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

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our guest chaplain is Rajan Zed, President of the Universal Society of Hinduism from Reno, NV. The guest chaplain offered the following prayer:

Om. We meditate on the transcendental glory of the Deity Supreme, who is inside the heart of the Earth, inside the life of the sky, and inside the soul of Heaven. May He stimulate and illuminate our minds.

Lead us from the unreal to the real. Lead us from darkness to light. Lead us from death to immortality.

Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world; by devotion to selfless one attains the supreme goal of life. Do your work with the welfare of others always in mind.

May we be protected together. May we be nourished together. May we work together with great vigor.

May our study be enlightening. May no obstacle arise between us. United your resolve, united your hearts, may your spirits be at one, that you may long together dwell in unity and concord.

Peace, peace, peace be unto all. Om.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, Washington, DC, July 30, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Patty Murray, President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stacey D. Neu- mann, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Ms. Cortez Masto. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of today’s guest Chaplain, Rajan Zed. Mr. Zed is not new to Congress. He was invited in 2007 by Majority Leader Harry Reid to read the first-ever Hindu opening prayer before the U.S. Senate. And he has read opening prayers in the U.S. House of Representatives, various State legislative bodies, county commissions, and city councils all across the United States.

Mr. Zed is a religious leader of the Hindu community in Reno, and he has taken up causes from all over the world. He is president of the Universal Society of Hinduism, an active member of the Nevada Interfaith Association, and a spiritual advisor to the National Association of Interchurch & Interfaith Families.

He has been invited to and participated in the World Economic Forum. He has met with the President of the European Parliament in Brussels to promote interfaith dialogue, and he has received several awards for his contributions to both local and global religious communities.

Outside of his faith leadership, Mr. Zed has been active in the Reno community. He serves on the governing board of directors of the Northern Nevada International Center, the board of directors of the Nevada World Trade Council, the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Regional Transportation Commission, and on the Reno Police Chief Advisory Board.

Mr. President, I am honored to have Mr. Zed back in the U.S. Senate to deliver opening prayers once again today. I welcome him to the U.S. Senate and his beautiful family.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

KOSA-COPPA

Mr. Schumer. Mr. President, I am proud to say, today, the Senate keeps its promise to every parent who has lost a child because of the risks of social media. Today, after a lot of hard

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*This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.*
work and a lot of twists and turns, we will pass KOSA and COPPA. KOSA and COPPA will be perhaps the most important updates to Federal laws protecting kids on the internet in decades, and it is a very good first step.

This bipartisan effort from the start here in the Senate. I am proud of the way both sides of the aisle came together on an issue affecting so many kids and so many families across America. The House should take note and follow in what the Senate's example by passing KOSA and COPPA when they return. After the Senate passes KOSA and COPPA today with a strong bipartisan vote, the House should do the same when they return in September. These bills have real bipartisan momentum. So we should seize the opportunity to send them to the President’s desk.

As we all know, social media has many benefits, but we also know about the many risks social media can pose, especially to our kids. Too many kids today experience relentless promotion of suicide or substance abuse material. Too many kids have their personal data collected and then used nefariously. With studies showing that kids today spend more time on social media than ever before, now is the moment to pass KOSA, pass COPPA, and install guardrails that protect kids from these risks.

We have heard from so many parents whose kids, sadly, took their own lives—their own lives—because of what happened to them on social media. To their everlasting credit, these parents, instead of cursing the darkness, lit a candle. They turned their grief into action, not into despair. They turned their pain into purpose. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The American people need tax relief. The American people need tax relief, one of the best tools we have to lift more kids out of poverty. This is just one of the many reasons—one of many reasons—the Senate should take up the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

Last night, I filed cloture on this important piece of legislation, and Senators should expect to vote on this measure Thursday. Now, on that note, Democrats assumed the majority in 2021. I promised my colleagues that I would always try my best to work first in a bipartisan way to get things done in this Chamber. I have always said bipartisanship is preferable because it is the best approach to achieving results. The Senate’s record over the last 3 years bears this out. Democrats and Republicans have come together again and again to pass historic bills like infrastructure, Chips and Science, Ukraine and Israel aid, and COPPA today with a strong bipartisan vote the House should do the same when they return in September. These bills have real bipartisan momentum. So we should seize the opportunity to send them to the President’s desk.

This week, the Senate has a chance to do it again, to pass another expansion of the child tax credit to help get more kids out of poverty. This is just one of the many reasons—one of many reasons—the Senate should take up the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

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Take Nancy Maldonado, unfortunately, now a Federal judge on the Seventh Circuit. This is the judge infamous for letting her work pile up and blaming her clerks for lack of time management. It is particularly ironic that Senate Democrats chose to procrastinate over the most urgent responsibilities by confirming a nominee with a nearly unparalleled record of judicial procrastination.

Congress has real work in front of us, some of which really should be behind us by now. The National Defense Authorization Act, to the farm bill, to annual appropriations.

Our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee reported the NDAA by an overwhelming bipartisan vote over a month ago, but so far, the Democratic leader hasn’t come close to putting this must-pass authorizing legislation out here on the floor. Of course, urgent national security priorities won’t fund themselves, either. The Senate hasn’t cleared a Defense appropriations bill or any other government funding, for that matter. Well, at least the fiscal 2025 appropriations have been written. The farm bill that is supposed to help America’s growers and producers succeed doesn’t even exist yet. Apparently, it is just a twinkle in Chair Stabenow’s eye.

The American people sent us here to do a job, and a show-vote summer can’t hide the fact that Senate Democrats’ majority isn’t earning its keep.

**VENUEZUELA**

Mr. President, on a different matter, as the Maduro regime continues its attempt to steal an election, the people of Venezuela are standing up forcefully against the predations of a hellish socialist dictatorship. Across the country, working Venezuelans are protesting in the streets. They’ve torn down a statue of Maduro’s socialist predecessor, Hugo Chavez. In at least one instance, security forces have removed their uniforms and refused to use force against the demonstrators.

The people of Venezuela are putting up an inspired resistance. Unfortunately, they are up against an authoritarian who will stop at nothing to retain his grip on power. After all, Maduro has learned from the worst—Moscow, Beijing, Tehran, Damascus, and Havana—and now has no shortage of useful idiots and fifth columns at his disposal.

Some of the same corners of social media that defended Bashar Assad, spun conspiracies about Ukraine, and demonized Israel are now laughably accusing the CIA—believe it or not—of masterminding Venezuela’s unrest.

Meanwhile, supposedly mainstream media here in America are already hard at work whitewashing history. According to New York Times, Venezuela’s problem isn’t the abject failure of socialism but the incursion of a supposed “brutal capitalism.”

George Orwell would like a word.

Mr. President, the free world ought to have the courage to look evil in the face and call it what it actually is.

**NATIONAL SECURITY**

Mr. President, on another matter, I have said frequently that the single most important, immediate objective of the American military should be to help Ukraine defeat in Ukraine—I mean that—but not just for its implications on transatlantic security or our own economy; not just because helping degrade a major adversary’s military strength is in America’s national security interest because the defense of Ukraine has ignited significant new investments in hard power here at home and among our European allies; certainly not just because of what the outcome will say about how the free world values sovereignty—no. The world we live in doesn’t reward thinking compartmentally. Security threats don’t exist in vacuums. Our adversaries are not divisible. Our adversaries are working more closely together to undermine the American-led order, allowing one threat to fester makes every other one a taller order.

This week, the final report of the independent, bipartisan Commission on the National Defense Strategy underscored this reality.

(The) new alignment of nations opposed to U.S. interests creates a real risk, if not likelihood, that conflict anywhere could become a multi-theater or global war. A multi-theater war—the sort of conflict America is simply not prepared to fight.

Too many in Washington seem to think America can just opt out of facing such a challenge, but our enemies get a vote too. We owe it to our servicemembers and the American people to plan accordingly.

As the NDS Commission report lays out, we have a lot of work to do and not much time to do it.

