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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 1 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, thank You for the continuous blessings of Your handiwork. From the first blush of dawn to the wonders of the starry heavens, we are daily made aware of Your creative might.

Lord, bless our Senators to see the wonder of Your presence on Capitol Hill. In the hands of the many workers who enable them to do their work, give our lawmakers the wisdom to catch a glimpse of the unity and cooperation You desire for them. Make our legislators willing to both receive and give forgiveness as they manifest Your spirit in deeds of kindness. As our lives intertwine through common task, remind us all that, ultimately, we are accountable to You.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 29, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will proceed to executive session to resume the nomination which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Stacey D. Neumann, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

TERRORISM

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the partners, puppets, and proxies of America's biggest adversaries spent a busy weekend repressing and killing innocent people.

On Saturday, in the Golan Heights, Israeli Druze children were playing soccer when Hezbollah launched a rocket made in Iran and killed 12 of them. On Sunday, Venezuela's communist dictator hijacked an election, promising the suffering people of his country even more brutal days to come.

We live in a world where thuggish repression and terrorist violence are increasingly common. Tragically, the slaughter of innocent children by terrorists is not surprising. Neither, unfortunately, is a stooge of the world's most powerful authoritarian's tightening his own chokehold on power.

But one thing doesn't ever get less shocking or alarming: the continued naivete with which our leaders respond. The Secretary of State says the Biden-Harris administration has "serious concerns that the result announced does not reflect the will or the votes of the Venezuelan people."

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



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Well, many of us have serious and longstanding concerns that the administration does not know how to credibly change the calculus of America's adversaries. Autocrats don't care about disapproving looks from Western diplomats.

Don't believe me? Ask the mullahs in Tehran how worried they were about stern condemnations of their ongoing nuclear enrichment efforts.

We certainly don't have to wonder whether promises of sanction relief from Washington succeeded in convincing Nicolas Maduro to permit a free and fair election.

"Concern" is not a strategy. And speeches, for that matter, are not policy, especially when they are not backed by facts and by force.

Last week, President Biden tooted the horn of his own foreign policy and declared proudly that "the United States is not at war anywhere in the world." Well, that was news to America's servicemembers deployed in harm's way.

The very next day, Iran-backed terrorists attacked U.S. personnel in Iraq and in Syria again. For months, at his orders, U.S. Navy destroyers have expended more than \$1 billion in high-tech munitions to intercept the Houthis' Iran-made arsenal of missiles and drones in exchange for no measurable increase in deterrence.

It is well and good to insist America is not at war, but a growing list of authoritarians, rogues, and strongmen are at war with us. The President's failure to respond decisively to threats may have let him believe we are not at war, but the same failure has emboldened our adversaries.

Time and again, the Biden-Harris administration has limited support, agonized over perceived risks of escalation, and tried to micromanage the way our friends in Ukraine and Israel actually defend themselves. In Secretary Blinken's first public comment after Hezbollah's most recent strike, he insisted that "we don't want to see it spread." Well, neither did Israel on October 6, before Hamas spread murderous violence into peaceful kibbutzim, in violation of a cease-fire agreement. And neither does Israel now, as its military continues to focus on finishing the job against Hamas and building the pressure necessary to secure a stable peace.

There is simply no question Iran and its proxies are the instigators and aggressors in this conflict. They have planned and prepared this violence for years. And they will escalate, spread, and perpetuate it until it is no longer in their interests to do so.

If the so-called international community wants an end to the war in Gaza and chaos in the region, they can do more than issue statements expressing concern about escalation. It is past time for civilized countries to present Tehran with cold consequences, with heavy pressure on the leaders responsible for the campaign of death and de-

struction across the Middle East. Instead, Western leaders have repeatedly blamed the victim.

This is the message sent by Democrats who boycotted the joint address to Congress by the democratically elected Prime Minister of Israel. This is the message sent by their presumptive Presidential nominee who, instead of extending a hand of solidarity, pressured a friend and ally to cease military operations to defend itself.

This sort of pressure will please the American left, but restraining Israel also pleases the butchers in Tehran.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, the Supreme Court is under attack. Prominent Democrats say it must do what they want and not what the laws and the Constitution require.

They have incited violence against the Court. We have had to put Justices under 24/7 police protection. Even so, a deranged young man is about to go on trial for trying to kill a Justice and his family while they slept in order to change the outcome of a case.

In polling last year, the Court was the highest level of trust from the public. But that hasn't stopped Democrats from devoting the last 8 years from an all-out campaign against the Court's legitimacy—and, ultimately, against its very existence. Radical liberals have called for Court packing.

Influential Members of this body, including the senior Senator from Rhode Island and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee have threatened ominously that:

Perhaps the Court can heal itself before the public demands it be "restructured."

The left wage daily warfare against the Justices, illegally picketing their neighborhoods with impunity, trying to harm their spouses' careers, and even spying on what kinds of flags they fly in their yards.

Today, the Biden-Harris administration, which desperately wants these radical votes, is once again jumping right into the fray. After talking to a Harvard Law extremist who had helped then-Senator Biden stage-manage the character assassination of Robert Bork almost 40 years ago, they decided the time has come to eliminate the Supreme Court as we know it.

In his op-ed, the President says he wants term limits on Justices, never mind what the Constitution says, never mind the advice-and-consent role of the Senate. President Biden and his leftist allies don't like the current composition of the Court, so they want to shred the Constitution to change it. He wants what he calls an "ethics code," but that already exists. What the President is actually proposing is a stealth process for people other than the Justices to decide cases. Again, Constitution be damned.

The fact is that President Biden himself came to office and stood up a Commission to investigate whether to change the Supreme Court. This morn-

ing, the President thanked this Commission for its "insightful analysis" that supposedly informed his reform proposals.

Never mind now—never mind—that this Commission, cochaired by one of his closest political confidants, didn't actually recommend that he do anything. On the contrary, it explained in detail the challenges posed by hare-brained ideas like term limits.

As one of the Members noted:

We ought to be really careful about tinkering with the Supreme Court because you just don't know what the consequences could be.

Why is the Biden-Harris administration so willing to put the crown jewel of our system of government—the independent judiciary—to the torch? Because it stands in their way.

Don't take my word for it. They are running ads about it. With pictures of the Justices on the screen, one commercial intones that the Supreme Court has made the President "above the law" because the former President "asked them to."

What happened to respecting court decisions? The Biden-Harris Justice Department took an extreme position in the prosecution of their electoral component, and they lost.

Rather than accepting that they lost, the Biden-Harris administration has responded with a full-scale attack on the Justices who ruled against them. This from the folks who love to remind us that "You can't only love your country when you win."

Perhaps the President and Vice President should take a good look in the mirror.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Illinois.

ISRAEL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to make sure that the record is clear and unequivocal. The Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, met personally with Prime Minister Netanyahu. At that point, she said, with him and publicly, that our alliance with Israel is "unwavering." That was her exact quote, despite what you might have heard to the contrary.

Then she went on to say she believed that Israel had the right to exist and the right to defend itself, but how it does it makes a difference. That is a significant statement because what she is suggesting is our alliance has to reflect our values as well as our commitment to Israel.

I don't believe that is a radical statement. I agree with that statement. And I believe that to suggest otherwise is to mischaracterize what the Vice President said. I think she speaks for America. I hope she does. She speaks for me when she says those words. I thought her meeting with Netanyahu was historic, important, timely, and repeated the basic principles that guide our two nations.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, on the second issue of the Supreme Court, the Republican leader of the Senate just characterized the Supreme Court as the "crown jewel" of American government. The "crown jewel," those are the words that he used.

Let me ask you if you think this reflects a crown jewel: When one Justice on the Supreme Court receives \$4 million in undisclosed gifts from billionaires, does that reflect the crown jewel of our Constitution and our government? I think not. No other Federal judge could get by with what Clarence Thomas did to receive millions of dollars' worth of travel and gifts and not report them publicly.

I don't accept that as routine. I think it is an aberration and reflects poorly on the Court and its integrity. It is time for change. President Biden is saying that today. I will study his detailed suggestion, but I certainly agree with him that the nine people serving on the U.S. Supreme Court should not be treated differently than any other Federal judges when it comes to transparency and accountability for their actions.

If the Court is going to have any credibility when it comes to its decisions, it must reflect that in its actions. Receiving and failing to report gifts of that magnitude is an embarrassment to the whole Nation. Republicans should get on board a bipartisan effort. We passed an ethics bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was authored by Senator WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island. It is pending on the calendar. It should be called this year; the sooner the better.

An ethics code on the Supreme Court that applies the same standards, laws, and procedures to the highest Court in the land as we require of every other Agency in government, including every other court.

VENEZUELA

Madam President, in 2018, I had the chance to visit Caracas, Venezuela, before they held their last Presidential election. I will never forget walking into one of the private hospitals in Caracas and seeing the shelves empty of basic medicines and hearing the stories of deprivation and political repression that led so many millions to flee that country.

I told President Maduro that if he ran a sham election, which he had scheduled, he would find the country even more isolated and the Venezuelan people enduring even more suffering. Unfortunately, that is the path he pursued, and we have seen the heart-breaking consequences—a failed state near economic collapse, millions of refugees in the region, and greater reliance on Cuba and Russia to suppress the Venezuelan public.

But yesterday's Presidential election in Venezuela offered a chance for change. It has been a perilous process, with the regime disqualifying opposition candidates and arresting key opposition supporters.

Yet, on Sunday, millions turned out to vote for a change. These are some photographs from the election experience.

You see people waiting in line, some up to six hours, for the chance to vote. Despite independent exit polls showing a wide margin for opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez, Maduro's regime has, once again, tried to claim a dubious victory absent ballot evidence.

Responsible nations in the region have understandably cast serious doubts on the regime's claims and called for a full and transparent counting of the ballots. I join in that request.

With evidence so far pointing to a decisive Gonzalez victory, he should be considered President-elect unless credible evidence is provided otherwise. The Maduro regime must not be allowed to steal an election or any more of the future from the Venezuelan people.

TRUMP RALLY SHOOTING

Madam President, for years this country has suffered from a uniquely American gun violence epidemic. On July 13, campaign rally attendees in Butler, PA, became the latest victims when a gunman attempted to assassinate former President Donald Trump.

During the gunman's heinous shooting spree, he killed an innocent firefighter and injured two other people. But this assassination attempt has exposed more than just the continued threat of gun violence in America, it has also revealed unacceptable security failures in the operations of the United States Secret Service.

Despite the implementation of a security plan to secure the rally site on July 13, the shooter involved was able to fly a drone outside of the security perimeter for 11 minutes. His suspicious activity was reported twice, and he was spotted on the roof of a building prior to taking his first shot. Yet his violent plan continued unimpeded, and he was able to fire eight shots before a Secret Service counter-sniper killed him.

The implications are terrifying, when a mere 2 days after the shooting, the Secret Service needed to secure the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, and in less than a month, the Secret Service must secure the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, in our home State of Illinois.

Between now and November 5, Vice President HARRIS and former President Trump will hold countless political events with thousands of Americans across the country.

The Secret Service will need to secure all of these major events, but the Agency needs first to restore our trust in its ability to do so.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, has jurisdiction over the Secret Service and the Federal Government investigation. I have worked closely with Senator GARY PETERS of Michigan, the chair of the Homeland Security Committee, to organize a

joint hearing tomorrow morning that will examine the security failures leading to the assassination attempt against former President Trump.

During this hearing, we will hear from Acting U.S. Secret Service Director Ronald Rowe about the security failures on July 13 and what the Secret Service is doing to rectify those issues.

We will also hear from the FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate, who will provide an update on the FBI's investigation into the assassination attempt.

This hearing follows a briefing the Secret Service and the FBI provided to members of both committees last week.

There are many questions which the American public deserves answers to including:

Why was the shooter able to conduct reconnaissance at the fairgrounds on the morning of the rally?

How and when was he able to bring an assault rifle on the premises?

Why was the building from where the gunman shot excluded from the Secret Service security perimeter, despite being within range of the AR-15, the most popular rifle in America?

Why was the gunman able to conduct reconnaissance and move about freely, even after being identified as a suspicious person, without any intervention by local and Federal law enforcement until it was too late?

What organizational and on-the-ground changes has the Secret Service implemented since this occurred to ensure better security in the future?

Which of these changes were in place in time for the Republican National Convention?

And which are still in the process of being implemented for future events such as the Democratic National Convention?

The Presiding Officer and I share concerns about tens of thousands of people coming to our beloved city of Chicago. We want them to be safe every minute of every day. We want to make certain that the Agencies, State, local, and Federal law enforcement Agencies are doing the very best job.

They have disclosed to both of us their plans, and it looks good on paper. My question is, what did you learn about Pennsylvania that is now being applied to the original plan to keep Chicago safe?

I might also say the threat or promise of Governor Abbott to send thousands of migrants on buses into this convention center in the midst of all of the visitation that is taking place is irresponsible and mean-spirited.

These people—and I have spoken to many of them coming off of buses from Texas—they are given promises of jobs and accommodations and special treatment that just aren't realistic. They are doing what they can to protect their families, but they are doing it at the expense of the government and law enforcement in the region.

When we are having the responsibility of a national convention, we

can't afford to let such a thing occur without complaining and calling the attention of the Texas Governor to the irresponsibility of this action.

What challenge does the proliferation of weapons present to the Secret Service's mission to protect current and former Presidents, Vice Presidents, and families of major candidates moving forward?

These are fundamental questions which will be asked tomorrow. There is an urgent need for bipartisan collaboration in Congress to provide these answers to the American people, as soon as possible, so that the Secret Service can begin to rebuild trust and more effectively fulfill its mission.

The work has already begun. Tomorrow's joint hearing will help bring about transparency and accountability for Secret Service failures in Butler, PA, on July 13.

I will close by saying this: The hearing is a joint hearing of the two committees, and it is bipartisan. It has been from the start.

There have been suggestions made on the floor here that there was some partisan angle to this. Partisanship has nothing to do with keeping our elected officials and those running for high office safe throughout their conduct.

We have got to do this together, both parties, for the good of our Nation. Political violence and vandalism are never, never acceptable.

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 executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL SFRAGA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, it is Monday afternoon. We are back for what appears to be the last week of full session before we are due to go on an August recess. There is lots to do back home but clearly lots to do here in the Senate as well.

It looks that this week we are going to probably spend the end of the week wrapping up some of the nominations that are out there, and I want to speak to a nomination that I feel very, very strongly about and would hope that we will have an opportunity to weigh in as a Senate on, on a priority that I don't think enough of us as Americans think about: our role as an Arctic nation.

As we are processing nominations, I want to kind of move our attention to the top of the world, up in the Arctic.

We have a lot of hotspots in the world right now, and the last thing in the world that we need is for the Arctic to become one of those hotspots. Whether we want it to or not, whether we want to will it away or not, the Arctic is increasingly gaining attention by others for different reasons, and the

fact that the United States doesn't have that diplomatic presence, if you will, is a disservice, I believe, to us as an Arctic nation.

So I have come to urge this body to take up the nomination of Dr. Mike Sfraga. Mike is an Alaskan, but he would be our Nation's first Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

We have not had a confirmed Ambassador at Large position. We have had a Special Representative to the Arctic, but when you send a "Special Representative" to some of these dialogues, to sit at tables with other countries' Ambassadors, there is a disparity there, and I think we have recognized the importance and the role of this Ambassador at Large position.

Dr. Sfraga was nominated in February of 2023. He was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee this March, and it is time for us to take him up and confirm him.

And I get it. I mean, there is a lot going on. I mentioned hotspots around the world. You look at what is happening in Ukraine and in Israel and in Taiwan and in China and in North Korea, and you have everything that is happening domestically. Sometimes I think the Arctic is out of sight, out of mind for many, but it is important that we not lose sight of the consequential nature of the Arctic itself. Again, we use the phrase "It is a cold place," but it is becoming its own hotspot. So what we can do, again, to assert not only our areas of oversight and overlay but also from the diplomatic perspective is something that I think is worthy of focusing on.

So why this time? Why this particular nominee?

First, we have incredible opportunities on the Arctic issues—everything from resource development to tourism, to shipping, to infrastructure. You have the people who live and work and raise their families there. Thousands of American Alaskans live in the Arctic, and their interests deserve to be taken seriously and represented in the highest councils of our government. We also have a very dynamic situation in the Arctic right now with climate change, with national security, engagement with other nations.

