, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

May 22, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD–192.

May 22, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate and the United States Capitol Police, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

May 23, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and for the National Science Foundation, 9:30 a.m., SD–192.

May 23, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for the National Institutes of Health, 10 a.m., SD–124.

May 23, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2025 for Indian Country, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: May 21, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense space activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

May 22, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy’s atomic energy defense activities and Department of Defense nuclear weapons programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program, 4:45 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: May 22, Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine protecting consumers’ pocketbooks, focusing on lowering food prices and combatting corporate price gouging and consolidation, 2:30 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: May 22, to hold hearings to examine water scarcity in a changing climate, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 21, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports, to hold hearings to examine the roadway safety crisis and highlighting community solutions, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 21, to hold hearings to examine the opportunities, risks, and challenges associated with growth in demand for electric power in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–566.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: May 22, business meeting to consider S. 4359, to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize that Act, S. 3564, to amend title 40, United States Code, to include Indian Tribes among entities that may receive Federal surplus real property for certain purposes, S. 3880, to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to make improvements to that Act, S. 4293, to designate the United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, as the “Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex”, H.R. 4688, to direct the Administrator of General Services to sell the property known as the Webster School, and an original bill entitled, “Water Resources Development Act of 2024”; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine Federal programs for the circular economy, focusing on state and local perspectives on efforts to improve reuse and recycling, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.
Committee on Finance: May 21, to hold hearings to examine child savings accounts and other tax-advantaged accounts benefiting American children, 10 a.m., SD–215.

May 21, Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine trade enforcement and entry of merchandise at U.S. ports, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

May 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Family First Prevention Services Act, focusing on successes, roadblocks, and opportunities for improvement, 10 a.m., SD–215.

May 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the front lines of the fentanyl crisis, focusing on supporting communities and combating addiction through prevention and treatment, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 21, to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of State, focusing on American diplomacy and global leadership, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 21, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, to hold hearings to examine feeding a healthier America, focusing on current efforts and potential opportunities for Food is Medicine, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

May 22, Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine new standards and practices in mining, focusing on health and safety, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

May 23, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 3679, to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, S. 3765, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program, S. 4351, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control programs, S. 3775, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act, S. 4325, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program relating to life-span respite care, S. 3757, to reauthorize the congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, S. 4045, to require a study on public health impacts as a consequence of the February 3, 2023, train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, the nomination of Stephen H. Ravas, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 21, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine fraud and Zelle, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

May 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine restoring Congressional oversight over emergency powers, focusing on exploring options to reform the National Emergencies Act, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: May 22, to hold an oversight hearing to examine public safety and justice resources in Native communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 21, to hold hearings to examine competition in the prescription drug market, focusing on ensuring affordable and accessible medications, 10 a.m., SD–226.

May 21, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine prison labor in America, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

May 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–226.

May 23, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: May 22, business meeting to consider S. 3772, to amend the Small Business Act to require that plain writing statements regarding the solicitation of subcontractors be included in certain subcontracting plans, S. 3971, to amend the Small Business Act to require reporting on additional information with respect to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, S. 4341, to require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, and an original bill entitled, “The STEP Modernization Act of 2024”, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 22, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: May 23, to hold hearings to examine the Older Americans Act, focusing on the local impact of the law and the upcoming reauthorization, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

House Committees


May 22, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Nutritious Foods in the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)”, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

May 22, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the Department of State, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

May 23, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, markup on the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2025, 8:30 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

May 23, Full Committee, markup on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2025, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, May 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8070, the “Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, May 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Breaking Up Health Care Monopolies: Examining the Budgetary Effects of Health Care Consolidation”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

May 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Calling for Accountability: Stopping Antiseismic College Chaos”, 9:45 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 22, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing on a Legislative Proposal to Sunset Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

May 22, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Check Up: Examining FDA Regulation of Drugs, Biologics, and Devices”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.


Committee on Financial Services, May 22, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “PHA Oversight: How Scandals and Mismanagement Harm Residents and Taxpayers”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8437, to provide for congressional oversight of proposed changes to arms sales to Israel; H.R. 8315, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to prevent foreign adversaries from exploiting United States artificial intelligence and other enabling technologies, and for other purposes; and H. Res. 616, expressing support for any Afghans who assisted in the United States mission in Afghanistan, 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.


May 23, Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled “Money is Policy: Assessing Shortcomings in the State Department’s Foreign Assistance Grants Process”, 10:30 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.


May 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1398, the “Protect America’s Innovation and Economic Security from CCP Act”; H.R. 7909, the “Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act”; and H.R. 8296, the “GAO Database Modernization Act”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives”, 10 a.m. 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, May 22, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 7776, the “Help Hoover Dam Act”; H.R. 7872, the “Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act”; H.R. 7938, the “Klamath Basin Water Agreement Support Act of 2024”; and H.R. 8263, the “Rural Jobs and Hydropower Expansion Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.


May 22, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled “A Hearing with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Senior Scientific Advisor, Dr. David Morens”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Energy”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 23, Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, hearing entitled “What We Have Here is a Failure to Collaborate: Review of GAO’s Annual Duplication Report”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Check Up: Examining FDA Regulation of Drugs, Biologics, and Devices”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Biden Administration’s Failure to Consider Small Businesses”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 23, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Review of Fiscal Year 2025 Maritime Transportation Budget Requests, Pt 2: The Coast Guard”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, May 23, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “ Outstanding or Unsatisfactory?: Examining Whether the Biden Administration is Holding VA’s Leaders Accountable”, 2:30 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, May 22, Full Committee, business meeting on documents protected under Internal Revenue Code section 6103, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meeting

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies—2024: May 22, organizational business meeting to designate the Chair, designate the 2025 Inaugural site, approve the Inaugural budget, and designate official staff representatives, 11:45 a.m., S–219, Capitol.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, May 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Krissa M. Lanham, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Krissa M. Lanham, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Angela M. Martinez, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Also, Senate expects to consider S.J. Res. 58, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces”.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Krissa M. Lanham until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Tuesday, May 21

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of Rules.