The PRC’s military is already leaving little room for doubt about Beijing’s willingness to use hard power to coerce its neighbors and to test American power and Western resolve.

Last month, the PRC’s naval forces launched a violent confrontation in disputed waters that Beijing clearly hopes to turn into a Chinese lake.

The Philippines—America’s longtime treaty ally—has maintained a lawful presence in an area just 100 miles off their coast known as the Second Thomas Shoal as South China Sea. Its sailors peacefully man a grounded ship on the shoal, and they count on regular shipments of supplies. But in recent months, these shipments have come under brazen attack. Chinese forces have rammed Philippine supply vessels, harassed them with water cannons, injured Philippine sailors, destroyed their navigation equipment, towed them out to sea, and left them for dead.

Thankfully, the most acute aggression appears to have subsided for the moment, but the perilous reality still remains: Just as Russia is using force to redraw European borders and reassert imperial ambitions, just as Iran is using force to sow chaos and threaten international shipping, the People’s Republic of China is engaged in a concerted effort to expand its control over maritime commerce well beyond its borders and build a pretext for wider war, and the first target of that threat may well be America’s longest standing treaty ally in the Indo-Pacific.

Our adversaries have struck up a “no-limits” partnership, and the challenges they present us are as complex as they are urgent. We don’t get to make neat, tidy, either-or choices about which threats deserve our attention—not anymore.

The Senate was right to pass a national security supplemental to equip vulnerable partners with American weapons and invest in expanding our defense production capacity earlier this year. The Biden administration was right to start directing more rhetorical attention to the challenge facing our Philippine ally. But to the extent that the administration is serious about backing up its frequent assurances to the Philippines with actual support, it is high time to do more to help our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific to reconfigure and strengthen their defenses against the PRC’s maritime threat and to clear bureaucratic barriers so security assistance programs can move at the speed of relevance. More importantly, it is time for Congress and the administration to take our shared responsibility to provide for the common defense seriously.

So I will close today with another quote from the Cochairs of the bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission. Here is what they said:

The Commission finds that the United States faces the most significant national security threats since the height of the Cold War, if not World War II. We are not prepared to meet those threats. The United States confronts the prospect of war against peer and near-peer adversaries simultaneously across multiple theaters—a war we could quite possibly lose.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

**U.S. SUPREME COURT**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday evening, in the tradition of another Democrat President and his infamous Court-packing scheme way back in 1937, President Biden announced a proposal to interfere with the Constitution’s separation of powers and permanently politicize the Supreme Court. He has asked for unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.
recent decisions, and so they have decided to change the rules of the game. That is it.

I have disagreed with more than one Supreme Court decision in my time—I have disagreed with Supreme Court Justices nominated by Presidents of my own party—but I have never thought that my not agreeing with a Supreme Court decision meant that the Court itself was illegitimate or that my party should attempt to changing the law to make over the Supreme Court in our image.

Well, not so for Democrats. The Supreme Court releases a handful of decisions the Democrats don’t like, and they decide that the Court is illegitimate and that it is time to remake the Court to their liking. More than one Democrat has already introduced legislation in Congress to do just that.

And now, with the President’s announcement yesterday, it has become clear that those plans are moving forward. If Democrats take the White House and Congress in November, we can expect them to lose no time in destroying the Court as we know it.

While the President’s proposals are troubling enough with a measure that circumvents the Constitution’s lifetime appointments for Justices and replace the Supreme Court’s own code of conduct with a code of conduct mandated by Democrat Members of Congress, who knows what they will do if Democrats take the White House and Congress in November. If Democrats take the White House in November, we can expect them to lose no time in destroying the Court as we know it.

We all know that Court-packing, which is expanding the Supreme Court until you get a sufficient number of Justices to endorse your policies, has gained significant traction in Democrat circles. President Biden’s term limits proposal is a version of Court-packing by another name, and it would not surprise me at all if Democrats didn’t stop there, because—make no mistake—this is a slippery slope. Once you start interfering, there is no going back.

If the Democrats implement this plan, it is easy to see a future where each subsequent administration acts to “return balance” to the Supreme Court in the result that the Supreme Court changes wildly from administration to administration, losing all independence and credibility and any resemblance to the Supreme Court as established by the Constitution.

I would like to remind my Democrat colleagues of what happened with the filibuster for judicial nominees here in the Senate. Back in 2013, Democrats, frustrated that they could not rubberstamp all of President Obama’s appointees, abolished the filibuster for lower court nominees. It turned out not to be a quick step from that to abolishing the filibuster for Supreme Court nominees a few years later, and I am pretty sure that I have heard more than one of my Democrat colleagues express regret over that 2013 decision. But it seems that Democrats are resolved not to learn from history and are perfectly willing to sacrifice the long-term stability of the Supreme Court for their own short-term political gain.

Even worse than any specific element of President Biden’s proposals yesterday is the incredibly dangerous precedent they would set for meddling in what is supposed to be a separate, independent branch of our government. If Democrats were really, really concerned about impartiality and the rule of law and promoting faith in the Supreme Court, the last thing they would be doing is interfering with the Court’s makeup.

If there are any Democrats left in Congress who are willing to put the long-term health of our institutions over some temporary political gain, I urge them to join Republicans in opposing this power grab.

I yield the floor.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

At its core, the Kids Online Safety Act is a simple, straightforward measure. It gives young people and parents the tools and safeguards to take back control over their online lives. It gives them that measure of power. It empowers them. It enables them to make those choices. They don’t want the algorithms to do it for them. That is why we have empowered them to make those choices. We are not blocking or censoring content for them. We are simply creating an environment that is safe by design. They don’t want the algorithms to do it for them. That is why we have empowered them to make those choices. We are not blocking or censoring content for them. We are simply creating an environment that is safe by design.
provides that are designed to make more money and more profits at the risk or expense of injury to people. Whether it is cigarettes that are designed to kill the customer through nicotine addiction or car manufacturers that require beefed-up seatbelts and airbags to make their products safer by design through seatbelts and airbags or toys with small parts that endanger children who can choke on those parts unless there is sufficient warning to parents or caregivers, this society steps forward to make products safer, putting people, and particularly children, over products. That is what we are requiring social media to do.

We can no longer rely on the Big Tech companies to say to us: Trust us. They have betrayed that trust, and Congress has an obligation to act.

Over the past 3 years, we have worked exhaustively to improve this bill. We have sought feedback. We have made changes. We have revised and crafted provisions. We have robustly debated the issues with anyone and everyone who had concerns. I am immensely grateful to Senator Blackburn, who has been incomparably important as a partner, as a coworker of this legislation. She has been an advocate because we share this common goal. Whatever our differences on other issues, this goal has been paramount for both of us over these past 3-plus years.

I want to also thank Senators Schumer and McConnell for scheduling this vote and Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz for their leadership and support for this bill in the Commerce Committee. The Kids Online Safety Act now has 72 cosponsors—nearly three-quarters of the membership of this Chamber. That is unheard of for an important, substantive piece of legislation that takes on the most powerful companies in the world.

Looking back, I am confident that we can build on this momentum—it is powerful momentum, but we need to build on it—and we can swiftly pass the Kids Online Safety Act in the House and enact it into law this fall as kids come back to school. Legislators will be returning from their home districts having heard from those parents and children, just as we have heard here, about the dangers and destruction coming from the internet. Senator Blackburn and I have spoken with the House leadership several times, and I believe we have strong support and a clear path forward.

Through this long process, our leaders—indeed, our loadstar—has been those parents and young people. They are in the Gallery today for the vote, and across the country, they are watching. Our Nation is watching because the parents of this Nation—not just the advocates and activists who came here to meet with Senators before the Congress, but all of the parents of this Nation who have a stake in the safety of our children—are demanding this change. They are demanding the Kids Online Safety Act because they know firsthand the heartbreak and loss that social media can cause. We can’t bring back the lives of their loved ones, but we can save others.