So let's just talk about our neighbor to Alaska's west there, and that is Russia, the largest Arctic nation. Their war on Ukraine is now in its third year, but it is being powered by their revenues from oil and from gas and now, more and more, also from seafood.

Russia is increasingly shipping its oil through the Northern Sea Route, which has the potential to threaten Alaskan waters and our marine resources. They are testing a combat icebreaker, which could give it a significant, strategic advantage that we currently lack.

The Acting President pro tempore is well aware that in this country, we lack that icebreaking capacity. We have one operational icebreaker. She is currently at dry dock and will be there for a period of months. Our medium-

strength icebreaker, the Healy—it was just reported last Thursday—had a fire aboard ship as it was going across the Northwest Passage. I have not yet received the report, but my understanding is that that vessel is not in a condition to continue with the mission they had set out on. And that is it. That is it.

We have worked through the appropriations process to authorize the icebreaking capacity to build out the fleet. We are not there. We are not even close to being there. In fact, the updates we get from the Coast Guard on this are beyond frustrating. They are to the point where we have a responsibility to ensure that the commitment we have made for the taxpayer dollars, for the infrastructure that we need, which is the icebreaker—we have to line these up, and we have to line them up quickly.

Last week was an interesting week. I know that Senator SULLIVAN and I had some pretty in-depth briefings from the head of NORAD and the head of the Alaskan Command when we saw really an unprecedented air exercise between the Russian Bear bombers—two of them—coming together, coordinating with two Chinese H-6's and coming into the Alaskan ADIZ, into our area, some close to—basically separating these aircraft by about 200 miles from our shore. They were close enough to certainly get our attention. They were operating within the rules, and they were operating safely. But, again, it is a demonstration, a show of partnership. While it may not be the first time we have seen the Russians and the Chinese flying together, we have never seen them in these northern areas. So it begs the question: Why? What is their interest up there? So making sure we are engaged has to be a priority.

I mentioned seafood. People don't necessarily think about the prospect or the reality that Russia would be engaged in economic warfare on seafood—overharvesting fisheries that are shared with Alaska, selling that overharvest to China for reprocessing to get around the sanctions that are in place, and generally throwing the global seafood markets into chaos—all to generate additional revenues for its war machine. This threatens not only the species, the seafood, but also the way of life for so many who count on the fisheries for their very existence.

In many, many areas, we are seeing the Russians and the Chinese partnering to help enhance the Chinese position in the far north. I mentioned the activity we just saw last week in the air. We are seeing the cooperation and the collaboration on Russian energy, the collaboration with the processing of Russian seafood. Now the Russian Federation's security service has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese Coast Guard to enhance maritime security cooperation in the North Pacific, in the Bering Sea, and in the Arctic.

Last year, one of the pictures that got, again, a lot of attention was a flotilla of 11 Russian and Chinese warships off the Aleutian Islands. Just a few weeks ago, there was a new flotilla of Chinese military ships that transited the U.S. EEZ off of Alaska. We know they are not going out whale watching or looking at the glaciers. This is activity that is close to Alaska, along our shared maritime border with Russia and just beyond our sovereign territory.

But I share these because these are the events that are happening now. These are the events that are happening now, and they are capturing the attention of the country. So we need to make sure that, as we are paying attention to these current events, we have somebody whose day job it is to do nothing more than monitor, engage, work with the State Department, work with our friends and allies, and work with the administration.

We have made some good progress in recent years on infrastructure in the Arctic. We have done a lot more in partnering from a diplomatic perspective by putting a consulate there in Nuuk, Greenland. We have to do a lot more to ensure our Nation's interests and well-being in the region, and that is why it comes down to the right people in the right place—the right people in the right place.

This is why I am so strong in urging that we take up Dr. Sfraga's nomination to be the Arctic Ambassador at Large. He has over three decades of experience on Arctic issues. He is the Chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and has been since 2021. Prior to his nomination for Ambassador at Large, he was the founding director of the Polar Institute. He was the director of the Global Risk and Resilience Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. He was a colead scholar at the State Department for the Fulbright Arctic Initiative. He has served as chair of the Committee of Visitors Review of the Section for Arctic Science, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation. He earned the first Ph.D. in geography in northern studies from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

The guy knows the Arctic. He gets it. He is clear-eyed about the realities and the intentions of our adversaries. He understands what we need to do to advance our Nation's equities in the Arctic. He knows the people; he knows the scene. And they know him. That is really incredibly important.

They are waiting for us. They are waiting for us to confirm Dr. Sfraga's nomination. They have worked with him in the past, and they are really anxious to have him in this position.

I was at an event last week. It was the going-away for Iceland's Ambassador to the United States. Her next role is a newly created role. She will be Iceland's Ambassador to the Arctic-at-Large. We should confirm our own already.

The Arctic is where our domestic policy meets foreign policy. It is where homeland defense meets the protection of our national fisheries. It is where our changing climate meets increased resource development and shipping and trade. It is where NATO's "other flank"—its western flank—meets Russia and China. It is the most strategically important place in the world.

I know that people are looking at our calendar. They are saying that time is running short. I don't disagree. But I think it is critically important that we have somebody of Dr. Sfraga's caliber in this position. We need to have that representation. I would certainly urge the Senate to act on his nomination, hopefully, before we are able to conclude at the end of this week.

The reality is, if we want to do right by the Arctic and all of our growing interests and challenges in the region, we really can't wait any longer.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO MATT VANKUIKEN

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to my chief of staff and dear longtime friend, Matt VanKuiken, who will be moving on to the next step in his career this week, after 16 years of outstanding service in my office.

Those of you who know Matt understand how passionate he is about golfing. We have all experienced also his witty sense of humor. Matt is a literal political pundit.

With that, Matt, I want you to know there are no ifs, ands, or putts about it. You have been a terrific chief of staff and the best, by par. I could always count on you to drive right in to solve problems, to scramble and find the best approach to any situation, and to stay the course until the job was done.

Matt, from what I understand, my phone calls to you while you were golfing really helped you improve your game over the years. So I want you to know that I have a gift for you back in the office, some golf balls and tees with my campaign colors, so that you won't ever forget about my calls when I am not calling you every day.

True story, Madam President: Matt first applied to work in my office when he was a student at Western Michigan University. We offered him an internship in my West Michigan office, and he turned us down. But, fortunately, we didn't hold that against him. Sixteen years ago, I made one of the best hiring decisions ever when I hired Matt as a legislative aide, handling energy and environmental issues, which I know, Madam Chair, you care so much about, as do I.

He went on to serve in senior roles over the years, including as my legislative director and my chief of staff, including his role now as a key member of our top leadership chiefs. He has had an incredible Senate career.

Since his early days in the office, Matt had a way of rising to the occa-

sion. A perfect example of this happened one day, a late afternoon in 2013. For reasons unknown, Matt was left alone in the office when my private incoming line rang. Unsure of exactly how to answer or transfer the call on this line, he was going to let it ring. He soon realized that the line had no voicemail, and he decided he should attempt to answer it. It was a good thing he did because it was President Obama trying to reach me.

In typical Matt fashion, he figured it out. He kept his composure. The call went off without a hitch, although he claims to this day that President Obama could hear his hand shaking through the phone.

I can point to so many big accomplishments where Matt has played an absolutely instrumental leadership role. Over and over again, he doesn't give up, and he finds creative ways to get things done in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

Getting funds to address the needs of families and fix the pipes in Flint was a herculean effort. Because the crisis wasn't a natural disaster, Flint didn't qualify for certain types of disaster funding. Under Matt's leadership, we found a way to get it done. Today, almost all of the lead service pipes in Flint have been replaced, and the children and families of Flint have access to safe water.

In 2015, Matt was instrumental in getting funding to Detroit and other Michigan cities to tear down blighted homes and rebuild neighborhoods. My goal, which we thought was simple and found it wasn't, was to transfer available funds from one account in the Treasury to another account to address these critical housing issues.

Over and over again, we were told getting support to transfer the funds was impossible. In fact, multiple times, Leader Reid told us it was over. We were playing Whac-A-Mole, as one obstacle after another popped up. But, in the end, with Matt's tenacity and hard work, we succeeded, and it was worth it.

The mayor of Detroit recently told me that the actions we took created safe neighborhoods for families in Detroit a decade sooner—10 years sooner—than they would have been able to do it had they not had those funds.

So, thank you, Matt.

I could go on and on. Matt helped me get an agreement with Canada to limit trash from coming into Michigan landfills from Toronto. He helped established the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, or GLRI—which, again, Madam Chair knows about—our premier funding source to protect our precious lakes. This program has been incredibly successful in Michigan and across our entire Great Lakes region. I couldn't have done all of this and so much more without Matt's leadership and his hard work.

But Matt's legacy is more than our legislative successes. It is most reflected in my incredible staff and alumni from my office. He has been the

best—the best—chief who has built the best team in Congress. He has been a friend, a mentor, and a supportive colleague to so many. He has created the kind of culture that has made my office so effective at getting things done and a great place to work.

At around 11:30 every day, Matt asks folks in the office: “What are we doing for lunch today?” And you will see him with at least two, sometimes more, colleagues heading down to grab food and then coming back to his office to eat together.

During his time as chief, we have had one of the lowest staff turnovers of any office. And it is not just because they love Arby’s or spicy chicken sandwiches, although he has gotten a lot of recruits to do that. When Matt makes decisions, he seeks a lot of input from our office, from our staff, which is so important.

One staffer talked about how, during the pandemic, he would regularly check in with everyone on the team and seek feedback when deciding new protocols and office systems as the pandemic evolved. In chaos and uncertain times, Matt made sure everyone felt supported and competent that they had what they needed to succeed. And, of course, he has always done that for me.

Matt has also effectively bridged the divide between DC and the Michigan staff. This means leading our all-staff retreats, making sure everyone knows each other, and setting the tone of constant collaboration in service to our State. The people of Michigan have benefited every single day from his leadership and service.

Matt’s relationships outside of our office have also been instrumental in so many successes. These relationships are what keeps our office informed and helps us serve the people of Michigan.

When I finally decided not to run again, I knew it was the right decision for me and my family. I knew it was time to pass the torch. But I couldn’t imagine not being with my Senate family every day and not working with Matt every day. It is the hardest decision I ever made—the right decision but the hardest.

Matt will be starting an exciting new job soon. I know he will continue his commitment to excellence and service in this new role and beyond, and I am confident that he will continue his great success in everything he does.

I will be forever grateful for Matt’s contributions to my success, for his loyalty, and his friendship.

I wish Matt continued success and happiness in the next chapter in his life, and I wish him joy and happiness with Heather and his wonderful daughter Sophie, who is with us today in the Gallery.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

KOSA-COPPA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before the Senate adjourned last week, we took a major step forward to ensure

our kids’ online safety by advancing KOSA-COPPA with strong bipartisan support—a vote of 86 to 1.

Thanks to both sides working together, the Senate is on track to pass KOSA and COPPA tomorrow. These bills are perhaps the most important updates in decades to Federal laws that protect kids on the internet and a good first step.

After the Senate passes KOSA and COPPA tomorrow with a strong bipartisan vote, the House should do the same when they return in September. The bipartisan momentum behind these bills is real, and we should seize this opportunity to make a law.

While social media has many benefits, it also, as we know, has many risks. KOSA and COPPA will install guardrails that protect kids from these risks.

Too many kids experience relentless online bullying. Too many kids have their personal data collected and then used nefariously. And sadly—sadly—too many families have lost kids because of what happened to them on social media.

I have met with many of the families whose children took their own lives. We felt the pain of loss together. We have cried together. What they have gone through is impossible to imagine—losing a child and in this way.

But these families, to their everlasting credit, instead of cursing the darkness, they lit a candle. They turned their grief into grace by working so hard to make sure this doesn’t happen to other kids, what happened to theirs.

I thank all of the families who advocate to get kids’ online safety over the finish line. Their efforts will pay off tomorrow.

I also want to thank colleagues who have relentlessly championed these bills: Senators BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN, MARKEY and CASSIDY, DURBIN and KLOBUCHAR, Chair CANTWELL, and others.

Getting to this point wasn’t easy; that is for sure. It has been a long and winding and difficult road. But after tomorrow, I am very proud that it will have all been worth it.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, now on SCOTUS, the Supreme Court of the United States, no democracy can hope to survive if it can’t ensure accountability. That is a hallmark of democracy—and American democracy, in particular. This was the stern warning handed down to us by the Framers of the Constitution. Accountability is how power is checked, how consent of the governed is secured, and how trust between the people and their institutions is preserved.

Later today, President Biden will speak at the LBJ Presidential Library on the need for accountability for the U.S. Supreme Court, where it is desperately needed. The President published an op-ed in the Washington Post outlining his ideas and will expand on them this evening.

I believe the President is right to say aloud what many Americans already think: The Supreme Court is a morass. I am particularly pleased President Biden called for undoing the damage of the Court’s recent immunity decision. I think Congress should pursue the idea through legislation, and I am working with my colleagues on the best way to proceed.

A few years ago, the Supreme Court was easily the most trusted institution in government, but today confidence in the Court is at an alltime low. For over a year, Americans have learned how some Justices have accepted millions of dollars in lavish gifts from rightwing benefactors that, at the same time, had business before the Court. They were funding these groups to pursue their rightwing agenda before the Court. And all of this happened in total secrecy and possibly—possibly—in violation of the law.

And at the same time, the MAGA Justices have rammed through a flurry of hard-right decisions, reversing decades of precedent—they almost seem to ignore it from time to time, when they want to—on reproductive freedoms, on affirmative action, on gerrymandering, administrative law, and so much more. These decisions on choice and so many other issues are way out of the mainstream.

And 1 month ago, the MAGA Justices ruled that the President of the United States is, in essence, above the law when it comes to his “official acts.” The conservative majority’s ruling was the very antithesis of the kind of accountability our Framers envisioned. The MAGA Court more or less echoed Richard Nixon’s infamous view that “when the President does it, that means it is not illegal.”

These fringe rulings and ethical scandals are not the signs of a healthy Supreme Court. They are the signs of a Court run amok.

The good news is that the Constitution provides a remedy to the Supreme Court’s current morass: Congress has the authority to exercise strong checks on the judiciary through legislation, and Congress has the authority to speak on constitutional issues. The Constitution is clear: The Supreme Court does not get the final word.

An option I am seriously considering is drawing up legislation clarifying that the President is not immune from violations of Federal law.

One of the Justices recently claimed there is no provision in the Constitution that gives Congress authority to regulate the courts. I respectfully suggest that this Justice reread the Constitution because it is plain as day that Congress is well within its rights to conduct oversight.

Accountability shouldn’t be a dirty word when we talk about the Supreme Court. Americans across the ideological spectrum agree that checks and balances are necessary for a system to thrive, and they agree those checks should apply to the Supreme Court just

as they apply to other branches of government.

It is no wonder the Court's positive ratings are at an alltime low. If they can't straighten it out themselves, Congress should.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Madam President, now on the Iowa abortion ban and Project 2025, this morning over 1.5 million women across Iowa woke up with fewer rights than they had just last night. Today, a draconian new law went into effect in Iowa banning abortion after 6 weeks of pregnancy, before many women even know they are pregnant.

Iowa's new abortion law is radical; it is dangerous; and, sadly, it is another example of the hard right taking America back in time through the courts.

By now, it is beyond debate that attacking reproductive freedoms is a fundamental tenet of the GOP. Not 3 days ago, Donald Trump gave a speech where he bragged yet again about overturning Roe. He said:

We did something that nobody thought was possible. I want to thank the six Supreme Court Justices . . . for the wisdom and courage they showed.

Can you believe that? Can you believe that? Donald Trump wants to thank the six Supreme Court Justices for the courage of overturning Roe. What a callous message to send to women in States like Iowa and States like Florida and States like Arizona and Texas and others where freedom of choice is under assault.

Of course, Donald Trump brags about overturning Roe all the time. A few months ago, Donald Trump said he was also "proud" to have been the one to clear the way for overturning Roe. And he said:

Nobody else was going to get that done but me.

America, when Republicans try to sound moderate on choice—they know where the public is; they know where women are—remember the words of Donald Trump who said he was proud to eliminate Roe. Remember the votes of the Republican Senators, knowingly voting for Justice nominees who, in their hearings, said they would overturn Roe or very much alluded to that fact.