These parents are heroes: spending countless hours living through the pain, telling and retelling their stories, bringing tears to our eyes, as the majority leader, Senator Schumer, has said so eloquently. He has felt that pain through them, through their eyes and through their hearts, and I particularly want to thank Senator Schumer for keeping his word and giving this bill a vote, keeping not only his word but keeping faith with those parents. Congress owes them, and I am honored to fight alongside them.

Today the Senate will show that it understands we are in the midst of a mental health crisis in this country, particularly for our young people, that is aggravated and exacerbated by Big Tech, and particularly, a business model that, in effect, relies on repetitive addictive features driving toxic content at kids.

They want back control over their online lives. Parents are asking for tools and safeguards that give them a measure of control. Clearly, the need is so deeply and widely felt in this country, and the Senate today shows that it values the lives of young people over the political influence and the profits of Big Tech.

The armies of lawyers and lobbyists that it has been able to muster, the false pretenses of “Sure, we want regulation but not that regulation,” will finally be defeated. It is a historic day. It is time to vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. Blackburn. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, while he is still here, for his diligence and his work and his partnership as we have worked on the Kids Online Safety Act. Indeed, he has put many hours, as his team has also put many hours, into this.

As we get ready to move forward with passage, I think we have to remember that it was 1998 the last time this body took up and passed a bill that became law that protected children in the virtual space. And a lot has changed since then. When the emergence of social media. We have seen 100 million Americans born during that period of time.

So thinking about these platforms and that emergence, when you think about Facebook and Instagram and Snapchat and TikTok and online video games, those interactive games that are pulling kids into those, you think about how social media has changed the lives and the exposure of children today. They have grown up in this.

And, Mr. President, said, Mr. President, it is so important to note that there are laws that protect children from buying alcohol, buying tobacco, buying pornography, being taken to a strip show. We, as a society, have decided kids can’t drive until they are 16 years old and they can’t vote until they are 18 years old. But when you look at the social media platforms, there are no guardrails, and children are constantly exposed—constantly exposed—to content that encourages self-harm.

That is why we have started to see, over the last decade, a rise in mental health disorders. We have seen an increase in eating disorders, online sexual abuse, human trafficking, drug overdoses in teens, and of course, suicides—online challenges where a child loses their life. We have seen how the way Big Tech approaches this, our kids are basically defenseless.

That is why the Kids Online Safety Act has moved forward, as Senator Blumenthal said. We have worked on this. We have met with colleagues. We have met with wonderful parents. We have met with principals and pediatricians and so many people that are involved in children’s lives. That is why this legislation is fashioned very, very closely by design. And that is a change. That will be a change for social media. It will have that duty of care. There will be that toolbox for kids and parents to make it a safer environment. Those algorithms are going to have to be opened up. There is going to have to be a portal so bad actors in the virtual space can be reported, and the social media platforms will have to do something about it.

When we started focusing on these issues and doing our hearings, what became so evident to us, social media platforms knew. They knew that what they were doing and what they were allowing was causing harm. They knew it because the whistleblowers from those companies told us they knew it. But, you know what, they were putting profits before children. So they did it anyway. They did it knowing they were harming our children.

But children are not a product when they are online. That is the way social media has treated them. Indeed, Meta assigned a value to each child. That child is worth $270 a year to that company. That is the callous nature with which they have approached this.

So we are ready to move forward with this today, and we do thank the parents who have shared their stories with us and have done more. They have advocated. They have worked. They have pulled neighbors and friends and those who work with children into a coalition. It has been pretty powerful.
So we are ready to move forward with this, and we do thank Senator Blumenthal and his team. We thank the other Members of the Senate, the 70 cosponsors that are on this legislation with us. We thank Leader Schumer for personally ensuring that they have their work. Commerce Committee Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz have all been supportive of moving this legislation. And it is, indeed, a testament to building consensus around bipartisan solutions that are going to last.

We also thank all of the groups and organizations that have worked with us to make certain that this legislation gets across the finish line. And as we pass it today and send it over to the House, we know that we have Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers and Congresswoman Kathy Castor and Congressman Bilirakis and Castor and Bilirakis are the House leads on this legislation. There is broad bipartisan support for this, and we know that the House leadership is supporting it. And we are ready to move this across the finish line and to the President’s desk so that as kids head to school this year, they know they have new tools in the toolbox to protect themselves as they are in the virtual space.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act, a bill that includes an amendment yes by the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens Online Privacy Protection Act. I commend the bill’s sponsors, Commerce Chair Cantwell, Leader Schumer, and members like Senator Wyden and the many outside advocates for children, civil rights, and privacy who have helped improve the bill to the version we are voting on today. I also appreciate the parents and students who have shared their experiences with me, particularly those who have turned great pain into advocacy to protect children.

While the internet is an invaluable tool for connecting people, disseminating information, and fostering an exchange of ideas, it can also be exploited to spread misinformation, harvest personal data, and prey on society’s most vulnerable. The complex landscape can be especially difficult to navigate for young people, who deserve the freedom to access information and express themselves online but can also be subject to bullying, targeting, and privacy violations.

I had concerns about the Kids Online Safety Act as originally introduced, particularly provisions that could have permitted political censorship of content and falsely categorized basic information as dangerous or harmful. The bill before us today focuses instead on design elements to protect children online, including restricting features that encourage compulsive use, ensuring that online platforms use personalized recommendation systems and allow users to opt out of those systems, and providing operational tools that can help parents manage their child’s online experience while protecting young people’s access to information. I became a cosponsor of the Kids Online Safety Act after these changes were included, strengthening the legislation while, in turn, preventing unintended consequences.

Congress will also have an obligation to ensure that the Federal Trade Commission implements this bill as intended, with clear guidance to platforms on how to comply with the law. With the amendment’s inclusion of protected content or limiting privacy protections. I believe this legislation is a balanced approach to the serious challenge of protecting young people online, but will carefully monitor its implementation and effects to ensure it remains targeted to prevent harm.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this article on the floor for the record for children and teens from Common Sense Media be printed in the Record.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today is a historic day. Today the U.S. Senate will vote on the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act, which includes my legislation with Senator Kyrsten Sinema from Arizona and Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon, and the Senate will vote on the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act, or COPPA 2.0.

With this vote, the U.S. Senate will finally send a message to Big Tech that the days of indiscriminately tracking and targeting children and teens are over in our country; that their privacy-invasive business model must change; that young people and their parents are more important than shareholders’ bank accounts.

This vote is long overdue. On June 20, 1996—June 20, 1996—more than 28 years ago, at the dawn of the information age, there was a “do not track” button. But today, the internet does not have a “do not track” button. The “do not track” button was simply a measurement, I stood before the House of Representatives and warned about the internet’s unique threat to user privacy.

Now, how did I know that? I knew it happened. On July 30, 2024, the U.S. Senate will vote on the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act, or COPPA 2.0.

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television industry was targeting kids with advertising on Saturday morning cartoons, Saturday morning programs.

They were pretty much turning all the programs into one big ad targeted at vulnerable kids. And so I had to auth-

or the Children's Television Act of 1990 in order to put protections for tele-

vision on the books. But then, as the internet evolved, the marketers, the targeters all moved over from tele-

vision over to the internet. And with it, Congress has to follow them in order to protect children from being exploited by the very same marketers, the very same companies that sought to exploit them on television.

And as I explained back then, the original COPPA, or the Children's On-

line Privacy Protection Act, can be summarized in three words: "disclo-

sure," "knowledge," and "no"—disclo-

sure of privacy policies, knowledge of information collected on our children, and no to the sale of the information.

That information should only be used for the purposes for which the young person and their family had intended it.

So COPPA put real safeguards on the internet, at least for kids under the age of 13. But over the last 26 years, the Federal Trade Commission has brought dozens of cases against both household names, like Google, TikTok, and even Mrs. Fields Cookies, and lesser known entities. And during that period, the Federal Trade Commission has collected over half a billion dollars in fines for violations of COPPA, of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.

The original COPPA law has done a lot of good. But as the years have passed and technology has evolved, our online world, once again, started to look like the Wild West with the desperadoes in charge, exploiting teen-

agers in our country, using algo-

rithms—powerful algorithms—to tar-

get those kids.

So, in 2011, I introduced my children and teens' privacy bill to update COPPA. And in every Congress since, I have continued to introduce that legisla-

tion, slowly developing coalitions, answering questions, building support to modernize and update COPPA to protect children and teens' privacy on-

line.

And it can no longer be under the age of 13. Now we have to move it up to age 16 because we can see very clearly the targeting that goes on by these companies, the exploitation of the young people in our country, and the vulnerabil-

ity of that group of Americans under the age of 16, who, according to the Surgeon General, according to the CDC, are in a mental health crisis in our country. And social media has been im-

plicated by the Surgeon General, by the CDC, as one of the principal causes of this mental health crisis in our country.

And while knowledge and disclosure and no may have been effective during the early internet era, today, that for-

mula needs to be modified. The no must now be no, no, no; and that is the foundation of COPPA 2.0—no targeted advertising toward children and teen-

agers in our country, no excessive data collection of information of teens and children, no deliberately ignoring young users.

For over a decade, I have been fight-

ing for these essential privacy protec-

tions. In fact, if COPPA 2.0 were a per-

son, it would have just turned 13 and would have aged out of COPPA's crit-

ical privacy protections, and that is unacceptable.

I introduced it in 2011, but the power of those tech industries has blocked that progress that we needed. Yes, you want all the good things from the internet, but there is a Dickensian quality to the internet. It is the best of technologies and the worst of tech-

nologies simultaneously. It can enable; it can ennable. But it can also degrade; it can unencumbered by any restrictions whatsoever.

I know that privacy can sometimes seem as an elusive concept because strong privacy rules sound great in theory, but what does that mean in practice? Well, with COPPA 2.0, here is what privacy is going to mean: It is going to mean privacy will put an end to the manipulative, personalized ads that trick young people into pur-

chasing unwanted goods and services.

Privacy means stopping a search en-

gine or social media site from collect-

ing a teenager's eye color or loca-

tion or other information which has nothing to do with why that young per-

son had gone online in the first place. It is the teenager's information.

And it also means giving teens or parents an eraser button to delete a so-

cial media post—to tell the company: “Delete all that information you have gathered about me, a teenager”; or, as a parent, “that you have collected about my child, erase it all.”

And that right will be in the hands of the young person. It will be in the hands of the parent to just say: No, stop it. Stop collecting that information and delete whatever you have.

Ease of Use:

So there will be an eraser button so a youthful mistake doesn’t last forever.

So that is going to be a big home run, too, when we pass this legislation, to move the power over to the parents and to the young people. And, most impor-

tantly, privacy means a fighting chance for parents and young people who are struggling against trillion-dol-

lar platforms looking for every way to keep kids and teens on their app.

Today, with passage of COPPA 2.0, the Senate takes a momentous step to stand up to the Big Tech lobbying ma-

chine; to stop the privacy-invasive business model that exploits young people for profit; to give our high-tech regulator, the Federal Trade Commis-

sion, the tools to tame our modern, digital desperadoes who are out there trying to exploit young people in our country.

With AI supercharging Big Tech's al-

gorithms and encouraging platforms to collect more data on young people, it has never been more important to pro-

tect our young people's privacy. With this vote, the Senate is finally meeting the moment.

When I was a boy and I was home with my mother and with my two brothers—and I would be 10 years old, 9 years old—a salesman would ring the doorbell, and my mother would tell me: Just go to where the letter opener is in the door and tell the salesman that your mother is not home.

And I would. And then I would go to my mother and say: But you are home.

And she would say: I am not home to have strangers in our living room. It is 11 in the morning. We are not having a stranger in our living room with you and three small children. It is just not happening.

Well, that same sense of privacy is still present in American families, in America's mothers and fathers. They don't want strangers in their living rooms, in their kitchens, in their bed-

rooms, with their children.

And what has happened is that, in the internet age, those same salesmen have been able to get around that front door. They have been able to get into the lives of the children, of the teen-

agers in our country, in ways that the parents have had great difficulty in controlling.

And so what we are going to say here today on the floor of the Senate is no. We are going to change this balance of power. We are going to hand it over to the parents, hand it over to the chil-

dren, hand it over to the teenagers, so that they can just say to those salesmen, those dig-

tal salesmen, those digital despera-

does trying to take advantage of young people in our country: No, you cannot get in. You cannot compromise the well-being of the young people in this family.

So that is what this vote is all about. It is historic. It is long overdue. It was pretty clear what the business model of these companies was going to be long ago at the dawn of the era.

I was the Democratic author of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that moved America from analog to digital, from narrowband to broadband. Not one company in America had broadband in February of 1996, but it was an inevitability.

The pediatricians in our country said: We must put protections in for this new digital world in 1996.

So it was highly predictable. They were who cared about the well-being of children, of teenagers were saying it all back then. Nothing is new.

So today is a historic day, and we thank all of our partners for working
with us and all of the outside groups who have dedicated their time, their effort, their resources to getting this bill to the Senate floor.

I am deeply grateful to Senator SCHUMER for his partnership and leadership on this issue, to Chairwoman CANTWELL, to Ranking Member Ted CRUZ, and to my partner Senator CAS-SIDY from Louisiana. In 1998, COPPA 1.0 was a partnership between myself and Billy Tauzin from Louisiana, and, today, with Senator Cassidy, we are going to take COPPA 2.0, partner it with the legislation of Senator BLUMENTHAL and the Senator from Tennessee, and we are going to make history. And then we are going to get it over the finish line and onto the President’s desk before the end of this year.

So I thank all the Members for their cooperation on this, and, again, I want to thank Senator SCHUMER for his great effort in expediting the movement of this legislation to the floor and for, I believe, its inexorable, inevitable passage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, today is a momentous day. The Senate keeps its promise to every parent who has lost a child because of the risks of social media.

Today, after a lot of hard work, twists and turns, the Senate is passing two vital pieces of legislation with a strong bipartisan vote: the Kids Online Safety Act, or KOSA, and the Children and Teens’ Online Prevention Act, or COPPA.

By passing KOSA and COPPA, we are one step closer to the most important update in decades to Federal laws protecting kids on the internet.

Once we act, the House should pass these bills as soon as they can.

This is such an important piece of legislation, and I say to my colleagues these bills as soon as they can.

update in decades to Federal laws pro-

There have been horrible abuses. We must end them, and we will.

I yield the floor.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ELIMINATE USELESS REPORTS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 2073, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 2073, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Schumer amendment No. 3021 (to the House amendment to the bill), in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer amendment No. 3022 (to amendment No. 3021), to add an effective date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 3022 is withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3022) was withdrawn.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 2073 with amendment No. 3021.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:01 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJAN).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

NOMINATION OF STACEY D. NEUMANN

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Stacey Neumann to serve as a U.S. district court judge for the District of Maine.

I had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Neumann before her Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in May.

The committee has reported her nomination favorably with bipartisan support, and the Senate will be voting on her confirmation shortly.

I have decided to support this nominee based on her extensive legal experience—including as a Federal prosecutor—her in-depth interview with me, and her hearing testimony and background check. I have concluded that she possesses the integrity, intellect, and impartiality to serve in this critical position.

Ms. Neumann has served as a litiga-

ator at the law firm Murray Plumb & Murray in Portland, ME. She has been there since 2013 and handles criminal defense and civil litigation matters in the District of Maine.

Prior to this role, Ms. Neumann served as an assistant U.S. attorney, where she represented the Federal Government in a variety of criminal proceedings.

Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Stacey Neumann to serve as a U.S. district court judge for the District of Maine.