Now, of course, Donald Trump didn't reverse Roe alone. As I said, he had plenty of help from Senate Republicans, who confirmed three MAGA extremists to the Bench, all of whom ruled in favor of reversing Roe. And just a few weeks ago when Republicans were given a chance to do the right thing on reproductive freedoms, they doubled down on their anti-women views by blocking a bill expressing support for a woman's right to choose.

Last month, Senate Republicans even opposed protections for IVF and contraceptives. Can you imagine? They voted against protections for IVF and contraception.

The Republican credo might as well be: "Your body, our choice."

And let's not kid ourselves. This is just the beginning as far as Repub-

licans are concerned. Republicans like the junior Senator from Ohio are on the record saying:

I certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally.

That is the Republican nominee for Vice President:

I certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally.

Let me repeat it again.

I certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally.

And this isn't a view that was dug up from way in the past. This was a statement in 2022.

Again, let me say to Americans: When Republicans try to sound moderate on choice, remember the words of Donald Trump, remember the words of the junior Republican Senator from Ohio, now the Vice Presidential nominee for the Republican Party, who said he supports a national ban on abortion.

Consider also Trump's plan for a second term as detailed in Project 2025. The document makes clear that if Republicans reclaim power, they will lay the groundwork for a national abortion ban.

Under Project 2025, Republicans could also allow employers to deny access to birth control, continue attacks against in vitro fertilization, and could even keep track of the State of residency of every woman who seeks abortion anywhere.

Can you imagine? This is heinous. It is unhinged. But it is precisely what MAGA extremism proposes for the country.

Americans do not want to take our country backwards, as Project 2025 promises to do. Americans want an agenda that promises a brighter future. They want leaders who will focus on creating more jobs, lowering costs, and expanding people's freedoms—not the oppressive nastiness that Project 2025 promises. The more the American people learn the details about Project 2025, the more trouble Donald Trump is going to have.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it is clear that the November 5 election is prominent on the mind of the majority leader, who has used the floor of the U.S. Senate to make what should be a paid political announcement for the "Harris for President" campaign.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, but let me focus primarily on his remarks about the Supreme Court.

It is clear that the majority leader and that our Democratic colleagues don't like the Constitution. They don't like the separation of powers. They don't like the independence of the judiciary, which is really the gold standard for courts worldwide based on the rule of law. What they want is a political branch of government—not one that calls balls and strikes and one that decides cases based on the law and the facts.

He talks about how the Supreme Court's reputation has been tarnished. Well, one reason why the Supreme Court's reputation has, perhaps, been tarnished in the media is because the majority leader stood in front of the Supreme Court and called out two Justices by name and threatened them if they made a decision that he didn't like. He said they won't know what hit them.

Well, that kind of irresponsible rhetoric by the majority leader and others is perhaps responsible for people wondering: Is the Court an impartial institution?

I would point out that when the Court was maybe constituted a little differently, that our Democratic friends didn't say a peep as long as the Court was making decisions that they liked and they agreed with from a political perspective. But it is fundamentally irresponsible for the majority leader to come here—I guess he is caught up in the fervor of the November 5 election. Having established a political coup in replacing the sitting President with the Vice President without going through the democratic process of actually holding elections, he is feeling his oats and perhaps cannot restrain himself.

But it is clear that our Democratic colleagues don't like the Constitution and they want to change it. But they know they can't do that because there is not the support across the country or in Congress to do that. So he uses this as a political cudgel in the runup to the election. It is irresponsible, and, unfortunately, I think it reflects the desperation with which the majority leader views this upcoming election on November 5.

SOUTHERN BORDER

Madam President, America's southern border has been in a state of crisis for the last 3½ years, and our country is desperate for a change in direction. They know of the millions of people coming across, the drugs that have taken the lives of 108,000 Americans last year alone, the crime, the potential vulnerability to terrorist attacks. They are not happy with the status quo, which is what the Biden and Harris administration have provided us for the last 3½ years.

Throughout his time in office, President Biden has shown zero interest in stopping the flood of illegal immigration across our border. He has only visited the border once, and I doubt he will make another trip to the border during the remainder of his term in office. But, of course, I don't think he actually talked to the people who could have best informed him of what the problem was, created by his very policies. His policies have made it worse, not better—certainly, worse than it was under the Trump administration.

President Biden is in Texas today. He is in Austin, TX, and then he will go to Houston. But I doubt he will bother to make a quick trip to the border because the message he has sent loud and

clear for the last 3½ years is that he does not care. He doesn't care about the migrants that are swarming into our major cities like New York; Washington, DC; Chicago, and the burdens those have placed on local taxpayers, about the crime that is associated with the fact that, uncontrolled, you don't know who is coming across the border.

Admittedly, most migrants are coming here for work, for a better life, but the criminal cartels who continue to get rich smuggling people to the border from all around the world also are the ones that smuggle the drugs to the border, only to be distributed to kill our sons and daughters who inadvertently take fentanyl, presuming it to be some innocuous drug like a Percocet or a Xanax, only to find out it is a counterfeit pill contaminated by a powerful opioid—fentanyl.

What does a potential HARRIS administration look like? Does it mean more of the same when it comes to the border and immigration policies? Would it signal a new direction? If so, what would that direction be?

Well, the truth is, we already know the answers to those questions. We don't have to wonder about Vice President HARRIS's policies because she has played a starring role in the current Biden border crisis. These are, after all, Biden-Harris policies.

Just a couple of months into President Biden's Presidency, illegal border crossings surged as a direct result of the policies that he and Vice President HARRIS implemented, starting the first day in office, mainly by dismantling, piece by piece, the effective policies of the Trump administration.

But it became clear that the situation at the border was veering in a dangerous direction, at least in terms of the politics with President Biden. So he tapped the Vice President as the administration's border czar. That is what the headline from Axios, a political publication heralded at the time. It says: "Biden puts Harris in charge of the border crisis."

But, curiously, it took 3 months before she made her first and, to my knowledge, only trip to the southern border as the individual with the administration in charge of the border crisis. She steered clear of the Rio Grande Valley, which is ground zero to the crisis, but instead did, I guess, what can most accurately and fairly be called a driveby in El Paso in Far West Texas, a very different environment than the Rio Grande Valley. This was Vice President HARRIS's first and only trip to the border, and it provided an early signal about how little she cared.

The Vice President was in Texas last week and will be there again later this week and, once again, no trip to the border is scheduled. You know, if she cared, don't you think she would show up? Don't you think that is maybe what someone would do to learn about what is not working, what we could do to make it better? But the reality is, over the last 3½ years, Vice President

HARRIS has proven she has no interest—zero interest—in stopping the alarming number of people streaming across the border. And the results speak for themselves. We have seen a record-shattering number of people flowing across the border because all of the signals being sent by the Biden administration are: Come by any means you can. Come to the border, and we will release you into the interior of the United States.

For the last 3½ years, we logged more than 8.1 million border crossings, which is unprecedented. During the entire 12 years—12 years—of the Obama and Trump administrations, the United States encountered about half of that—excuse me, about 6.1 million migrants at the southern border. So that is 12 years we have experienced less than what we have experienced in 3½ years under the Biden administration. In those 3½ years, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have hit not only that previous total but significantly exceeded it.

The number of illegal crossings at the border, though, only tells part of the story. It is only one data point. Every day, Border Patrol spots migrants on cameras or sensors, but they are unable to get there to them in time to apprehend them. These are known as "got-aways." Since President Biden took office, the Agency has recorded more than 1.8 million "got-aways."

We don't know who these individuals are, where they are now, what their intentions were in coming to the border, and what kind of dangers that they may pose to the American people. Are they terrorists? Are they drug traffickers, convicted rapists, sexual predators? We have no idea and neither does President Biden and Vice President HARRIS and they simply don't care.

On top of that, the administration stood up a number of new programs to hoodwink the American people into thinking that the problem isn't as bad as it really is while, unbelievably, incentivizing even more illegal immigration.

One example is the CBP app. That is an app for your phone. Customs and Border Protection app is what it stands for. This was sold to the American people as a safe and orderly way to manage the border crisis. Instead, this system is being exploited by cartels and criminal organizations. And, basically, all you have to do is schedule your appearance at the border, and then the Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection will allow you to come into the country and release you. This app requires users located in Central or Northern Mexico to schedule an appointment, but the cartels have found a way to circumvent that requirement by using a virtual private network or VPN. This has allowed them to boost their sales pitch and sell CBP One appointments to migrants around the world. They are using it to market their services. It has encouraged more

illegal immigration, enriched these criminal organizations more.

Another separate Biden-Harris program allows up to 30,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to enter the United States every month. That is 360,000 a year—no claim of asylum, no claim of credible fear of persecution. Just show up, and you are allowed to stay. That is up to 360,000 a year. That is another magnet for people to come.

Record number of illegal crossings, grave humanitarian conditions, dishonest accounting—this has been the reality of the Biden-Harris administration. And there can be no serious doubt that, if elected, President HARRIS would keep these disastrous policies in place. She has already told us as much.

Before serving as Vice President or even as a U.S. Senator, Vice President HARRIS was attorney general of California. In 2015, then-Attorney General Harris claimed in an interview that an undocumented immigrant is really not a criminal. Well, she knows better. Our immigration statutes explicitly establish that illegally entering the United States can be a crime. Even though she served as the top law enforcement officer for a border State, she refused to acknowledge even this basic fact.

When campaigning for President in 2019, then-Senator HARRIS affirmed that she still held that belief. The moderator of a debate asked the candidates to raise a hand if they supported decriminalizing illegal border crossings. Of course, her hand shot up into the air. It is hard to decriminalize something that you don't think is a crime, but we get her drift.

Of course, that is only the beginning of Vice President HARRIS's views concerning the border and immigration. Back in 2018, then-Senator HARRIS was asked if she supported the "abolish ICE" movement. You may recall this was back when our colleagues on the left, the Democratic Party, supported "defund the police." She went even further and said we ought to abolish ICE. That is Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Those are the folks who enforce our immigration laws. She said we need to start thinking about that from scratch. I guess that means, when you start from scratch, eliminating all the laws that currently exist and replacing them with something new. But she was certainly willing to abolish ICE while she created something unspecified different.

That same year in a Senate hearing, she compared U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to the Ku Klux Klan. How outrageous and irresponsible is that? These are law enforcement officers who serve the Nation, put themselves in peril, in harm's way, and she said they are like the Ku Klux Klan. That says everything you need to know about how a potential HARRIS administration would approach illegal immigration and border security, including dismantling the very enforcement Agency responsible for enforcing

our immigration laws. Beyond that, Vice President HARRIS has advocated for a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million or so people in the country illegally.

I also heard this weekend, one of our colleagues, the Senator from Massachusetts, say one of the things she would anticipate from a future HARRIS administration would be establishing a pathway to citizenship for people here illegally in the United States.

We also know she supports Federal health coverage for undocumented immigrants. In other words, she wants all of us as taxpayers to pay for the healthcare of people who won't even respect our laws and who entered the country illegally.

And she has demonstrated that she is all too quick to judge and vilify law enforcement. Three years ago, border agents were trying to control a crowd of 3,000 migrants in Del Rio, TX. Del Rio, TX, is about 35,000 people. Can you imagine the chaos and the challenge associated with 15,000 migrants from Haiti showing up in this town of 35,000 people? One photographer captured an image that went viral for all of the wrong reasons. The image showed an agent grabbing the back of a man's shirt while on horseback while the horse's reins dangled on the side. At first glance, people like then-Vice President HARRIS assumed the worst and accused the agent of whipping the man to the ground.

But before the Agency could even investigate the matter, she had attacked, disparaging the very law enforcement officials that are responsible for enforcing security at the border. She said these images evoked those of slavery and described the agent's behavior as "horrible and deeply troubling." Had she waited to actually investigate the incident, she would have learned the facts that there was no whip, and there was no whipping. If she bothered to speak to the head of Border Patrol, she would have been told the same thing. But as reports indicate, the Vice President of the United States, who was appointed the border czar by President Biden, has never spoken to the head of the Border Patrol, neither the current one nor his predecessor.

Think about that for a minute. If your job is to be the border czar, wouldn't that be the first person you would talk to—the head of Border Patrol—maybe to learn what you could do to help fix it? But she hasn't even bothered to talk to either the current or the previous Border Patrol Chief.

The fact is that Vice President HARRIS has played a key role in fueling the largest immigration crisis our country has ever seen. If she was able to accomplish that much as the Vice President and border czar, I hate to know what kind of damage she could inflict from the Oval Office.

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

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

The Senator from Hawaii.

ELIMINATE USELESS REPORTS ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, after a long time of talking over the ways social media is harming kids and debating what to do about it, this week, the Senate is taking some action.

For years, kids have been swimming in a toxic stew of bullying and harassment, glorified violence, and constant false comparisons, and the results have been absolutely catastrophic—record rates of anxiety and depression, unimaginable levels of suicidal ideation and self-harm, an alarming epidemic of loneliness and low self-esteem.

These things are not a given. They did not just happen overnight. The fact that young children as young as 8 or 9 or 10 can feel so sad and so helpless that they think they would be better off not living at all—that is a uniquely modern malady inflicted by social media.

Sadness in kids is not new, but a pandemic of youth depression is new. The fact that it is a relatively recent phenomenon is also cause for us to have some hope. It does mean that this is fixable. This is not the way it is supposed to be. This is not the way it has always been. It means that if we choose to take some pretty commonsense steps, we can finally get kids the help they need, and commonsense steps are exactly what the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act are.

I am proud to cosponsor both bills, which will provide important tools to protect the safety and privacy of kids online. I want to thank Senators BLUMENTHAL and MERKLEY for their early leadership on both these bills.

For the first time in the age of social media, Congress is taking meaningful action to confront the very worst of the internet's ills. It has been a long and difficult journey to get to this moment, not least because some in Big Tech have done everything in their power to protect profits over kids. So it is to the credit of everyone involved in these bills that we are here, overcoming stiff opposition and inertia, to finally enact something.

It is a good step, but we have to do a lot more because we have yet to address the fundamental question of, when is it appropriate for a child to be on social media?

We have more than enough data, more than enough lived experience, more than enough scientific expertise to know that social media is harming kids' brains, pushing them down rabbit holes, plunging them into deep and dark places. We know that even adults aren't equipped to process the dizzying amount of information available online at all times, and that is to say nothing

of the hate and the vitriol and the abuse served up on an endless loop by coercive algorithms.

That begs the question—why is a 7-year-old or an 8-year-old on TikTok to begin with? Why are young boys and girls, instead of playing with their friends outside or learning an instrument, getting radicalized or starving themselves because of something they saw on Instagram?

The fact is, we need to delay the onset of social media use. There is no safe cigarette. There are no settings that are useful to solve this problem.

My bipartisan bill, the Kids Off Social Media Act, which I introduced earlier this year with several of my colleagues, will finally set the legal minimum age for social media use to 13. It will also ban platforms from targeting kids under 17 with powerful black box algorithms designed to keep them scrolling for hours on end. These are reasonable proposals. These are proposals that can be implemented. These are proposals that will pass constitutional muster.

So the question in front of us is, Why in the world is a 9-year-old allowed on TikTok when we know that the stubborn facts operate like this: The longer people spend time on your platform, the more money you make in ad revenue. OK. That stands to reason. The more people that use your site, the more money you get to make. Here is the stubborn fact that Meta and Twitter and TikTok and everybody else actually stumbled upon. They weren't searching for it, but they stumbled upon it. How do you get people to stay on your website? How do you get people to stay on your social media platform? The most reliable way to get any user to stay on a social media platform is to upset them. So you have these publicly traded companies, some privately held, but they all have an obligation to try to maximize profit. To maximize profit, you have to maximize eyeballs. In order to maximize eyeballs, you have to systematically upset, alienate, anger, make sick a whole generation of children.

We don't have to do this to ourselves. It is not impermissible for us to set a minimum age for a product for children. There is a compelling government interest and there is a compelling moral interest for us to take this action.

The bottom line is, our kids need help, and after a series of fits and starts, we are starting to deliver it. Progress, however overdue and however incremental, ought to be recognized and celebrated, but let's also remember that our work here is just beginning. The scale of the ongoing crisis and the needs of kids who are thoroughly overwhelmed online demand that we do more, and we must do more in the months and years ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior executive assistant clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Louisiana.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, Social Security is a sacred trust between the American people and our government. It is a promise to workers, many of whom have no other savings besides Social Security. A promise, almost by definition, does not change. It remains consistent despite new challenges. It is just a question of whether society has the courage to honor that commitment.