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ATOR at the law firm Murray Plumb & Murray in Portland, ME. She has been there since 2013 and handles criminal defense and civil litigation matters in the State and Federal courts and agencies. Prior to this role, Ms. Neumann served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maine as an assistant U.S. attorney, where she represented the Federal Government in a variety of criminal proceedings.

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ATOR at the law firm Murray Plumb & Murray in Portland, ME. She has been there since 2013 and handles criminal defense and civil litigation matters in the State and Federal courts and agencies. Prior to this role, Ms. Neumann served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maine as an assistant U.S. attorney, where she represented the Federal Government in a variety of criminal proceedings.
Notably, a group of former Federal prosecutors from the District of Maine signed a letter stating that, in their view, Ms. Neumann has "distinguished herself by virtue of a keen legal mind, tireless work ethic, and balanced and measured professional demeanor."

In her career, Ms. Neumann served as the law clerk to a justice of the Vermont Supreme Court as well as for a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She graduated magna cum laude from both James Madison University and Cornell Law School.

The American Bar Association has given Ms. Neumann its highest rating of unanimously "well qualified."

If confirmed by the Senate, she would be assigned to the U.S. district court seat in Bangor.

Based on her experience and character, I believe that Stacey Neumann will faithfully uphold our Nation’s laws and that she will serve the State of Maine and our Nation well. I urge the Senate to confirm this nominee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I can’t really improve upon the comments made by my colleagues. I think she summarized Stacey Neumann’s qualifications brilliantly and really made the case for her confirmation.

I just wanted to add a couple of notes. One is that not only does she have extraordinary qualifications in terms of having been a public defender and a Federal prosecutor and a civil litigator, she has had experience in all areas of the law, particularly areas of the law involving courtroom practice, motions, negotiations, the whole process that a judge has to preside over in our court system.

In addition, though—I think Senator COLLINS really beautifully summarized her qualifications brilliantly and really made the case for her confirmation. I found in my discussions with her and my discussions with others who know her well that she has the important temperament to hold this position and to give confidence to those who appear before her in the court.

Our courts rest upon the trust and confidence of the public. People have to believe that the judges and the people that are involved in our judicial system are nonpartisan, are neutral factfinders, and are going to do their best to apply the law fairly and evenly, no matter who the parties are before them. I believe that Stacey Neumann has that quality of fairness and the quality of the temperament that is so important to a successful judicial career.

One final note. As a former practicing lawyer in Maine, I appreciate judges who have a bit of humility. Even though they have on the black robe, they identify with the litigants before them and the counsel and don’t try to make judgment on those people that are before them in the court. I think Stacey Neumann has that quality of judicial temperament that is evenhanded, that is empathetic, and I think she will make an extraordinary district court judge in our wonderful city of Bangor, ME.

So I join my senior colleague in urging my colleagues to support this nomination. I think she will be a real asset to the judiciary in the country but particularly to the people of Maine.

I yield the floor.

I would like to ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately at this moment in time. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 708, Stacey D. Neumann, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stacey D. Neumann, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to support passage of two bipartisan bills aimed at continuing the significant progress we are making in treating and, one day, preventing and curing Alzheimer’s disease.

These bills—S. 133, the National Alzheimer Project Act, or NAPA, as it is referred to, Reauthorization Act, and S. 134, the Alzheimer Accountability and Investment Act would help coordinate the tools of the Federal Government toward reaching these important goals.

And I would note, on the floor is the cochair of the Alzheimer’s task force in the Senate, Senator MARKEY, along with the other two cosponsors we are fortunate to have, Senators WARNER and CAPITO.

When I first joined the Senate in 1997, there really wasn’t much of a focus on Alzheimer’s in Washington. It was often called senility and was thought of not as a disease but just as part of growing old.

To increase public awareness of Alzheimer’s disease, to advance research, and to bring the disease to the forefront of the Congressional agenda, I founded the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer’s in 1999 here in the Senate.

A true milestone in focusing our efforts was the passage of the Bipartisan National Alzheimer’s Project Act that I coauthored with then-Senator Evan Bayh in 2011.

Before we passed that legislation, which became known as NAPA, there was no coordinated strategic plan to focus our efforts to defeat this devastating disease and ensure that our resources were maximized and leveraged.

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A true milestone in focusing our efforts was the passage of the Bipartisan National Alzheimer’s Project Act that I coauthored with then-Senator Evan Bayh in 2011.

Before we passed that legislation, which became known as NAPA, there was no coordinated strategic plan to focus our efforts to defeat this devastating disease and ensure that our resources were maximized and leveraged.
NAPA tackled this problem by convening a panel of experts to create a coordinated strategic plan to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s disease by the year 2025, an ambitious goal, to be sure.

The Senate budget updates its plan annually. While the 2020 goal regrettably will not be met, it was still important to set an ambitious objective in order to spur research and to instill hope.

And, indeed, since then, researchers have made great strides in understanding this complex disease. To put our progress in context, 20 years ago we knew of only four genes that were associated with Alzheimer’s disease. Now, researchers have identified more than 70 associated genetic areas, opening multiple new avenues for potential prevention and treatment.

There is another point that helps put this into perspective. In the early 2000s, the only sure way to know whether a person had Alzheimer’s was through an autopsy.

Since then, the National Institutes of Health Research has led to the development of imaging techniques, biomarker tests, and data-driven approaches to enable more precise and earlier diagnoses.

And, most recently, decades of NIH research have paved the way for disease-modifying therapies targeting amyloid plaques’ role in certain diseases.

To fast forward a decade, the National Institutes of Health Research has led to the development of imaging techniques, biomarker tests, and data-driven approaches to enable more precise and earlier diagnoses.

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(B) in paragraph (5)—
(i) in subparagraph (A)—
(I) by striking “an initial evaluation” and inserting “annual evaluations”; and
(II) by inserting “research, clinical,” and inserting “research, risk reduction, public health, clinical”; and
(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “initial”;
(iii) in subparagraph (C)—
(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “initial”; and
(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “and reduce disparities” before the semicolon; and
(iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking “annually thereafter, an evaluation” and inserting “annual evaluations”; and
(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “2025” and inserting “2035”;
(4) in subsection (g)(3)(A)(ii), by inserting “and reduce disparities” before the semicolon; and
(5) in subsection (h), by striking “2025” and inserting “2035”.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3201), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “NAPA Reauthorization Act.”

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROJECT.
Section 2 of the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (42 U.S.C. 11225) is amended—
(1) in subsection (c)—
(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and coordination of” and inserting “on, and coordination of”;
(B) in paragraph (4)—
(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively; and
(ii) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

“(A) promotion of healthy aging and reduction and mitigation of risk factors for Alzheimer’s;

(C) in paragraph (5)—
(i) by inserting “and other underserved populations, including individuals with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome, after “populations”; and
(ii) by striking “;” and inserting a semicolon;
(D) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and
(E) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) provide information on, and promote the adoption of, healthy behaviors that may reduce the risk of cognitive decline and promote and protect cognitive health; and”;
(2) in subsection (d)(2)—
(A) by inserting “, across public and private sectors,” after “Nation’s progress”; and
(B) by inserting “, including consideration of public-private collaborations, as appropriate” after the period;
(3) in subsection (e)—
(A) in paragraph (2)—
(i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following:

“(xi) A designee of the Department of Justice.

(xii) A designee of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(xiii) A designee of the Social Security Administration.