Now Social Security as we know it is headed for a fiscal cliff in 9 years. If it hits that cliff, if we do nothing and we just attempt to borrow our way out of it, there will be an estimated \$615 trillion in accumulated debt over the next 75 years—again, if we just attempt to borrow our way out of it. If we don't borrow our way out of it, there is a 20- to 24-percent cut in benefits to Social Security recipients, both current and future. This is the rock and the hard place: either the 20-percent or so cut or, with borrowing costs, a \$615 trillion addition to our Nation's deficit.

I have spoken before on Social Security. Today, I want to focus on two unfair provisions that we would eliminate if we actually have a chance to address Social Security, the larger picture. The two I will speak of are the windfall elimination provision and the government pension offset, also known as WEP and GPO. These penalize families across the country who worked in a State or a local public service job for part of their career and had a pension separate from Social Security.

How did we get here? WEP and GPO were introduced by President Clinton and Speaker Gingrich decades ago to address perceived inequalities in the Social Security system, but it had the effect actually of creating inequalities. When someone, say, worked for the State of Louisiana or the State of California, and then they didn't pay into the Social Security system, but they left that job after 20 years and went into the private sector, and they worked for 20 years paying into the Social Security system, getting their quotas, here, they were unfairly penalized, overly penalized for the years in which they did not contribute into Social Security.

What the windfall elimination provision does is it reduces the Social Security benefit of individuals who also receive a pension from non-Social-Security-covered employment—for example, State or local government. This has resulted in thousands of individuals who have paid into Social Security during their career but nonetheless received an overly reduced Social Security benefit when they retired.

This is WEP. Now let's talk about the government pension offset. The

GPO reduces Social Security spousal or survivor benefits for individuals who also receive a government pension. This provision can reduce or even eliminate Social Security benefits that a spouse or a widow might have expected and relied upon.

Louisiana has more first responders per capita than any other State in the Nation and tens of thousands of teachers, meaning that our State is disproportionately affected by WEP and GPO.

A few years ago, I met a retired Louisiana schoolteacher impacted by GPO—again, government pension offset. She had been a teacher. Her husband had paid into Social Security. She should have gotten the spousal benefit from Social Security, but it was remarkably reduced. She cried in my office. She was unable to understand why she was getting less in Social Security spousal benefits than if she had never worked at all. Think about that. If she had never taught, she would have gotten more benefits than the fact that she did teach and was subject to this government pension offset. She felt that she was punished for being a teacher, educating generations of Louisiana children. Indeed, she was, and she is.

There is no excuse to treat public servants this way. WEP and GPO should never have become laws, but we have an opportunity to fix them.

With President Biden stepping aside in the Presidential race, he has the opportunity to show Presidential leadership—the Presidential leadership he failed to demonstrate until now—on the issue of Social Security. If he is going to serve as President for several more months, why not support a bipartisan plan to save Social Security, to hold true to the promise to our seniors, as well as to make the system fair, with one of his last acts in office. The American people deserve a President willing to work for them. Here is an opportunity.

LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

Madam President, the American people understand the importance of energy: It keeps the lights on and puts food on the table. And living in Louisiana, you happen to know the person who works at the liquefied natural gas plant or at the oil rig, who produces the energy. He is your neighbor. That is why, with the Biden-Harris administration's pause upon LNG export permits in January, it was, to me, clear who they would be putting out of a job.

Last month, the American people gained a major victory. A U.S. district judge in Lake Charles ruled that the LNG pause was "completely without reason or logic." The court ruling reinstated sanity at a time when the Biden-Harris administration adopted the most absurd arguments to please radical environmental donors.

The fact of the matter is the Biden-Harris pause was a clear attempt to undermine U.S. liquefied natural gas production and export by putting the ki-

bosh on these new exports and depriving allies of freedom fuel.

Both President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have not been shy about their desire to kill American energy production. Vice President HARRIS has called for a total ban on fracking, adopting the "leave it in the ground" mentality of the far left, even going so far as to blow up the filibuster to pass the Green New Deal; that is, the now President of the Senate would have us end the filibuster to kill American energy, help China, Russia, and Iran, and raise prices on working families.

I don't know whether we should be more concerned about the fact that they say "leave it in the ground," despite knowing that renewable resources can't meet U.S. energy demand, or that they say it thinking that it may actually work.

Curtailed U.S. natural gas production will not lower global greenhouse gas emissions, but unleashing American energy will. U.S. liquefied natural gas is one of the cleanest burning fuels in the world in terms of lifecycle emissions. In fact, natural gas is principally responsible for U.S. emissions being lower today than they were in 1988, despite a much larger economy and population.

And just because we limit the supply of natural gas, the demand does not go away. The demand instead will turn to other sources of energy. We saw this in Europe after the invasion of Ukraine. European countries refused to buy Russian natural gas—and I applaud that decision—but with the Biden-Harris LNG export pause, the world must turn to dirty alternatives like oil or coal purchased from dictators or despots in Russia and Iran. It was as if Putin himself called up the Vice President, called up the President, and said: Let's put a pause on this because, by golly, this is going to help the Russian economy.

Now, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to know that, as coal use goes up, global emissions increase. The administration's thinly veiled plan to reduce global emissions actually backfires. It backfires because, if other countries don't get our natural gas, they burn their coal, and global emissions increase.

The administration's war on American energy didn't just affect our allies; it also wages a war on American workers. Two-thirds of U.S. liquefied natural gas is exported from Louisiana, providing thousands of Louisianians with good paying jobs. The Biden-Harris freeze impacted 18 LNG export facilities, 12 of which were going to be built in my State.

Now, "to be built" is the key phrase here, because it didn't just affect energy jobs; it affected construction jobs as well. Because the Biden-Harris administration wants to appease the rich climate lobby, the future and financial security of construction workers in Louisiana and across the country is thrown into limbo.

Now, even though we have this court ruling, we are not out of the woods.

The Federal court's ruling brought common sense back, but the Department of Energy can still slow-walk permits, and this is something Congress must watch closely. This is something Congress is already looking to address, with bipartisan support for setting a time limit on how long the Department of Energy can take to review new permits—a shot clock, if you will.

When we unleash American energy production and LNG exports, it creates high-paying jobs, it boosts our economy, and it strengthens the United States and the national security of allies. It denies income to Putin and drives down global greenhouse gas emissions. These should all be bipartisan goals.

Common sense prevailed in the courts. Now it is time for common sense to return to the White House.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Madam President, the National Flood Insurance Program, or NFIP, was created to protect Americans and their families. It covers 4.7 million American homes. But NFIP fails to serve that core function when it becomes too expensive to afford.

This is my poster: Make flood insurance affordable.

FEMA's new risk assessment, Risk Rating 2.0, has blindsided homeowners with unprecedented spikes in their insurance premiums, and it was never passed by Congress.

I speak to constituents constantly about flood insurance. A few months ago, I shared several stories that my team and I have heard from people in Louisiana about the issue. And their stories matter. They are the stories of Americans struggling to get by, and they deserve to be heard. So I am back to share a couple more.

One resident in New Orleans, nearing retirement, told us she was struggling to keep up with rising premiums because they no longer allow her home to be grandfathered into the program. Her house was built in 1987, up to the standards under the flood map at the time. She did everything right.

Her home flooded during Katrina, like so many did, but, again, it was saved from skyrocketing premiums until Risk Rating 2.0. And it is important to note that the flooding during Katrina was due to the failure of federally designed and built flood walls. So she is being blamed for the Army Corps of Engineers' failure, and, therefore, now she has got skyrocketing premiums.

She tells us that her future premiums will eventually rise to over \$8,000. Her hazard insurance is almost \$12,000 and growing each year. She wrote:

There is no way I will be able to retire and afford the premiums. I can hardly pay them now. There is no way I will be able to retire.

Her story is one that is shared by many homeowners in our State. There is another woman in the city of Central, LA, just outside of Baton Rouge, an area that doesn't often flood. As she

put it, in order for her house to flood, the whole city of Central would need to be under water.

But when Risk Rating 2.0 hit, she learned her premiums would quadruple if she opted for the coverage she wanted. So, instead, she dropped coverage altogether.

Now that is the problem with blindsiding people with higher premiums. If they don't flood and they cannot afford insurance, they drop their coverage. When that happens, the pool of policyholders shrinks, and the risk is put on fewer and fewer policyholders, which raises their premiums even more, and you enter what is called an actuarial death spiral.

FEMA itself forecasted that over 20 percent of stakeholders would leave the program within 10 years with these increased premiums. We are setting the program up for collapse.

And, by the way, these are not wealthy people. The wealthy are like a small minority of those affected. There is a stereotype that this is for wealthy people with their camps at the beach. No, this program is for working and middle-income Americans, the kind of folks who wake up every day, go to the refinery, make the gasoline and the jet fuel that help us get here, and do the work that literally powers our economy. And they are the ones that are affected.

Madam President, 62 percent of all NFIP policies are in parishes and counties where the median household income is below the national average of about \$54,000. These are hard-working families, not millionaires' beach homes.

And it is not just Louisiana families getting hit. We have seen flooding in States that don't typically make you think of flooding.

So if it is the dark yellow, it is a State that has had over a billion dollars in claims. That includes the President of the Senate's home State of California, her native State of Mississippi, and all of these other beach States, including a non-beach State, which would be the State of Missouri.

So the yellow which is not as dark is, again, places which have had over \$50 million in NFIP claims. So you see this is a pervasive problem.

This is a national program. Forty-four States have had over \$50 million in total NFIP claims, and every single State has had at least \$5 million in claims.

You may be surprised to hear that Ruidoso, NM, a small village in South Central New Mexico, has faced 13 flash flood emergencies since June 19 of this year due to runoff from heavy rain.

On July 17, homeowners in Nashville, IL, were devastated when the town's dam flooded and caused damages to dozens of homes.

On May 24, Montana Governor Greg Gianforte issued an executive order to declare a statewide disaster in response to recent flooding in Northern and Central Montana.

Residents of Appleton, WI, faced widespread damage from a flash flood earlier this year.

New Mexico, Illinois, Montana, Wisconsin—not places you typically think of when you think of flooding. Again, it is a national issue, not just a coastal issue.

Now, let me say to my colleagues who represent those States and all of my colleagues that come to talk to me about it: Let's have a conversation. Every single Member of this body has constituents who depend upon the National Flood Insurance Program. My team is working on a bipartisan solution that will roll back Risk Rating 2.0 and make flood insurance affordable and accountable again. Let's find a way forward.

VENEZUELA

Madam President, for 25 years, the Venezuelan people have suffered. They have endured the Chavez-Maduro despotic regimes—regimes that stole their money, ruined their country's infrastructure, destroyed public services, tortured their politicians, and tried to destabilize the entire region.

One little factoid: At one point, Venezuela had the third richest economy in the Western Hemisphere per capita, and now their per capita income is that of Haiti. They have gone from third to being the worst.

But Venezuela's freedom-loving citizens kept fighting. Yesterday, again, they went out to vote for freedom in a movement led by Maria Corina Machado, the opposition leader who was herself barred from running, and Edmundo Gonzalez, the opposition's candidate. The result was an overwhelming—overwhelming—win for the opposition and for democracy.

And here is Maria, and here is Edmundo.

Multiple exit polls and quick counts show the opposition winning by more than 30 percent. Edmundo Gonzalez won with the largest landslide in Venezuelan history. This landslide win comes despite the regime's efforts that barred the vast majority of the 8 million Venezuelan exiles from voting. The real electoral numbers were so bad that the regime simply stopped counting votes and made up numbers.

Now, Venezuelans obviously want change, and the regime does not. They are desperately holding on to whatever power they can grab. This is a critical moment in our hemisphere. Do they have to wait with another 25 years of tyranny and repression when they are just 3 hours from the United States? Do we, the United States, allow the Russians, the Chinese Communist Party, the drug cartels, Iran, and others to use Venezuela as ground zero in their plans to harm the United States and our allies in the hemisphere? Do we allow Venezuela's collapse to eventually flood the United States with refugees?

We need to change course. It starts by recognizing President-elect Edmundo Gonzalez. It starts with an

international coalition to ensure the political transition that Venezuelans already began at the polling booth.

The world knows what happened at the ballot box over the weekend, but we must have the courage to come together, stand against Maduro, and tell him: Not this time.

I stand here today saying so: Not this time.

Maria Corina has always said her fight will "go until the end," as she puts it. The free world must ensure that this is not the end.

With that, I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 220 Ex.]

YEA—73

Baldwin	Cantwell	Daines
Barrasso	Capito	Duckworth
Bennet	Cardin	Durbin
Blackburn	Carpenter	Fischer
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Booker	Cassidy	Graham
Boozman	Collins	Grassley
Braun	Cornyn	Hassan
Britt	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Brown	Cotton	Hickenlooper
Budd	Cramer	Hirono
Butler	Crapo	Johnson

Kaine	Murphy	Stabenow
Kelly	Murray	Tester
King	Ossoff	Thune
Klobuchar	Peters	Tillis
Lankford	Reed	Van Hollen
Lujan	Rosen	Warren
Lummis	Rounds	Welch
Manchin	Sanders	Whitehouse
McConnell	Schatz	Wicker
Merkley	Schumer	Wyden
Moran	Shaheen	Young
Mullin	Sinema	
Murkowski	Smith	

NAYS—13

Cruz	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Ernst	Lee	Sullivan
Hagerty	Marshall	Tuberville
Hawley	Paul	
Hyde-Smith	Schmitt	

NOT VOTING—14

Coons	Padilla	Scott (SC)
Fetterman	Ricketts	Vance
Hoeben	Risch	Warner
Markey	Romney	Warnock
Menendez	Rubio	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 710.

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 Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 710, Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard

Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 709.

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 Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 709, Joseph Francis Saporito, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 582.

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 Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 582, Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Charles E. Schumer, Laphonza R. Butler, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to consider Calendar No. 349, H.R. 7024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 349, H.R. 7024, a bill to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 349, H.R. 7024, a bill to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum calls with cloture motions filed today, July 29, be waived.

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

AMENDING TITLE 36, UNITED STATES CODE, TO DESIGNATE THE BALD EAGLE AS THE NATIONAL BIRD

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 4610, and the Senate proceed to its immediate ratification.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4610) to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the bald eagle as the national bird.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4610) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4610

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF BALD EAGLE AS NATIONAL BIRD.

- (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
- (1) bald eagles are a historical symbol of the United States representing independence, strength, and freedom;
 - (2) the bald eagle is unique to North America;

(3) on June 20, 1782, the bald eagle was adopted as the Coat of Arms for the United States Great Seal;

(4) the bald eagle image remains the leading insignia for all branches of the United States military;

(5) the bald eagle is the leading image on thousands of Federal Government branches, departments, and agencies, including the President, Vice-President, Congress, and Senate;

(6) the bald eagle serves as the logo, trademark, and brand icon for businesses, non-profit organizations, and sports teams across the United States;

(7) bald eagles are integral to the spiritual lives and sacred belief systems of most Indigenous peoples and Tribal communities;

(8) bald eagles are prevalent in belief, practice, stories, ceremonies, dance, traditions, songs, regalia, flags, insignias, arts, craft, and other forms of spiritual reverence;

(9) bald eagle festivals are—

(A) held in over 100 locations across the United States; and

(B) key components of community engagement;

(10) the bald eagle is prevalent on—

(A) hundreds of United States stamps; and

(B) many United States coins and currencies;

(11) the bald eagle is a primary component and symbol on Federal and State flags throughout the United States; and

(12) joint efforts of the Federal Government and State and local governments, non-profit organizations, and individuals have contributed to the successful recovery of the bald eagle.

(b) DESIGNATION.—Chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 306. National bird

“The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is the national bird.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading, by striking “AND TREE” and inserting “TREE, AND BIRD”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“306. National bird.”.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, the amendments made by this section, or the adoption of the bald eagle as the national bird of the United States may be construed or used as a reason to alter, change, modify, or otherwise affect any plan, policy, management decision, regulation, or other action of the Federal Government.

NATIONAL FOSSIL ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3574 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3574) to amend chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, to designate the mastodon as the national fossil of the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion

to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3574) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3574

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Fossil Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL FOSSIL OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 306. National fossil

“The fossil of the genus *Mammut*, commonly known as the mastodon, is the national fossil.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the chapter heading and inserting “**NATIONAL ANTHEM, MOTTO, FLORAL EMBLEM, MARCH, TREE, AND FOSSIL**”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“306. National fossil.”

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tonight, I am very happy to announce that I just filed cloture on the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, a bill to expand the child tax credit, expand the affordable housing tax credit, help small businesses with the R&D credit, and lift half a million kids out of poverty. For the information of Senators, the step I take tonight sets up a cloture vote on Thursday.

Mr. President, it is time to get this bill done right away. This bipartisan bill passed the House overwhelmingly, 357 to 70. We hope this week the Senate Republicans will join us. Democrats strongly support moving forward on this bill because it is filled with good news for our kids and small businesses and jobs and housing.

For one, Democrats strongly support expanding the child tax credit because we know it will do immense good for tens of millions of families—so many kids. In fact, one of the very first things this majority did in 2021 was expand the child tax credit significantly under the American Rescue Plan, and it cut child poverty in close to half. That turned out to be an enormous success, but unfortunately that provision expired. We have a chance to help more kids get out of poverty—many more kids, millions of kids—through this important provision once again.

The bipartisan tax package will be a boon for small businesses because it will reward them and other businesses for investing in R&D and help them pay for new equipment so they can compete against larger competitors. This will inevitably mean more jobs for Americans. When businesses get this tax credit for investing, they are going

to hire more people, more workers. It particularly benefits small businesses that don't have the flexibility to do these things on their own without this tax break.

Of course, I am very happy that this tax package delivers big wins on something near and dear to my heart: affordable housing. The bill would expand the low-income housing tax credit, LIHTC, very significantly. LIHTC is one of the most effective tools we have for increasing the supply of affordable housing units. I was insistent that this measure go into the bill, and I said it is nonnegotiable. Well, I am glad it is in the bill.

When it comes time to vote later this week, the American people will see for themselves who in reality supports the fine provisions of the tax bill and who does not. When we vote, the American people will see for themselves who, in fact, favors expanding the child tax credit and taking so many kids out of poverty, and they will see who opposes it. The American people will see who supports expanding affordable housing and who doesn't. The American people will see who stands for small businesses and who stands against them, as they have so requested this important R&D credit.

I urge my Republican colleagues not to stand in the way of helping businesses, small businesses, families, and young people keep a roof over their heads when it is time to vote Thursday.

I want to thank Chairman WYDEN for his great leadership on this package, and I thank all the Senate Finance Committee members for their great work.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Neumann nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the order of July 25 with respect to the House message to accompany S. 2073 be modified so that at 12 noon, amendment No. 3022 be withdrawn and the Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 2073 with amendment No. 3021 without further intervening action or debate; further, that following the disposition of the House message to accompany S. 2073, the Senate resume executive session and recess until 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that at 2:30 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Neumann nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Neumann nomination, all time be considered expired at 4:15

p.m. and that if the nomination is confirmed, 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 (Ms. SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators CRAMER and MERKLEY.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

RECOGNIZING RICK ELECTRIC, INC.

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, thank you to my friend and colleague Mr. MERKLEY for yielding a few seconds early in the evening.

It is my honor to recognize a remarkable milestone in the Fargo, ND, and Moorhead, MN, area. For 60 years, Rick Electric, Inc., has been a shining example of hard work, dedication, and innovation in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Founded by David and Beverly Rick in 1964, this family-owned business has been a fixture in Fargo-Moorhead, providing topnotch electrical services and unwavering commitment to excellence. Their sons Gregory and Dennis took the helm in 1998, continuing the legacy of their parents with a passion for their craft and a deep-seated commitment to serving their communities and the region.

Rick Electric's involvement in the National Electric Contractors Association speaks volumes about the family's dedication to upholding the highest standards of safety and professionalism. Their contributions go beyond providing quality service, as they have been integral to the growth and prosperity of the Fargo-Moorhead area and the surrounding region.

As they celebrate this anniversary, I speak on behalf of all North Dakotans in recognizing Rick Electric for 60 years of outstanding service, leadership, and community involvement. The impact they have had on our region cannot be overstated, and I am honored to congratulate them on this remarkable achievement.

Here is to Rick Electric and to many more years of success and prosperity. Thank you for all you have done over these past 60 years. Congratulations and happy birthday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, the Postal Service in the United States has always in the past been about great service. Their motto said all: Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night shall stop these courageous couriers from swift completion of their

appointed rounds. That just rings with the ethic of good service.

But today the Postal Service is run by a man named Louis DeJoy. Louis DeJoy is the Postmaster General, and I am sorry to report that there is no joy in DeJoy-ville.

Smalltown America relies on the U.S. Postal Service. In the Postal Service's own words, it "operates as a basic and fundamental service provided by the Government of the United States to the American people."

It continues:

Our basic mission is to provide prompt, reliable, efficient mail and packaging service to all Americans, regardless of where they live and at affordable rates.

So one can understand, then, why so many Members of this Chamber on both sides of the aisle are alarmed by the growing chorus of complaints about the deteriorating quality of service by the U.S. Postal Service.

Postmaster General DeJoy labeled his restructuring plan "Delivering for America." A better name for this plan would be "Delaying Mail in America." You only need to look at what is happening in my home State. Postmaster DeJoy's 10-year "Delivering for America" reorganization plan for the U.S. Postal Service calls for consolidating mail processing, which means downgrading regional mail processing facilities, which means sending all the mail to Portland, OR, to be sorted before it is returned to the community it originated in.

Now, my State is 300 miles north to south, 400 miles east to west. That is a very large place, so it takes a lot of time if all the processing occurs in Portland.

Medford in Southern Oregon was the postal sorting facility. It sorted, post-marked, and distributed millions of pieces of mail every year for Southern Oregon. But now, under "Delivering for America"—otherwise known as "Delaying Mail in America"—now all that mail has to be shipped to Portland, OR, 270 miles to the north, and sorted and then trucked 275 miles back to the south even if you are sending a letter just across town. The Postal Service claims that this doesn't delay mail, but they refuse to explain how adding on 500 to 600 extra miles of driving doesn't delay the mail.

Meanwhile, for this deteriorating service, they are raising prices. July 14—a single stamp now costs 73 cents. So, folks, just start to think about, if I want to send a letter, it is going to cost me a dollar, the envelope and the stamp.

The Postal Service says: Our new system is more efficient and more cost-effective.

It is not more cost-effective if people quit using the service because it is so terrible.

You know, these price hikes and these delivery delays—they hit our rural communities the hardest. Smalltown Americans rely on the Postal Service to deliver lifesaving medica-

tions, to pay their bills, to run their small businesses. When they get an order, they need to be able to mail out the product. Newspapers in rural and coastal communities rely on the Postal Service for timely delivery. Even large corporations like Amazon and FedEx and UPS rely on the Postal Service to deliver a huge portion of their packages.

Reliable, timely mail service keeps our friends, families, businesses—and in vote-by-mail States like Oregon—keeps them connected.

That is why I have been raising the alarm about this "Delaying Mail for America" plan of DeJoy's over this last year. I called him up to discuss it. He didn't call me back, so I called him again, and he didn't call me back. So I organized a bipartisan group of Senators to send him a letter. Hopefully it didn't get delayed because he took away so many processing centers. Well, we know he did get the letter because we sent a bunch of them, and we did get some replies. But these letters are from bipartisan Senators who have been seeing the challenges that his plan is creating in their communities.

The letter said: Stop doing this. Stop taking away our processing centers. That is making mail so much slower.

Do you know what? We won a round. He said he will stop taking away these centers at least for the balance of this year—meaning until after the election. Well, that is politics. That is not good business; that is just politics.

But in States that have already suffered the downgrade of their facilities—places like Oregon, Georgia, Virginia, States all over this country—we need those distribution centers reopened. We need the sorting machinery reinstalled. We need reliable, affordable mail service restored.

The Postal Service has repeatedly said to my team that they aren't hearing about any significant issues for the Delivering for America plan. Well, maybe that is because they are not asking, or maybe that is because the letters of complaint came to us rather than them.

So I have collected some concerns from my Oregon constituents. I asked them—particularly in the Medford and Eugene area, where the two service centers were recently downgraded—if they had been affected.

I didn't receive one or two letters. You know, if you asked DeJoy, apparently, he would only expect me to receive letters that say how great the Postal Service was doing. I didn't receive any letters like that. I received hundreds of pages of responses, and they are describing—these Oregonians—the same problems that the Postmaster General's inspector general found in his recent report on Virginia.

And, right now, the inspector general is preparing a report on Oregon, and I fully expect it will have similar issues documented. But, for now, let me document the issues by citing those letters that my constituents sent to me.

A woman in Medford said:

I am a 71-year-old disabled senior citizen. I order medicine, food, and household items through the mail. It is consistently late.

A constituent in Klamath Falls reported:

It's taking 2 to 3 weeks to send mail from Klamath Falls to Klamath Falls. Ridiculous!

Her comment, of course, is a reflection of the mail having to be trucked almost 300 miles to be sorted and then trucked back.

I have heard from many small-town Oregonians who are concerned about the delivery of their lifesaving medications. An Oregonian from White City shared:

My elderly mother relies on mail delivery of her medications. Twice in the last few weeks she's had to go days without necessary inhalers because of postal delays. Miserable, breathless, dangerous days.

Patricia Coats, in Waldport, on the coast said:

We get our medications through the mail. . . . In some instances it's been delayed to the point that my husband has gone without for up to 5 to 7 days.

Antoinette Corrente Evans, in Grants Pass, said:

My insurance company will not let me order early to compensate for the delays.

So, if I run out before delivery, I need to pay the full price for my expensive medicines.

And these delays can seriously affect medical care as well as the delivery of pharmaceuticals.

Blanche McKenna, in Ashland, a mother, said:

As guardian for my son with severe disabilities, I need to go through mail service to give written consent for his services. . . . It took weeks for a simple consent to get to his provider, delaying much needed services.

Those are services for her disabled son.

These late deliveries risk lives; they risk livelihoods. Businesses of all sizes depend on the Postal Service.

Honora Ni Aodagain, in Grants Pass, said:

I depend a lot on the mail as part of my business. . . . Packages are not showing up when they are supposed to. Payments for bills are not getting to the vendor on time. It's a source of major frustration.

And that word, "frustration," showed up time and time and time again.

Carolyn Rust, in Eugene, described how hard it is to keep the books balanced:

Our company has seen our accounts payable deliveries delayed by 5 to 10 days. This has resulted in late fees.

We finally resorted [to] paying all of our vendors a week early so . . . our payment would be received within a day of being due.

We also have seen checks from our customers take 3 to 4 weeks to be delivered.

Now, businesses aren't the only ones getting smacked with late fees for bills they have paid on time; ordinary folks are as well.

Nadya Geras-Carson, in Eugene, told me:

My bills arrive basically a day before they are due. . . . Which means, even if I mail the payment back on the next day, it is already late, and I am charged a late payment fee.

Diana Dillard, in Brookings, said:

On March 27, we mailed our Verizon and Geico payments as usual.

On April 10, we received notification that our payments had not been received and . . . we were facing [a] cut-off of services.

We made arrangements to pay over the phone and were shocked and angered when Verizon charged us \$10 to speak to a customer service agent. . . . Extremely frustrating.

A woman in Baker City said:

I pay my estimated taxes quarterly. . . . More than one time, checks I have mailed never reached their addresses. . . . Local services recommend using a credit card to avoid late payment because of poor USPS service—even just across town.

Another constituent, Denise Brooks, wrote to say:

I work with a non-profit organization in Medford that provides assistance to the working poor and [to the] homeless. The one-week delivery time can have catastrophic outcomes to families [who are] already struggling.

The delays cause late fees of \$75 added onto . . . families' rent obligations and the potential for eviction from their rental.

Late deliveries are a massive problem for one of the Postal Service's most important customers: newspapers. Timeliness is essential for newspapers. In this fast-changing world, nobody wants to read news that happened 3 or 4 days earlier. That seems like it is almost a month old. It just feels that way. But most small, local, and regional newspapers can't afford to hire a delivery service. So they rely on the Postal Service to deliver the papers.

But since July of 2022, the Postal Service has jacked up the delivery prices for newspapers by about 42 percent. It makes it a lot more expensive for small newspapers that are often already struggling from the loss of advertisements for local goods in this electronic age, the loss of classified ads. It makes it much more expensive to deliver their newspapers.

We need these smalltown newspapers to thrive. But if the newspapers are delivered late and if the cost of delivery is going up, that is just one more challenge affecting them and making it harder for them to thrive.

And when people get their papers late, it isn't just that they are frustrated; it is that they start canceling their subscriptions—again, hitting our small newspapers hard.

Publisher Joe Warren, with Country Media, which has community papers up and down the Oregon coast, told my team:

Delivery is sporadic. Some weeks local mail—which is guaranteed the same day if we get papers to them by a certain time [of day]—is not happening. . . . Some weeks it's the next day or two.

Other publishers have told me that they have taken it upon themselves to hand-deliver papers to some subscribers because the Postal Service simply did not deliver, while still charging them an arm and a leg.

Perhaps Matt Hall, who has multiple newspapers in Southern Oregon, said it best when he said to my office:

The USPS treats newspapers like a mine.

They know we are a reliable source of revenue, but they keep extracting, and soon there will be nothing left.

Postmaster DeJoy claims that their service changes are necessary to run the Postal Service like a profitable business. But here is the thing: Profitable businesses thrive by delivering good service. If they don't deliver good service, they don't stay profitable, and, very soon, they are out of business.

That is the challenge. This is not a sustainable situation. The challenges reported by my constituents back home in Oregon: late deliveries of life-saving medications; small businesses and individuals struggling to pay their vendors, struggling to get their checks delivered on time to avoid late fees; newspapers losing subscribers; mail taking weeks to go to a house just down the street because it has to go hundreds and hundreds of miles to be sorted, instead of going to a more local regional sorting facility.

Now, we need to reverse DeJoy's downgrades. Now, we need to restore reliable, affordable mail delivery. Now is the time to take the Delivery for America plan and return it to the sender.

Let's restore the vision that is so powerful in the USPS—U.S. Postal Service—motto: that rain nor heat nor gloom of night shall stop courageous couriers from swift completion of their appointed rounds.

Let's not accept a world where there is no "joy" in "DeJoyville" and our constituents are so poorly served.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of

the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0H-24. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-23 of April 19, 2022.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0H-24

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1). AECA Transmittal No.: 22-23; Date: April 19, 2022; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On April 19, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 22-23 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of one hundred six (106) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (5) terminals; fifteen (15) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and seven (7) Multifunctional Information Distribution System MIDS-Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT) (4) Block Upgrade Two (BU2) retrofit kits. Also included were Low Volume Terminal (LVT) Cryptographic Modules (LCM). The estimated total cost was \$42 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$40 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: fifty (50) MIDS JTRS (5) terminals; six (6) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and three (3) MIDS JTRS (7) terminals. The estimated total value of the new items is \$20 million. The non-MDE value will remain at \$2 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$20 million to a revised \$62 million. MDE constitutes \$60 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original report. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will support Australia in maintaining its current force projection capability and enhances interoperability with U.S. forces well into the future.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

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

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 18, 2024.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0E-24. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 20-22 of April 10, 2020.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER,

(For James A. Hursch, Director).
Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0E-24

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of the Netherlands.

(ii) Sec 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 20-22; Date: April 10, 2020; Implementing Agency: Army.