(xiv) 2 or more other designees, as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, at least one of whom has expertise in risk factors associated with the development or progression of Alzheimer’s.”;
and
(ii) in subparagraph (B)—
(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “initial” and inserting “15”;
(II) in clause (i)—
(aa) by striking “2 researchers” and inserting “3 researchers”; and
(bb) by striking “;” and inserting “, including at least one researcher with demonstrated experience in recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups into research or clinical trials related to dementia.”;
(III) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting “;”;
(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(viii) 1 individual with a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease; and

(viii) 1 representative from a historically underrepresented population whose lifetime risk for developing Alzheimer’s is markedly higher than that of other populations.”;

(B) in paragraph (5)—
(i) in subparagraph (A)—
(I) by striking “an initial evaluation” and inserting “annual evaluations”; and
(II) by striking “research, clinical” and inserting “research, risk reduction, public health, clinical”;
(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “initial”;
(iii) in subparagraph (C)—
(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “initial”; and
(II) in clause (ii), by inserting “and reduce disparities” before the semicolon; and
(iv) in subparagraph (D), by striking “annually thereafter, an evaluation” and inserting “annual evaluations”; and
(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “2025” and inserting “2035”;
(i) in paragraph (5)—
(A) in paragraph (1)—
(I) by adding “and” after the semicolon;
(II) by striking “that includes” and inserting “includes”;
(iii) in paragraph (2), by striking “research, clinical” and inserting “risk reduction, public health, clinical”;
(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2 or more other designees, as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services,”; and
(III) by striking “and reduce disparities” before the semicolon; and
(i) by striking “annual evaluations”; and
(ii) by inserting “that includes—

“(A) an evaluation;”; and
(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) a summary of the Secretary’s process for identifying and updating what conditions constitute Alzheimer’s disease;”;

(D) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting “and reduce disparities” before the semicolon;
(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

“(b) PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT BUDGET.—For fiscal year 2024 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmission to Congress, after reasonable opportunity for comment, but without change, by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Advisory Council, an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to the reports and recommendations made under this Act, including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the National Institutes of Health.”;

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am very pleased to yield at this time to the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, thanks to Senator Collins for her longtime leadership on this issue.

There is no more important issue in our country than the scourge of Alzheimer’s. My mother, like Senator Collins’s father, succumbed to Alzheimer’s. But today, there are very few families in our whole country that do not have a similar story, some relative who has had Alzheimer’s.

My mother was diagnosed, and she was a brilliant woman. She was president of her senior class in high school.

ALZHEIMER’S ACCOUNTABILITY AND INVESTMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 183, S. 134.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 134) to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer’s Project Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. 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. 134) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 134

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 “Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROJECT.
Section 2 of the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (42 U.S.C. 11225) is amended—
(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and
(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(b) PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT BUDGET.—For fiscal year 2024 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmission to Congress, after reasonable opportunity for comment, but without change, by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Advisory Council, an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to the reports and recommendations made under this Act, including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the National Institutes of Health.”;

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My mother was diagnosed, and she was a brilliant woman. She was president of her senior class in high school.
But her mother died—my grandmother—when my mother was 17. She had to be the mother and raise her three younger sisters so she never got to go to college. She ultimately finished raising the first family. Then, at 37, she married my father, who was a milkman, and they had me at 39 and my two brothers at age 40 and then she raised us.

Now, my mother was a completely brilliant woman. She could do calculus for fun at the table, even though she never had calculus in school. And my father used to say, after my mother contracted Alzheimer’s, your mother was a brilliant woman. It was an honor that your mother married me. Your mother is never stepping foot in a nursing home. No one is touching your mother at 2 a.m. in the morning. It was an honor that she married me.

And so at age 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, my father kept my mother in our living room in our story. That is my family’s story. That is Senator Collins’s story. That is the story of millions of families in our country.

Alzheimer’s is a scourge that needs to be defeated.

And so I learned a lot from my father and his dedication to my mother. He was a milkman for the Hood milk company. He was 6 feet 1 inch, 265, so he could do anything. But many families cannot do it, especially when it is the man who has Alzheimer’s and not the woman—although, two-thirds of all Alzheimer’s cases are women. Can I say that again? Two-thirds of all Alzheimer’s cases are women. I can say that again? Two-thirds of all Alzheimer’s cases are women.

So in the House, as Senator Collins is leading in the Senate, we were able to pass the first law. And the first law said to the National Institutes of Health: Break down all the silos at NIH and all of your institutes. You all have information on the brain, and you don’t even share that information on the brain. The Institute on Aging is not sharable Diseases with what you know about the brain. Break down all the silos and put together a plan to find the cure by 2025.

I was leading in the House; that was my bill. Senator Collins was doing it in the Senate; that was her bill. That became the law in 2011.

But we realized by 2014 that a vision without funding is a hallucination. Right now in our country between Medicare and Medicaid, our country spends the equivalent of one-third of the defense budget’s money every single year just on Alzheimer’s patients—one-third of the defense budget.

By the year of 2020, at the pace at which, Alzheimer’s is advancing, the Alzheimer’s budget in our country will equal the defense budget because no one is saying that grandma shouldn’t have a nursing home bed because she has Alzheimer’s. That is not going to happen in our country. So finding a cure is absolutely not an option.

And so in 2014, we passed another law. And that law said that each year the NIH has to tell the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee how much money they needed to find the cure for Alzheimer’s by the year 2025. Well, back then, it was about $500 million a year that was spent to fund research.

Senator Collins leading in the Senate, along with me—we are up to $3.7 billion a year because, obviously, prevention is preferable to cure. Let’s stop it. Let’s try to get this right at its beginnings.

And we made some progress, but we are not going to find the cure by 2025. So what this legislation says is we are extending it out to 2035, and we are going to continue both of these programs to make sure that it gets the focus at the NIH so that we will find the cure because research is medicine’s “field of dreams” from which we harvest the findings that give hope to families that there will be a cure for the disease. They are making their family for generations. Alzheimer’s is the one disease that we all know almost every family in our country has in common.

President Kennedy created a mission to the Moon in 1961, and our country responded to it. And what these two bills that we are passing today have done is they have created a mission to the mind. They have created a mission to find what is going wrong in the brains of not just people in our country but all around the world because we are going to have to find the cure. And it is our responsibility here to provide leadership in the U.S. Senate, to keep the plan in place, and to find the funding that will have the best, brightest, young scientists in America make careers out of finding the cure for Alzheimer’s.

The same thing is happening with cancer. The same thing is happening with HIV. But we have to focus here on Alzheimer’s and keep that investment rising and rising because patients deserve it; families deserve it; caregivers across our country deserve it.

We have millions of families right now—as Senator Collins just said, 7 million families—who have this disease in their families right now, and there is no cure. The end result is always inexorable. It is always inevitable. It always ends the same way. And so we are the only way in which this can be solved.

So 3.7 billion a year—or 4 billion a year—that is a small price to pay against the disease which will ultimately cost the Federal Government the equal amount as the Defense budget every single year by 2025. So we have to act. And we have come a long way on research. But we have a long way to go.

So here is what we hope: We hope to promote healthy aging; to decrease risk factors; and get the National Alzheimer’s Plan to include recommendations on reducing health disparities for Black, Brown, and disabled Americans, because that is all part of this story line—all along with women, they are in a separate and higher risk category than men are—and expanding the National Alzheimer’s Advisory Council to ensure a true whole-of-government approach to preventing, treating, and curing Alzheimer’s and supporting family caregivers. That is why we can’t delay another day.

So I urge my colleagues to celebrate today. We have just passed two historic pieces of legislation. And it sets 2035 as the target date. And we can get this done, but we have to finish the job.

And today’s vote is going to clear the path for millions of Alzheimer’s patients and their families, for them, their loved ones, and for the communities all across our country.

And so I thank Senator Collins for her great, great leadership on this. And my family and Senator Collins’s family, we stand here speaking for the 7 million families. And there will be more families after 2050. And we need a cure. And we thank the Members of the Senate for passing this historic legislation today.

With that, I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT OFFICER, The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am glad I was in the Chamber to witness this passage of these bills pertaining to the scourge of Alzheimer’s by unanimous consent. This is a rare bright spot in our activities where we actually all come together and agree on good policy.

KOSA-COPPA

Mr. President, we have also taken the step to pass another piece of bipartisan legislation today, something that used to be standard operating procedure in this Chamber. We would call up bills, we would come to a vote if we don’t find a cure. And we thank the Members of the Senate for passing this historic legislation today.

With that, I yield the floor.
I want to commend Senators BLACK-THORNE-KEY and CASSIDY. That bill prohibits internet companies from collecting personal information from their younger users and establishes better safeguards to protect children's privacy. It prevents Big Tech from tracking and targeting kids with the most addictive content possible.

The bill has been working on legislation in this area for many years, and I urge the Senate to pass this bill. And I am proud of the Senate sponsored these bills, including this one. And I am proud to one of them.

We also passed another bill that I was proud to cosponsor called the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, introduced by Senators MARKS and CASSIDY. That bill protects and prevents children and parents the tools and safeguards they need to keep out of children's social-media feeds. More than two-thirds of the Senate sponsored these bills, including this one. And I am proud to be one of them.

There are a number of other bills that have passed the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis, as the Presiding Officer knows. And I hope we will be able to turn to those soon. But these bills we passed today struck the right balance between the First Amendment and safety, which is no easy task—which is, perhaps, one reason why it has taken us so long to get here.

But I appreciate these Senators' leadership. And I am proud the Senate has finally taken an important step to help keep America's children safe online.

Mr. President, on another matter, I want to speak briefly about President Biden's proposal to, essentially, unconstitutionally transform the Supreme Court into another political branch of government.

Every student of government, every high school civics class, teaches that ours is a government of three coequal branches: the two political branches being the Senate and the House, the legislative branch, and then the executive branch. The reason they are political is because they are accountable to the public through regular elections.

Conversely, the Judiciary is unique in that it is unaccountable to the voters. Judges are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. But as long as they are conducting themselves appropriately, they can serve as long as they live—literally, have life tenure. Rarely—very rarely—there is remedy of impeachment for extraordinary cases. And, as I said, that happens almost not at all.

But in recent years, our Democratic colleagues have floated a litany of institutional changes to try to tilt the balance of power in the Judiciary in their favor. They are not content to allow the Courts to do their job, which is to call balls and strikes. Again, judges are supposed to interpret the law and the facts and apply that to a given case and not decide ahead of time who should win and who should lose.

Judges don't take public opinion polls and decide what is popular, because they take the same oath we do to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States and so in a framework of judicial independence. Former Justice Scalia used to say that the independent judiciary is the gold standard, is the secret sauce for the United States form of government, because there has to be some neutral arbiter to basically decide contested cases, and that is our independent judiciary.

But our Democratic colleagues, since they have been upset about some of the decisions of the Court, have gone so far as to suggest that the Court be restructured. This was tried back in the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the famous court packing cases. And we want to add additional Justices to the Court because he thought that would change the receptivity of the case to causes that he supported.

But we have also seen changes advocated here in this Senate, institutional changes as dramatic and unconstitutional as those who were unhappy with the fact that they don't win 100 percent of the vote. They have advocated eliminating the filibuster to clear the path for radical and unpopular policy ideas. They have attempted to federalize or nationalize our voting laws and take over America's elections as opposed to having those decided at the State level. They pushed for statehood for the District of Columbia as well as Puerto Rico. And, presumably, they would get two United States Senators and a Member of Congress and thus tilt the balance of power here in the Senate.

But when it comes to the Supreme Court, it is clear that the left is outraged over some of the Court's recent decisions. As a matter of fact, not that long ago, the majority leader stood on the front steps of the Supreme Court and called out two sitting Justices by name and, essentially, threatened them if they decided those cases in a way that was to their liking.

That was an extraordinary act of bad judgment by the majority leader. He actually went so far as to say: Justice Gorsuch, Justice Kavanaugh, you won't know what hit you. And, again, it was shocking to, I think, most of us who regard the Court as an independent and second branch of government immune from politics.

But, of course, many Democrats are upset that the Court's decision in Roe v. Wade has now returned the issue of abortion to the States, where on a State-by-State basis, legislators and voters will decide what the appropriate limits are on abortion, which divides much of our country.

They are upset with the decision on Presidential immunity. They want the President to be subject to ordinary litigation on a regular basis, using what has now come to be known as lawfare to achieve political objectives.

And they are concerned that the Court has done away with something as arcane and relatively poorly understood as Chevron deference, basically saying if an Agency decides something, they are upset with the decision. They want the courts or that Congress can do about it.

Our colleagues don't want to keep losing cases in the courtroom. So they have adopted a new strategy: If you can't win the game, change the rules. And their playbook has gone something like this: No. 1, villainize the Supreme Court. I mentioned the comments of the majority leader, which are not unique. The strategy is to make the Justices seem evil or biased or something else.

From packing the Court with liberal Justices to dictating recusal requirements for the Justices to holding securoty funding hostage if the Supreme Court doesn't do what our Democratic colleagues want them to do, our colleagues have offered many plans to tilt the Court's balance of power, about control. They would turn the Oval Office itself.

President Joe Biden used the pages of the Washington Post to advocate for exactly the sorts of dramatic and unconstitutional changes that I just mentioned. He wants to somehow establish term limits for Justices. He wants to craft a schedule for new appointments, codify precedents written by Congress, and destroy the longstanding precedent of Presidential immunity.

These proposals are not to enhance the fairness of the Court or promote equality or justice or any other good government principle, but that they are about power, about control. They would turn our most independent branch of government into a partisan branch to ensure that our Democratic colleagues are the ones who ultimately wield the power.

It is bad enough that President Biden has promoted these radical changes, but even more concerning is that his...
protegee, Vice President HARRIS, has fully embraced them. She made it clear that if she is elected in November, the assault on the independent judiciary—the Supreme Court—will not go away; it will accelerate. A potential Harris administration would stage a full-blown coup to overthrow the Supreme Court and eviscerate judicial independ- ence. She basically would disregard the Constitution itself and attempt to turn the Court into an institution that serves at the pleasure of a political party.

We need to call it what it is. The Biden-Harris proposal is not about protecting democracy or ensuring accountability; it is about consolidating power and undermining institutions that stand in the way of their agenda.

If these radical ideas were to become a reality, they would dangerously shift the balance of power and erode the independence of the Supreme Court—again, the crown jewels of our form of government. They would ultimately politicize the one branch of government that was designed to be insulated from partisanship.

Our Founders deliberately designed a Federal Government with three dis- tinct but equal branches. They established a set of checks and balances to prevent any one branch from forcing another to bend to its will, but unfortunately, that is exactly what President Biden and his party are trying to do today—to blur the lines between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to secure partisan political wins and accrue more power.

But here in the U.S. Senate—an institution created for this purpose—cooler heads must prevail. We cannot stoop to the level of the mob. We have to stand up for an independent judiciary and the Court as an in- stitution in our form of government regardless of how we feel about the decisions.

Many decisions by the Supreme Court I have disagreed with in the past, and I hope in the future, but as one Justice said, “The Supreme Court is not final because it is right; it is right because it is final.”

That is the only way to preserve the integrity of the judiciary and our invaluable checks and balances, is with an independent judiciary—one that isn’t politicized and doesn’t bend to the will of a political party.

Republicans will continue to fight to protect the integrity of America’s judi- cial system, and we will not allow this President or any President on any political party to hijack the Federal judi- cialty for their own partisan benefit.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen- ator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
This resolution lays out their heroic service. It talks about the sacrifice. Mr. President, 58,000 members of the Armed Forces lost their lives. More than 300,000 Americans were wounded in Vietnam. Yet many who served bravely and faithfully to the United States military and veterans Vietnam were repeatedly targeted with shameful attacks when they came home. Why? I don’t know. That never really happened in our history before, and it should never happen again.

Here is the beautiful thing about our Vietnam vets: Instead of being wracked and incapacitated by bitterness or anger, our Vietnam veterans—and I have seen it throughout my career in the military—when they came home, they said: Here is what we are going to do. We were treated really poorly. We are going to work really hard to make sure that the next generations of veterans who serve overseas aren’t treated poorly, that we get back to this level of World War II treatment.