(iii) Description: On April 10, 2020, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 20-22 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of one hundred ninety-nine (199) Excalibur Increment IB M982A1 tactical projectiles. Also included was U.S. technical assistance; training; associated support equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$40.55 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$33.7 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of an additional sixty-three (63) Excalibur Increment IB M982A1 tactical projectiles that include global positioning system guided Inertial Measurement Units enabled by Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M-Code. Also included are the following non-MDE items: transportation; technical data; technical assistance; training; and new equipment training. The total cost of the new MDE articles is \$24.5 million with a revised total cost for MDE of \$58.2 million. The estimated total value of the additional non-MDE articles is \$1.0 million with a revised estimated non-MDE value of \$7.85 million. The total estimated case value will increase by \$25.5 million, resulting in a total estimated case value of \$66.05 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will support the Netherlands' long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, to meet its national defense requirements.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national secu-

rity of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 18, 2024.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM OR 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.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0H-24. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-23 of April 19, 2022.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0H-24

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Sec. 36(B)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22-23; Date: April 19, 2022; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On April 19, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 22-23 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of one hundred six (106) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (5) terminals; fifteen (15) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and seven (7) Multifunctional Information Distribution System MIDS-Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT) (4) Block Upgrade Two (BU2) retrofit kits. Also included were Low Volume Terminal (LVT) Cryptographic Modules (LCM). The estimated total cost was \$42 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$40 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: fifty (50) MIDS JTRS (5) terminals; six (6) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and three (3) MIDS JTRS (7) terminals. The estimated total value of the new items is \$20 million. The

non-MDE value will remain at \$2 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$20 million to a revised \$62 million. MDE constitutes \$60 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original report. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will support Australia in maintaining its current force projection capability and enhances interoperability with U.S. forces well into the future.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

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

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 18, 2024.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-43, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.8 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your offices.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER
(For James A. Hursch, Director).
Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-43

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: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$2.8 billion.
Total \$2.8 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Follow-on logistics support and services, including for Joint Mission Planning Software (JMPS) and support; KIV-77/78 cryptographic devices and support; spares and repair parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; calibration support and test equipment; ground and personnel equipment; classified and unclassified software and software support, classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support, in support of, but not limited to, KC-130J, C-130, E-3, RE-3, KE-3, KA-350, Bell 212, and Bell 412 aircraft.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SR-D-GAK, SR-D-QBP, SR-D-QDR, SR-D-QDJ, SR-D-QBW, SR-D-QTP, SR-D-QAT, SR-D-QDQ, SR-D-QAY, SR-D-QAH.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 23, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—System Logistics and Sustainment Support

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy follow-on logistics support and services, including for Joint Mission Planning Software (JMPS) hardware and support; KIV-77/78 cryptographic devices and support; spares and repair parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; calibration support and test equipment; ground and personnel equipment; classified and unclassified software and software support, classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support, in support of, but not limited to, KC-130J, C-130, E-3, RE-3, KE-3, KA 350, Bell 212, and Bell 412 aircraft. The estimated total program cost is \$2.8 billion.

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 the Gulf Region.

The proposed sale will improve the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's capability to deter current and future threats by providing sustainment and training support of the Royal Saudi Air Force's existing platforms and aircraft fleets. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and these services into its armed forces.

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

There will be various contractors associated with the provision of equipment and services involved with this case, and there is no prime contractor. There are no known off-

set agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

The implementation of this proposed sale may require the assignment of a small number of additional long-term U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-43

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) is a multi-platform, computer-based mission planning system. Its modular suite of systems is tailored to user needs, allowing operators of various aircraft to install planning modules required for flight planning, weapons delivery planning, post-flight debrief, and operational integration.

2. The KIV-77/78 is a cryptographic applique for Identification Friend or Foe systems. It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

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

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

5. A determination has been made that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE STEENBERGEN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Grace for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Grace is a native of Pine Bluffs, WY. She attends Baylor University, where she studies political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO INTERNS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to applaud the efforts of the

young people who supported the State of Arkansas as summer interns in my Washington, DC, and State offices.

I appreciate their commitment and dedication to serving Arkansans and being an ambassador for our office. These talented students and recent graduates have grown professionally and personally through this unique experience. On a daily basis, they provided essential support to my staff including giving tours of the U.S. Capitol, as well as drafting communications materials and researching policy issues. They played a vital role in helping my team offer the best possible constituent service and meet needs throughout the place they call home.

I am proud to provide this opportunity to help instill a passion for public service and inspire future generations of Arkansans leaders. I am confident our congressional interns found this internship valuable and rewarding.

I would like to recognize the following interns for their hard work and service to Arkansans:

Kate Edelen, Buddy Gaston, Hunter Ross, Alex Holder, Sydney Roulhac, Camryn Hughes, Anna Kate Davis, Katie Gage, Hadley Burke, Zach Ingle, Meredith Pinkston, Ella Brewer, Luisa Lawson, Henry Oltman, Hank Herzfeld, Elaine Shue and Joseph Osborne all served in the Washington, DC, office.

Reese Mitchell, Taylor Hoover, Ella Hommel, Lexi Dilbeck, McCully Allen, Lauren Berry, Jacob Major, Kyla Clouthier and Josie Kelly served as interns for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Michelle Sutton served as legal clerk.

Connor Ragan and Masheyat Rahman served in the Northwest Arkansas office.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each of them for their service and wish them the best in school and beyond, knowing their time spent representing the Natural State will serve them well in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL DEMERITT

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Samuel "Sam" Demeritt of Nottingham as July's Granite Stater of the Month. For 60 years, Sam has been a dedicated volunteer with numerous New Hampshire organizations to advance responsible stewardship of the outdoors.

Service is at the center of everything that Sam does in his life. As a young adult, he answered our country's call and entered the Army, completing his service in 1964. Like many veterans, his commitment to finding ways to serve his fellow Americans did not end there. That same year, Sam joined his father in volunteering for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. He has now volunteered with Fish and Game for 60 years and doesn't plan to stop anytime soon; he is always looking for new ways to give back to Granite Staters who share his passion for our beautiful outdoors. In his work with Fish and Game, Sam teaches the mandatory hunter safety and ethics education course for Granite Staters who

are seeking a hunting license. He is a champion of our New Hampshire values of responsible stewardship and respecting our wildlife.

Sam is also deeply involved in environmental preservation in his community. In addition to his long history of volunteering with the Fish and Game Department, Sam serves as chair of the Nottingham Conservation Commission and on the board of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation. Granite Staters know that the natural splendor of our State is not maintained on its own, and through the volunteer efforts of Sam and others like him, Granite Staters will be able to enjoy New Hampshire's woods, rivers, and mountains for years to come.

Sam's decades of volunteering for Fish and Game, the Nottingham Conservation Commission, and the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation exemplify the New Hampshire spirit of respecting and honoring our beautiful natural resources. Through his life's work, he has reminded us that it is nothing less than a privilege to call beautiful New Hampshire our home. For his commitment to our environment, our State, and our country, I am honored to name him July's Granite Stater of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO LAURIE BONER

● Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, with the August work period just around the corner, preparations are being made and events are being scheduled for several weeks back home in Wyoming. The Cowboy State is truly wonderful all 12 months of the year, but August brings a lot of opportunities for outdoor activities, family gatherings, and one of my favorite events of the year: the Wyoming State Fair.

For more than 120 years, the Wyoming State Fair has taken place in Douglas and has been the perfect place to take in a rodeo, play carnival games, eat some terrific fair food, and celebrate Wyoming agriculture. As a lifelong rancher, the Wyoming State Fair has always held a special place in my heart. It is a place to welcome and witness the next generation of ranchers and to honor those who have made so much of a difference to agriculture in Wyoming with an induction into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Today, I have the distinct honor to welcome Laurie Boner of Glenrock, WY, to the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

In every walk of life, the Hall of Fame is synonymous with excellence. Not only in ones profession, but also in their character. It is traditionally a place reserved for those who have made significant contributions to ensure growth in their industry and who have left a lasting impact for future generations to look up to. Laurie personifies all of these attributes, and being inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame is a fitting and well-deserved honor and recognition for her.

It did not take long for Laurie to begin showing an interest in agriculture. At a young age, she would spend time with her grandparents who raised sheep and cattle and grew up with quarter horses, which were raised and trained by her mother. The influence and knowledge they shared ultimately sparked an interest in Laurie's heart which has since developed into a passion for ranching and agriculture in addition to her love for Wyoming.

This passion soon transitioned into a career. After her graduation from the University of Wyoming, Laurie spent more than 15 years working for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, where she was able to use her knowledge and expertise to guide Federal and State agriculture policies in Wyoming. Laurie, however, felt she had more to offer and so much more she could do.

This led her to join numerous associations to help advocate for Wyoming's ranching and agriculture industries. She has served on the Wyoming Quarter Horse Association (WQHA), Wyoming Wool Growers Association (WWGA), Converse County Stock Growers, the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust Board, the Wyoming State Fair Board, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA), and was appointed by the Governor to the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB), where she served for 6 years. During her busy career, she still found the time to start up LB Designs, a business specializing in website design and print-ready promotional materials. That is a resume that truly stands out and clearly is representative of someone who wants what is best for agriculture in her State and is willing to put in whatever needs to be done.

Laurie is also no stranger to awards and recognitions. In 2021, she was honored as the recipient of the Heart of Agriculture Award. When I learned of this, I wrote her and told her how special it is to be recognized by your neighbors and peers who have decided that you are part of what makes living, working, and just being a part of agriculture in Wyoming so wonderful. I pushed her to use that award as a catalyst to continue to challenge herself to make a difference. I do not think she needed my advice as she was already well on the path to success, and I can't think of anyone more deserving of this hall of fame recognition than Laurie Boner.

I look forward to welcoming Laurie to the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. While I do not anticipate her slowing down anytime soon, the legacy she has established is truly remarkable and an example for others to aspire to. I tip my hat to her.●

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 pursuant to section 1 of the Library of Congress Trust Fund

Board Act (2 U.S.C. 154), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a 5-year term: Mr. Saul Aaron Fox of Miami Beach, Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 114(b) of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1103), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term of 6 years: Mr. Michael Joseph Sommers of Alexandria, Virginia.

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-5448. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report in accordance with sections 107 and 502 of the Foreign Intelligence Act of 1978, as amended, 50 U.S.C. section 1801 et seq., and section 118 of USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, as amended; to the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Judiciary; and Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-5449. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Entrepreneur Program: Fiscal Year 2025 Automatic Increase of Investment and Revenue Amount Requirements" (RIN1615-AC75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5450. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Attorney General's Second Quarterly Report of Fiscal Year 2024 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5451. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties—2024 Adjustment" (Docket No. EP 716) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5452. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Regulations for Expedited Relief for Service Emergencies" ((RIN2140-AB57) (Docket No. EP 762)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-156. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Illinois urging the federal government to publish and certify without delay the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and urging the United States Congress to pass a joint resolution, affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, in 1972, the Ninety-second Congress of the United States of America, at its Second Session in both houses, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds, adopted the following proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States of America:

Joint Resolution Resolved by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress Assembled (Two-Thirds of Each House Concurring Therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

"Article—

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."; and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States sets forth a two-step amending procedure; and

Whereas, The first step of the Article V amending procedure is proposal of an amendment either by two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by application of two-thirds of the States; and

Whereas, The second and final step of the Article V amending procedure is ratification of an amendment by three-fourths of the States; and

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States does not limit the time for States to ratify an amendment; and

Whereas, The time limit within the internal resolution used by Congress in 1972 to propose the Equal Rights Amendment is, thus, without force or effect, and

Whereas, The so-called Madison Amendment, relating to Compensation of Members of Congress, is the Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, In 1789, by two-thirds vote of each house of the First Congress, the Madison Amendment completed the proposal step of Article V; and

Whereas, Approximately 203 years later, the Madison Amendment completed the ratification step of Article V through ratification by three-fourths of the States; and

Whereas, In 1992, having met the requirements of Article V, the Madison Amendment was published and certified by the Administration of President George H.W. Bush as the Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, Following publication of the Madison Amendment, Congress affirmed the

Madison Amendment as the Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, As of January 27, 2020, three-fourths of the States have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, In contrast to the Madison Amendment which took 203 years to ratify, the Equal Rights Amendment took a mere 48 years to ratify and

Whereas, The Equal Rights Amendment now meets the requirements of Article V of the Constitution of the United States to be added as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the one hundred third general assembly of the state of Illinois, the Senate Concurring Herein, That the General Assembly urges the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. to publish and certify without delay the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly calls on other States to join in this action by passing the same or similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, to Members of the United States Congress, and to the Archivist of the United States.

POM-157. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland urging the federal government to publish, without delay, the federal Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the United States Congress to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, in 1972, the 92nd Congress of the United States, at its second session, in both houses, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds, adopted the following proposition to amend the U.S. Constitution:

"Joint resolution resolved by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."; and

Whereas, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides a two-step procedure for the adoption of an amendment; and

Whereas, The first requirement for the adoption of an amendment under Article V is the proposal of an amendment either by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress, or by a convention called by application of two-thirds of the states; and

Whereas, The second requirement for the adoption of an amendment under Article V is

ratification of an amendment by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, The U.S. Constitution does not limit the time for states to ratify an amendment and does not grant Congress the authority to unilaterally limit the time by which an amendment may be ratified; and

Whereas, A time limitation for the ratification of amendments by the states would be a substantive change to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, To have full force and effect, a substantive change to the U.S. Constitution must be within the text of an amendment so that it may be ratified by the states as part of the requirements of Article V; and

Whereas, The time limitation on state ratifications was in the preamble section of the resolution by Congress and not within the text of the amendment presented to states for state approval; and

Whereas, Because of the placement of the time limitation, the states ratified the text of the Equal Rights Amendment but did not ratify the time limit by Congress; and

Whereas, A time limit was approved in the Equal Rights Amendment by Congress in 1972, but has not been subsequently approved by the states and thus is without force or effect; and

Whereas, in comparison, in 1978, Congress passed the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, which included a time limitation within the text of the Amendment offered to the states for ratification; and

Whereas, The time limitation for the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment ended before ratification of the amendment by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, Because the time limit was within the text of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, the time limit had full force and effect and the amendment expired in 1985; and

Whereas, In comparison, the Twenty-first Amendment and the Twenty-second Amendment include time limitations within the text of each amendment, and the timelines were ratified by three-fourths of the states in accordance with the text of the amendments; and

Whereas, In 1789, the First Congress proposed, in accordance with Article V, the Madison Amendment relating to compensation of members of Congress; and

Whereas, Over 202 years later, the Madison Amendment was ratified by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, in 1992, having finally met the requirements of Article V, the Madison Amendment was published as the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by the Archivist of the United States during the Administration of President George H.W. Bush; and

Whereas, Following publication of the Madison Amendment by the Archivist of the United States, Congress affirmed the Madison Amendment as the Twenty-seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, As of January 27, 2020, three-fourths of the states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, Unlike the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment does not contain a time limit in its text where it would be of full force and effect; and

Whereas, In contrast to the Madison Amendment, which took 203 years to ratify, the Equal Rights Amendment took only 48 years to ratify; and

Whereas, The text of Article V of the U.S. Constitution grants the states the power of ratification, not rescission; and

Whereas, Samuel Johnson's dictionary of 1755 defines "ratify" as "to confirm; to settle"; and

Whereas, Bouvier's Law Dictionary of 1856, considered to be the first American legal dictionary, states that a ratification once done, "cannot be revoked or recalled"; and

Whereas, James Madison wrote in a July 20, 1788, letter to Alexander Hamilton that ratification is "in toto and for ever"; and

Whereas, Various attempts to rescind ratifications of provisions of the U.S. Constitution or its amendments, including the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth Amendments, have never been honored; and

Whereas, The General Assembly of Maryland set a precedent for this resolution in 1961 by passing House Joint Resolution 14 urging Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, Maryland was one of the early states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in May 1972, two months after Congress proposed it for ratification; and

Whereas, Maryland adopted the Maryland Equal Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution in 1972; and

Whereas, The Maryland Equal Rights Amendment is only effective to the degree that it does not conflict with federal law; and

Whereas, The Maryland Attorney General filed an amicus brief in 2022 in support of a lawsuit brought by three ratifying states to require the Archivist of the United States to certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, Over several decades, the General Assembly of Maryland has passed laws and created protections attempting to guarantee equal rights under the law for all Marylanders, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex—which includes legal equality and protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and decisions regarding reproductive healthcare or other aspects of an individual's bodily autonomy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it is the opinion of the General Assembly of Maryland that the Equal Rights Amendment meets the requirements of Article V of the U.S. Constitution and should be recognized as the 28th Amendment; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden to publish, without delay, the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Congress of the United States to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland calls on other states to join in this action by passing similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Colleen Joy Shogan, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20408; the Maryland Congressional Delegation; and the presiding officer of each House of the legislature of each state of the United States, with the request that it be circulated among lead-

ership of the legislative branch of the state governments.

POM-158. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado requesting that the Federal Trade Commission facilitate the use of reparability scores that indicate to consumers the reparability of electronic devices; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24-1005

Whereas, According to the e-waste monitors of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, more than fifty-nine million tons of used electronic devices, equal to the weight of one hundred sixty-one Empire State Buildings, are disposed of each year worldwide; and

Whereas, The federal Environmental Protection Agency reports that electronic waste is now the fastest-growing part of the municipal waste stream in the United States; and

Whereas, Colorado consumers do not have easy access to trusted information concerning the reparability and longevity of electronic devices and are unable to consult such information before purchasing or seeking repair of electronic devices; and

Whereas, The commissioners of the Federal Trade Commission voted unanimously in July 2021 to "closely coordinate with state law enforcement and policymakers to update existing law and regulation to advance the goal of open repair markets"; and

Whereas, A study cited in the Commission's May 2021 "Nixing the Fix" report states that "[t]he lack of information concerning durable and repairable products causes an asymmetry in the market balance and leaves consumers unable to make the best buying decisions regarding to their own needs"; and

Whereas, Open repair markets allow manufacturers to voluntarily assign repair scores for electronic devices such as laptops, phones, and appliances for the purpose of advising consumers regarding the reparability of such devices; and

Whereas, Repair scores function similarly to EnergyGuide labels by providing consumers a one-to-ten score that reflects the availability of spare parts, ease of disassembly, and longevity of support that is associated with an electronic device, thereby informing consumers who seek to repair rather than replace such products; and

Whereas, Repairability scores are a critical tool for consumers whose budgets are squeezed by rising prices. According to the Public Interest Research Group, an average American family spends about one thousand seven hundred dollars on new electronics per year, and an open repair market for electronic devices could save American families a combined forty-nine billion dollars annually by empowering them to repair rather than replace such devices; and

Whereas, Samsung's research on existing repair scores in France showed that eighty-six percent of surveyed French consumers said that repair scores affect their purchasing behavior, and eighty percent indicated they would give up their favorite electronic device for a more repairable electronic device; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

(1) That, in order to promote consumer choice, the General Assembly requests:

(a) That the Federal Trade Commission establish criteria that manufacturers of electronic devices may use to voluntarily assign reparability scores to such devices, which scores range from one to ten and may be displayed to consumers at point of sale;

(b) That the Commission periodically update such criteria; and

(c) That the Commission, in establishing and updating the criteria, include consideration of:

(I) The free and public availability of technical documents regarding an electronic device;

(II) The ease of disassembly of an electronic device;

(III) The availability of spare parts for an electronic device;

(IV) The price of spare parts for an electronic device;

(V) The length of time that a manufacturer offers software support for an electronic device; and

(VI) Other criteria specific to certain categories of electronic devices; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Joe Biden; Vice President Kamala Harris; Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson; Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer; Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; House of Representatives Majority Leader Steve Scalise; House of Representatives Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries; Commissioner Lina Khan, Commissioner Rebecca Slaughter, and Commissioner Alvaro Bedoya of the Federal Trade Commission; Governor Jared Polis; and Attorney General Phil Weiser.

POM-159. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the United States Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, Louisiana recognizes that abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic energy production in the United States enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, and energy independence; and

Whereas, environmental stewardship that keeps our air and water clean, protects public health, ensures biodiversity and species protection, and conserves public lands is a worthy goal that is important to achieve; and

Whereas, the excessively complex federal permitting and environmental review processes that have built up around America's environmental laws—including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and dozens of other federal requirements—have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the construction of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy production without advancing the goals of these laws; and

Whereas, energy is produced in the United States at a much higher environmental standard than is typically the case in the countries from which energy is imported, so prevention of domestic energy production undermines environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of all of the essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of America's environmental laws; and

Whereas, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, demand for electricity in

the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major increases in domestic energy production and a more than doubling of domestic electricity transmission grid capacity; and

Whereas, regulatory barriers today mean that more than two thousand gigawatts of energy production and storage, which accounts for more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined, are stuck in electricity interconnection queues and the average amount of time to interconnect new energy resources has nearly doubled from about two years to nearly four years; and

Whereas, the average time it takes to process an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has risen to an excessive length of four-and-a-half years; and

Whereas, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do not share our interests to mine and process critical minerals, with demand for some of these minerals potentially growing by more than forty times by 2040; and

Whereas, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly ten years, as is often the case in the United States; and

Whereas, both linear infrastructure; such as pipelines and transmission lines; as well as energy generation infrastructure each face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to excessive litigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative and often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our court system to hamstring worthy projects; and

Whereas, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or over litigation can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays also increase American dependence on energy produced by foreign dictators and authoritarian regimes; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting delays limit investments made in modernizing our nation's infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions and environmental impact; and

Whereas, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow for efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated regulations; and

Whereas, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer jobs, reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for the environment; and

Whereas, failing to reform these laws in the coming months will result in even greater limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising costs for consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to unreliability, blackouts, and resulting in severe harm to the American people. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request federal legislators to work in good faith to enact legislation that reforms federal permitting and environmental review processes to promote economic and environmental stewardship by expediting the deployment of modern energy infrastructure. Be it further

Resolved, That these reforms should enable faster and lower-cost construction of energy infrastructure of all kinds, without prejudice, including by considering steps to do the following:

(1) Limit excessive use of judicial processes to slow projects inappropriately.

(2) Prevent inappropriate usage of the Clean Water Act and other laws to hamstring the lawful building of linear energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines.

(3) Enact reforms to plan, permit, and pay for the necessary build-out of electricity transmission infrastructure to support a more reliable energy grid that lowers costs for consumers and businesses.

(4) Enable the domestic build-out of the full array of modern energy technologies, including nuclear, emissions management, hydrogen, critical mineral mining and processing, and all other needs for a modern energy system. Be it further

Resolved, That these legislative reforms should also strive to ensure accountability for federal agencies conducting permitting and environmental review processes, including better data, more aggressive time lines, and permitting shot clocks. Additionally these legislative reforms must be accompanied by a redoubling of efforts to streamline federal regulations to support the efficient building of new energy infrastructure. Be it further

Resolved, That failure to act to update our federal permitting system to support building new energy infrastructure will further harm consumers, workers, and businesses, while making the United States less competitive and more vulnerable to both foreign adversaries and domestic outages. Be it further

Resolved, That Congress must act with urgency in the coming months to fix our broken permitting system. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-160. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and to enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fisherman; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, the domestic fishing industry has faced severe hardships, such as Hurricane Ida and other natural disasters, repeated openings of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, unfair trade practices, illegal chemicals, rising inflation, gas prices, and supply chain issues; and

Whereas, in October of 2022, United States Congressman Garret Graves announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) purchased up to twenty-five million dollars of Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic wild caught shrimp; and

Whereas, Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act authorizes the USDA to purchase domestic shrimp; and

Whereas, purchases such as this will help provide relief to Louisiana's shrimp industry; and

Whereas, Louisiana's seafood industry is the largest supplier in the country and the main economic driver in coastal areas; and

Whereas, more relief is necessary for the Louisiana seafood industry to compete with foreign importers; and

Whereas, strategies to ensure that domestic commercial fishermen are able to sell their products are necessary for the continued success of the Louisiana seafood industry; and

Whereas, plans to buy shrimp directly from domestic commercial shrimp fishermen are of vital importance to ensure the success of coastal communities that rely heavily on this industry. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and to enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-161. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands recognizing and calling for an immediate de-escalation and cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23-15

Whereas, all life is precious and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands calls on elected officials and residents alike to protect life and stand united against violence; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands advocates for the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people, regardless of religion, race, or nationality; and

Whereas, thousands of people from Israel and Palestine have been killed in a matter of weeks, of whom a significant amount of them are children; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands recognizes that the current crisis takes place within a long history and affirms that, for a pathway to lasting peace and justice to be developed, the root causes of the crisis need to be addressed; and

Whereas, Gaza is in a dire humanitarian crisis that is getting worse with each passing day, with the only remaining hospitals running out of fuel and medical supplies, and over 1.5 million Palestinians facing displacement, homelessness, and starvation; and

Whereas, international organizations like Amnesty International, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Rescue Committee, and many others have made a call for a ceasefire in order to prevent the further loss of life of civilians and to be in accordance with international humanitarian law; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands support U.S. Congress Resolution H.R. 786 and joins other cities in calling on our Congress Members to demand; an immediate ceasefire; release of all hostages, the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza; the restoration of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies to Gaza; and the respect for international law; and calls for a resolution that protects the security of all innocent civilians; and Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the House recognizes and calls for an immediate de-escalation and cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Joe Biden, President, United States of America; the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President, United States of America; Representatives and Senators of the 118th United States Congress; the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, U.S. Delegate to the United States Congress, 118th United States Congress; and the Honorable Edith E. Deleon Guerrero, Senate President, the 23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

POM-162. A resolution adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, Hawaii, opposing construction of the proposed Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing Site Small Telescope Advanced Research Facility atop Haleakala; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-163. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Sante Fe County, New Mexico, calling for a permanent ceasefire, release of all hostages, delivery of humanitarian aid, and affirmation of opposition to anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the Gaza Strip; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1524. A bill to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-202).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4819. A bill to require an annual report on the unfunded programs, activities, and mission requirements within the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 4820. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a single grant program to make grants to hire prosecutors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4821. A bill to require executive agencies to take steps to better meet the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 4822. A bill to ensure that parents are aware of foreign influence in their child's public school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4823. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to adjust the dollar thresholds for National Labor Relations Board jurisdiction over certain labor disputes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 4824. A bill to make housing more affordable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4825. A bill to provide that silencers be treated the same a firearms accessories; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4826. A bill to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for employment by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4827. A bill to improve transparency and the availability of information regarding dietary supplements by amending the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require manufacturers of dietary supplements to list dietary supplements with the Food and Drug Administration; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 4828. A bill to establish the Bahsahwahbee National Monument in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 4829. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to clarify that implanted active middle ear hearing devices are prosthetics and are not subject to the hearing aid coverage exclusion under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4830. A bill to strengthen the authority of the United States Secret Service to investigate various crimes related to digital asset transactions and to counter transnational cyber criminal activity, including unlicensed money transmitting businesses, structured transactions, and fraud against financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 930

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 930, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act

of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 1008

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1008, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard with respect to rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in mobility devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes.

S. 1424

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1424, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision and dental plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 2768

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2768, a bill to protect hospital personnel from violence, and for other purposes.

S. 3192

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3192, a bill to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes.

S. 3502

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

S. 3651

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3651, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure coverage of mental health services furnished through telehealth.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the time during which a qualified disaster may have occurred for purposes of the special rules for personal casualty losses.

S. 3968

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3968, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide community-based training opportunities for medical students in rural areas and medically under-served communities, and for other purposes.

S. 4048

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4048, a bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

S. 4091

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4091, a bill to strengthen Federal efforts to counter antisemitism in the United States.

S. 4280

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4280, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and inpatient rehabilitation facilities to permit essential caregivers access during any period in which regular visitation is restricted.

S. 4292

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

S. 4569

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4569, a bill to require covered platforms to remove nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes.

S. 4680

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4680, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Jens Stoltenberg, in recognition of his contributions to the security, unity, and defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

S. 4755

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 4755, a bill to reauthorize traumatic brain injury programs, and for other purposes.

S. 4772

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4772, a bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

S. 4779

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4779, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the system of compensation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority that supports acts of terrorism.

S. RES. 599

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 599, a resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania.

AMENDMENT NO. 2092

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2092 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2360

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2360 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2853

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2853 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4821. A bill to require executive agencies to take steps to better meet the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

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

S. 4821

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating Broadband Permits Act”.

SEC. 2. TRACKING AND IMPROVING PROCESSING TIMES FOR COMMUNICATIONS USE APPLICATIONS.

Section 6409(b)(3) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) TRACKING AND IMPROVING PROCESSING TIMES.—

“(i) DATA CONTROLS.—An executive agency shall develop controls to ensure that data is sufficiently accurate and complete to track the processing time for each application described in subparagraph (A).

“(ii) REQUIREMENT TO ANALYZE, ADDRESS, AND REPORT ON DELAY FACTORS.—With respect to the factors that contribute to delays in processing applications described in subparagraph (A), an executive agency shall—

“(I) analyze the factors as the delays are occurring;

“(II) take actions to address the factors; and

“(III) provide an annual report on the factors to—

“(aa) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

“(bb) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

“(cc) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

“(dd) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

“(ee) each committee of Congress with jurisdiction over the executive agency.

“(iii) METHOD FOR ALERTING STAFF TO AT-RISK APPLICATIONS.—An executive agency shall establish a method to alert employees of the executive agency to any application described in subparagraph (A) with respect to which the executive agency is at risk of failing to meet the 270-day deadline under that subparagraph.”.

SEC. 3. MINIMUM BROADBAND PROJECT COST.

Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(6)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv)(I) is subject to NEPA;

“(II) involves the construction of infrastructure for broadband; and

“(III) is likely to require a total investment of more than \$5,000,000; or”.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4827. A bill to improve transparency and the availability of information regarding dietary supplements by amending the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require manufacturers of dietary supplements to list dietary supplements with the Food and Drug Administration; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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

S. 4827

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Dietary Supplement Listing Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. REGULATION OF DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter IV of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 403C of such Act (21 U.S.C. 343–3) the following:

“SEC. 403D. DIETARY SUPPLEMENT LISTING REQUIREMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date specified in subsection (b)(4), each dietary supplement marketed in the United States shall be listed with the Secretary in accordance with this section. Each such listing shall include, with respect to the dietary supplement, the information specified in subsection (b)(1).

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The manufacturer, packer, or distributor of a dietary supplement whose name (pursuant to section 403(e)(1)) appears on the label of a dietary supplement marketed in the United States (referred to in this section as the ‘responsible person’), or if the responsible person is a foreign entity, the United States agent of such person, shall submit to the Secretary in accordance with this section the following information for a dietary supplement that is marketed in the United States:

“(A) Any name of the dietary supplement and the statement of identity, including brand name and specified flavors, if applicable.

“(B) The name and address of the responsible person and the name and email address of the owner, operator, or agent in charge of the responsible person.

“(C) The name, domestic address, and email address for the United States agent, if the responsible person is a foreign entity.

“(D) The business name and place of business the responsible person provided on the label pursuant to section 403(e)(1).

“(E) An electronic copy of the label for the dietary supplement.

“(F) A list of all ingredients in each such dietary supplement required under sections 101.4 and 101.36, title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), to appear on the label of a dietary supplement, including—

“(i) where applicable, ingredients in a proprietary blend as described in section 101.36(c) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

“(ii) the amount per serving of each listed dietary ingredient;

“(iii) if required by section 101.36 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), the percent of the daily value of each listed dietary ingredient; and

“(iv) the amount per serving of dietary ingredients within a proprietary blend.

“(G) The number of servings per container for each container size.

“(H) The directions for use.

“(I) Warnings, notice, and safe handling statements, as required by section 101.17 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

“(J) Allergen statements for major food allergens (pursuant to sections 403(w) and 403(x)).

“(K) The form of the dietary supplement (such as tablets, capsules, powders, liquids, softgels, and gummies).

“(L) Any claim that appears on the label, package insert, or website of the responsible person who submits the listing that—

“(i) characterizes the relationship of any ingredient to a disease or a health-related condition and is described in section 403(r)(1)(B); or

“(ii) is subject to notification under section 403(r)(6).

“(M) The dietary supplement product listing number for the dietary supplement provided by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (c).

“(2) FORMAT.—The Secretary may require that a listing submitted under paragraph (1) be submitted in an electronic format. Upon receipt of a complete listing under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall promptly notify the responsible person of the receipt of such listing. A listing is deemed complete once all fields of required information have been completed by the responsible person who represents that the product will be marketed in the United States as a dietary supplement.

“(3) LISTING CONTENT.—A single listing submission for a dietary supplement under paragraph (1) may include multiple dietary supplements with identical formulations and forms, or formulations of the same form, that differ only with respect to color, excipients, or flavorings, whether offered in a single package size or in multiple package sizes.

“(4) TIMING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS ON THE MARKET.—In the case of a dietary supplement that is being offered in interstate commerce on or before January 1, 2025, a listing for each such dietary supplement introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce shall be submitted by the responsible person to the Secretary under this subsection not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Dietary Supplement Listing Act of 2024.

“(ii) NEW DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS.—In the case of a dietary supplement that is not being offered in interstate commerce on or before January 1, 2025, a listing for each such dietary supplement introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce that has not been included in any listing previously submitted by the responsible person to the Secretary under this subsection shall be submitted to the Secretary at the time of introduction into interstate commerce.

“(B) DISCONTINUED DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS.—The responsible person shall notify the Secretary not later than 1 year after the date the responsible person discontinues the introduction into interstate commerce of a dietary supplement required to be listed with the Secretary under paragraph (1).

“(C) CHANGES TO EXISTING LISTINGS.—The responsible person shall submit to the Secretary any change or modification to listing information submitted under paragraph (1) included on the label of a dietary supplement not later than 30 days after the dietary supplement with the change or modification is first introduced into interstate commerce.

“(5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The responsible person shall provide, upon request from

the Secretary, not later than 10 calendar days after such request—

“(A) the full business name and physical and mailing address of all locations at which the responsible person manufactures, packages, labels, or holds the dietary supplement; and

“(B) the full business name and physical and mailing address from which the responsible person receives a dietary ingredient or combination of dietary ingredients that the responsible person uses in the manufacture of the dietary supplement or, if applicable, from which the responsible person receives the dietary supplement.

“(C) PRODUCT LISTING NUMBER AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENT ELECTRONIC DATABASE.—

“(1) DIETARY SUPPLEMENT PRODUCT LISTING NUMBER.—The Secretary shall provide each dietary supplement listed in accordance with subsection (b)(1) a dietary supplement product listing number, which may apply to multiple dietary supplements with identical formulations, or formulations that differ only with respect to color, excipients, or flavorings, including dietary supplements offered in a single package size or in multiple package sizes. The Secretary shall provide a process for a responsible person to reserve dietary supplement listing numbers in advance of listing under subsection (b)(1).

“(2) ELECTRONIC DATABASE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Dietary Supplement Listing Act of 2024, the Secretary shall establish and maintain an electronic database that is publicly available and contains information submitted under subsection (b)(1) (except for the information submitted under subparagraph (B), (C), and (F)(iv) of such subsection). The Secretary shall make such information maintained in the electronic database publicly searchable, including by dietary supplement product listing number, and by any field of information or combination of fields of information provided under subsection (b)(1) (except for the information submitted under subparagraph (B), (C), and (F)(iv) of such subsection).

“(3) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—In response to a request under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, information described in subparagraph (B), (C), and (F)(iv) of subsection (b)(1) that is derived from a listing under this section, and information described in subparagraph (b)(5), shall be withheld under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

“(1) to limit the authority of the Secretary to inspect or copy records or to require the establishment and maintenance of records under any other provision of this Act;

“(2) to authorize the disclosure of information that is prohibited from disclosure under section 301(j) of this Act or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or that is subject to withholding under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code; or

“(3) to grant the Secretary authority to require the approval of a dietary supplement prior to marketing.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$7,872,984 for fiscal year 2024, and \$6,615,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2028, for purposes of conducting the activities under this section and hiring personnel required to carry out this section.”

(b) MISBRANDING.—Section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(z) If it is a dietary supplement for which a responsible person or the United States agent of such a person is required under section 403D to file a listing, file a change to an

existing listing, or provide additional information to the Secretary, and such person or agent has failed to comply with any such requirements under section 403D with respect to such dietary supplement.”

(c) **NEW PROHIBITED ACT.**—Section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(jjj) The introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of a dietary supplement that has been prepared, packed, or held using the assistance of, or at the direction of, a person debarred under section 306.”

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3181. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3182. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3183. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3184. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3185. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3186. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3187. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3188. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3189. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3190. Mr. WICKER (for Mr. ROMNEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. WICKER to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3191. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3192. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3193. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3194. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3181. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1216. LIMITED EXCEPTION TO FUNDING PROHIBITION FOR FOREIGN SECURITY FORCES THAT HAVE COMMITTED A GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FEASIBILITY REPORT ON VETTING CERTAIN FOREIGN MILITARY UNITS FOR JOINT EXERCISES AND SUPPORT.

(a) **LIMITED EXCEPTION.**—Section 362(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “has taken all necessary corrective steps,” and inserting “is taking effective steps to bring the responsible members of the security forces unit to justice.”

(b) **FEASIBILITY REPORT ON VETTING OF FOREIGN MILITARY UNITS FOR JOINT EXERCISES AND SUPPORT.**—

(1) **SENSE OF THE SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that the application of the vetting requirements under section 362 of title 10, United States Code, and section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d), with respect to the participation in joint military exercises with the United States Armed Forces of foreign military units of countries that are not member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or Australia, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, or New Zealand, is an important safeguard against the provision of United States training to a unit that may be, or may have been, involved in the commission of gross violations of human rights to the detriment of United States foreign policy and national security interests.

(2) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on—

(i) the feasibility of vetting foreign military units (except such units from member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Australia, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, and New Zealand) pursuant to section 362 of title 10, United States Code, before any such unit participates in joint military exercises with the United States or receives support under section 321 of that title for such participation; and

(ii) the resulting potential impact to military operations if such vetting is required in the future.

(B) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(i) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 3182. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ USE OF ROYALTY GAS AT MCALESTER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT.

Section 342 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15902) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) **MCALESTER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT.**—At the request of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary shall—

“(1) take in-kind royalty gas from any lease on or adjacent to the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, Oklahoma; and

“(2) sell such royalty gas to the Department of Defense in accordance with subsection (h)(1), for use only at that plant, only for energy resilience purposes, and only to the extent necessary to meet the natural gas needs of that plant.”

SA 3183. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 80, line 12, strike “AND IMPLEMENTATION”.

On page 80, line 17, strike “AND IMPLEMENTATION”.

On page 80, line 21, strike “develop and implement a” and insert the following: “the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Secretary of State, submit a report to Congress on a proposed”.

On page 80, line 22, strike “interests” and insert “effective participation”.

On page 81, strike lines 3 through 7.

On page 81, line 8, strike “(2)” and insert “(1)”.

On page 81, lines 8 and 9, strike “coordination with other Federal agencies” and insert “the coordination of the Department of Defense with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission”.

On page 81, line 11, strike “(3)” and insert “(2)”.

On page 81, strike lines 16 through 18.

On page 81, line 19, strike “(5)” and insert “(3)”.

On page 82, line 1, strike “(6)” and insert “(4)”.

On page 82, line 4, strike “(7)” and insert “(5)”.

On page 82, lines 10 and 11, strike “with a briefing on the plan developed and implemented” and insert “, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives with a briefing on the plan developed”.

SA 3184. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of

Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, line 25, insert “the Department of Defense” after “viability of”.

On page 85, line 2, insert “by Department of Defense operations” after “signals”.

On page 86, line 14, insert “, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives” after “committees”.

SA 3185. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 966, line 16, insert “of the Department of Defense” after “devices”.

On page 966, line 19, insert “of the Department of Defense” after “devices”.

On page 967, line 14, insert “of the Department of Defense” after “devices”.

SA 3186. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. ANNUAL UNFUNDED PRIORITY REPORT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Fully Funding our National Security Priorities Act”.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) A report issued by the Department of State in 2023 identified a \$41,300,000,000 gap between the resources made available to the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development and the resources required to effectively counter the People’s Republic of China in the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) While the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development remain less than fully funded, the PRC has provided some \$1,340,000,000,000 in grants and loans over the past 22 years. In October 2023, the PRC and President Xi announced an additional \$100,000,000,000 for China’s development banks.

(3) As competitors like the PRC and Russia expand their global diplomatic footprints, the Department of State today has, on average, a 13 percent staffing gap.

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States is a beacon of democracy and freedom in an increasingly fraught world;

(2) the Department of State, as a critical national security agency, remains chron-

ically understaffed and underfunded at a time when geopolitical rivals, including the People’s Republic of China, are rapidly expanding their global diplomatic presences; and

(3) it is imperative to empower the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to ensure the United States can—

(A) effectively advance the national security interests of the United States;

(B) respond strategically to emerging technologies; and

(C) respond with flexibility to metastasizing global threats.

(d) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term “unfunded priority”, with respect to a fiscal year, means a program, activity, or mission requirement of an element of the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as “USAID”) that—

(1) is not funded in the budget for such fiscal year submitted by the President to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code;

(2) is necessary to fulfill a foreign policy or national security objective or to satisfy an information requirement associated with a goal or objective outlined in the Joint Strategic Plan agreed upon by the Department of State and USAID; and

(3) would have been recommended for funding by the Secretary of State or the USAID Administrator if—

(A) additional resources had been available for such budget to fund such program, activity, or mission requirement; or

(B) the program, activity, or mission requirement has emerged since such budget was formulated.

(e) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the budget for any fiscal year is submitted by the President to Congress, the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall each prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives the unfunded priorities of the programs under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the Administrator, as applicable.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each report submitted to Congress pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to each unfunded priority covered by such report—

(i) a summary description of such priority, including the objectives to be achieved if such priority is funded (whether in whole or in part);

(ii) the additional amount of funds recommended to be made available to achieve the objectives referred to in clause (i); and

(iii) budget information with respect to such priority, including—

(I) the appropriation account;

(II) the expenditure center; and

(III) the project and, if applicable, any sub-projects.

(B) **PRIORITIZATION.**—Each report submitted to Congress pursuant to paragraph (1) shall present the unfunded priorities covered by such report in overall order of urgency of priority among unfunded priorities.

SA 3187. Ms. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the De-

partment of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. PAYMENT FOR ADDITIONAL LANDS ACQUIRED IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA.

Section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1948 (commonly known as the “Thye-Blatnik Act”) (62 Stat. 570, chapter 593; 16 U.S.C. 577g), is amended by striking “of the fair appraised value of such” and inserting “of the highest fair appraised value, including historical fair appraised values, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with this section, of such”.

SA 3188. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1510. BRIEFING ON OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than July 30, 2025, the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall provide to appropriate committees of Congress a briefing on a path forward to increase opportunities to advance educational partnerships between the Air Force Institute of Technology and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(b) **ELEMENT.**—The briefing required by subsection (a) shall include specific recommendations for the Air Force Institute of Technology and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish more formal relations that will lead to more National Aeronautics and Space Administration employees enrolling in Air Force Institute of Technology course offerings and add synergist gains in cross-over work projects.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

SA 3189. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1239. MODIFICATION TO WAIVERS OF LIMITATIONS ON TRANSFER OF ARTICLES ON UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST TO REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

(a) EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY AND ENERGY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2019.—Section 205(d)(2) of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-94; 133 Stat. 3052), is amended by striking “one fiscal year” and inserting “three fiscal years”.

(b) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.—Section 1250A(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2373 note), is amended by striking “one fiscal year” and inserting “three fiscal years”.

SA 3190. Mr. WICKER (for Mr. ROMNEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. WICKER to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1291. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN ADVERSARY MARITIME MILITIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (d) with respect to any foreign adversary entity that the President determines—

(1) has materially contributed to, engaged in, or provided significant direct or indirect support for—

(A) the maritime militia of a foreign adversary;

(B) the provision of logistical support to such a militia, including provision of at-sea or at-port refueling or any other on-shore services, such as repair and servicing;

(C) the construction of vessels used by such a militia;

(D) the direction or control of such a militia, including directing activities that inhibit or coerce another country from protecting its sovereign rights or access to vessels or territory under its control; or

(E) other activities that may support, sustain, or enable the activities of such a militia; or

(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to, or in support of, any person subject to sanctions pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity of the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

(C) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign adversary entity if the President determines and reports to Congress that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States.

(d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are, notwithstanding section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the exercise of the authorities provided to the President under that Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign adversary entity subject to subsection (a) if such property or interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise the authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to the extent necessary to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (d) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(f) ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME MILITIA OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State should submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the efforts of the United States to engage with foreign allies and partners with territorial or security interests in the South China Sea, East China Sea, Philippine Sea, and other maritime areas of interest to coordinate efforts to counter malign activities of the maritime militia of the People's Republic of China.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term “foreign adversary” means a country specified in section 7.4(a) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) FOREIGN ADVERSARY ENTITY.—The term “foreign adversary entity” means an entity organized under the laws of or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign adversary.

(4) MARITIME MILITIA.—The term “maritime militia” means an organized civilian force that—

(A) operates primarily in maritime domains, including coastal waters, exclusive economic zones, and international waters, and may use a variety of vessels, including fishing boats, trawlers, and other commercial vessels;

(B) is acting under the authority of, or is funded by, the government of a country; or

(C) is equipped and trained for the purpose of supporting and advancing the geopolitical or strategic objectives of that government, including asserting territorial claims, safeguarding maritime interests of that country, and conducting activities such as surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, and logistical support, and may engage in coordinated activities with naval and other military forces of that country.

(5) PERSON.—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person located in the United States.

SA 3191. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1291. REVIEW BY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS WITHIN 50 MILES OF NATIONAL SECURITY SENSITIVE SITES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 721(a)(4)(B)(ii)(BB)(AA) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4)(B)(ii)(BB)(AA)) is amended by striking “in close proximity to” and inserting “located 50 miles or less from”.

(b) MANDATORY DECLARATIONS.—Section 721(b)(1)(C)(v)(IV) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)(C)(v)(IV)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(hh) REQUIRED DECLARATIONS FOR CERTAIN REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.—The parties to a covered transaction described in subsection (a)(4)(B)(ii)(BB)(AA) shall submit a declaration described in subclause (I) with respect to the transaction.”

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States shall implement the amendments made by this section not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, unless—

(1) the Committee submits to Congress a request for a longer period to complete implementation; and

(2) there is enacted into law a joint resolution approving that request.

SA 3192. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel

strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1006. SUPPORT FOR FACULTY AND CAMPUS OPERATIONS AT THE SERVICE ACADEMIES IN THE EVENT OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a lapse in appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure the continuation of—

(1) pay to faculty members at the Service Academies; and

(2) funding for mixed-funded athletic and recreational extracurricular programs of the Service Academies, to the extent such funding is not available from non-appropriated funds sources.

(b) SERVICE ACADEMY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Service Academy” has the meaning given such term in section 347 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 3193. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. MODIFICATION OF ACQUISITION OF ICEBREAKER.

Section 11223 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-263; 136 Stat. 4021; 14 U.S.C. 561 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “Paragraphs” and all that follows through “apply” and inserting “Paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a), and subsection (b), of section 1132 of title 14, United States Code, shall not apply”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Commandant provides the briefing described in subparagraph (B), paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a), and subsections (d) and (e), of section 1132 of title 14, United States Code, shall not apply to an acquisition or procurement of an icebreaker under subsection (a) until—

“(i) the first phase of the initial acquisition or procurement is complete; and

“(ii) initial operating capacity is achieved.

“(B) BRIEFING DESCRIBED.—The briefing described in this subparagraph is a briefing

provided by the Commandant to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph that includes a detailed cost estimate for an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a), including—

“(i) expected upgrades and crewing needs; and

“(ii) for each year of the estimated service life of such an icebreaker, the estimated costs for modification, shore infrastructure, crewing, and maintenance.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) through (j) as subsection (h) through (k);

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection (g):

“(g) FULL OPERATING CAPABILITY.—

“(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the procurement or acquisition of an icebreaker under subsection (a), the Commandant shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with a briefing that includes a detailed cost estimate for the icebreaker for each year of the estimated service life of the icebreaker, including the estimated costs for modification, shore infrastructure to support the cutter and crew, crewing, maintenance, and any other costs related to the icebreaker.

“(2) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Commandant shall not expend any funds to reconfigure an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a), beyond the funds required to achieve initial operating capability of the icebreaker, until the date that 7 days after the date on which the Commandant provides the briefing required by paragraph (1).

“(B) PLANNING AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The limitation on use of funds under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the expenditure of funds for planning and program management activities relating to reconfiguration of an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a).”; and

(4) in subsection (k), as redesignated, by striking “3 years” and inserting “5 years”.

SA 3194. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1510. EXTENSION OF LEARNING PERIOD FOR CERTAIN SAFETY REGULATIONS RELATING TO SPACE FLIGHT PARTICIPANTS.

Title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 50905(c)(9), by striking “January 1, 2025” and inserting “January 1, 2028”;

(2) in section 50914—

(A) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2028”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1)(C), by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2028”; and

(3) in section 50915—

(A) in subsection (a)(3)(B), by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2028”; and

(B) in subsection (f), in the first sentence, by striking “September 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2028”.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2024 second quarter Mass Mailing report is Thursday, July 25, 2024. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm or e-mailed to OPR_MassMailings@sec.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:25 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 29, 2024:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

ADAM B. LANDY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.