Guess what. The Vietnam vets succeeded in that. The vast majority of Americans look at our veterans—whether they agreed with the war in Iraq or Afghanistan or anywhere else, when they see the vets, they say: Thank you for your heroic service. We may not have liked the war, but we are certainly not going to take it out on you, lieutenant or corporal.

That group—our Vietnam vets—had a lot to do with us getting back to that level. I saw this throughout my entire military career. I just retired out of the Marine Corps a few months ago after 30 years. I will give you one example. I had a sergeant from one of my Marine Recon units who was killed by an avalanche in Alaska—a great guy. So we were having a service to bury him. It was very somber. I was just a captain, but I was the lead officer overseeing this service. These guys pulled up on motorcycles. There were like five of them at this service, just sitting there.

After the service, they came up to me. I said: Hey, thank you, guys, for coming to the service of my sergeant.

I said: Did you know him?

No, we didn’t know him. We just saw that he was killed, and we wanted to come here to honor him.

That is about that. Those are Vietnam veterans in my great State of Alaska who probably didn’t get treated well but who said: We are going to go to the funeral of this Marine sergeant to make sure he gets the respect that everybody should have gotten and certainly that the Vietnam vets’ generation should have gotten, but so many didn’t.

So this resolution does that. It recognizes the extraordinary sacrifice of our Vietnam vets. It commends them for their sacrifice. It urges the President and on behalf of the Congress to formally acknowledge the widespread mistreatment of veterans of the Vietnam war when they came back home. It offers, on behalf of the Congress, a long overdue apology, and it encourages and expresses support for increased education in the schools of the United States to reflect on and learn about the courage and sacrifice of these veterans. Unfortunately, sometimes the lack of support when they came home. So that is what the resolution does.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 778, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 778) acknowledging the courage and sacrifice of veterans of the Vietnam war and expressing regret for the mistreatment of veterans returning home from the war.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the resolution be considered laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 778) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, with that, given that there is no objection, that Senate resolution has now passed in the United States. It unanimously is on record finally, in 2024, thanking our Vietnam veterans for their service, for their sacrifice and for acknowledging the mistreatment they got when they came home; welcoming them home; and saying, on behalf of the Congress of the United States, we do apologize for the mistreatment that you received, and we know that you are the key to making sure future generations of veterans are honored.

So to our Vietnam vets, welcome home.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

NOMINATION OF STACIY D. NEUMANN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Stacey Neumann to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine.

Ms. Neumann began her legal career with the Chittenden County Public Defender Office in Vermont. In 2009, she joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maine as a special assistant U.S. attorney and became an assistant U.S. attorney in 2016. At the U.S. Attorney’s Office, she has served as the Project Safe Childhood Coordinator. In this role, she was responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes involving the possession, transportation, and production of child sexual abuse material.

Since 2013, Ms. Neumann has been a litigator with Murray Plumb & Murray, where she maintains a diverse practice that consists of criminal, civil, and administrative matters. She has focused her criminal practice on representing employees in workplace discrimination cases while also serving as a member of the Criminal Justice Act panel, accepting appointed indigent clients.

Over the course of her legal career, Ms. Neumann has handled 16 trials or adjudicated matters that proceeded to verdict or judgment.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. Neumann as “well qualified,” and she has the support of her home State Senators, Ms. Collins and Mr. King.

Ms. Neumann’s diverse experience as a litigator and commitment to service make her well-prepared to serve on the bench with distinction. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

VOTE ON NEUMANN NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), 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 Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 223 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin
Bennett
Bennenthal
Bischke
Brown
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Collins
Cortez Masto
Cortez Masto
Cotula
Cotula
Durbin
Durbin
Gillibrand
Graham
Hassan
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
Katz
Kelly
King

NAYS—43

Aoki
Booker
Butler
Cantwell
Carper
Casey
Collins
Cortez Masto
Cotula
Cotula
Durbin
Durbin
Gillibrand
Graham
Hassan
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
Katz
Kelly
King

[For a complete list of Senators voting on the nominations, see Roll Call No. 223 Ex.]
Having to uproot their families from one temporary housing unit to the next, every few weeks or every few months. They are tired of wondering what the future holds and if that future will be on Maui at all. They worry about their friends and their neighbors grappling with depression and post-traumatic stress from the lingering trauma of the fires. They worry about their kids missing out on school and getting left behind.

One year later, people’s lives are nowhere near where they’d hoped to be. National headlines may have moved on, but life for survivors has not. They still need help.

From the very next day after the fires, following President Biden’s disaster declaration, the Federal Government mobilized a sweeping recovery effort that has delivered more than $300 million in aid to date.

Here in Congress, Senator MAIZE HIRONO, Representative J ILL TOKUDA, and I worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to deliver disaster relief funding and get survivors the help that they deserve.

And while we should be clear-eyed about the long road ahead, it is worth, just for a moment, reflecting on the progress that has been made. After a year of round-the-clock work from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, debris removal is entering the final stretch and is expected to be completed in the coming months. Water and wastewater services have been fully restored as of last week.

And a temporary campus for King Kamehameha III Elementary School was built from the ground up in just 95 days and opened its doors to students in April.

That progress is real. And it is the reason for hope that things can and will improve. But there is still so much work left to do. Housing remains the number one issue. Businesses still need help as tourism lags. And people of all ages need expanded access to mental health resources and other healthcare.

Every part of the government—whether it is Federal, State, or country—has a responsibility to help the survivors get back on their feet.

And right now, for Congress, that means passing the President’s domestic supplemental appropriations request, which includes significant investments for the CDBG-DR Program; that is, Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery. CDBG-DR has, for decades, been the lifeline for disaster survivors across the country, giving them flexible, long-term assistance to rebuild their homes and their businesses and the neighborhoods that they call home. This is a proven program that has helped revitalize dozens of devastated communities and has to be extended for the survivors on Maui as they try to recover.

For the people of Lahaina, the past year has been a year of uncertainty and unease; unspeakable grief and heartache; impossible choices; a year of what ifs and what’s nexts. Nothing will ever fully replace the people and the things that were lost on that harrowing day about a year ago.

But what we can do is be there for them as they recover, for as long as it takes, every step of the way. That is our responsibility, and that is our promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Vladimir Putin and Xi often call for what they call a multipolar world. By “multipolar world,” these Presidents of Russia and China mean to criticize the post-Cold War situation with the United States as the preeminent superpower.

Even some American commentators and politicians seem to agree with Putin and Xi.

In some corners of American foreign policy thought, there is an implicit acceptance of the premise that large, powerful countries are entitled to a certain sphere of influence and where they can, at the same time, dominate their neighbors against the will of the people who live in those countries.

But the Soviet Union, which FDR and Churchill feared, had an idea of exporting communist revolution to other countries. The Soviet Union sought to dominate much of the Eurasian continent and to export its economic and political system to countries throughout the world, either by cunning or by force.

When the Berlin Wall fell and the then-Soviet Union collapsed, many previously captive nations became free to chart their own course. As a result, many of them chose free market democracy.

Those countries also naturally chose to develop good relationships with the United States and what we call the West—countries of the West.

But Putin clearly sees this as a humiliation. And he famously called the collapse of the Soviet empire as “the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century.”

By contrast to the Soviet Union, the United States is what we might call a reluctant superpower—I think sometimes too reluctant.

We never set out to have the most powerful military. The instinct of the American people was to stay out of foreign wars. It was FDR and Woodrow Wilson who we now call interventionists.

Still, our instinctual reluctance to get involved in foreign wars is to our credit. I am not saying that we have never deviated from our general nature or made mistakes. But I believe that imperialism is contrary to the American character.

During the Cold War, Margaret Thatcher had this to say—and bear in mind because it is a fairly long quote. Margaret Thatcher said this:

It is fashionable for some commentators to speak of the two superpowers—United
States and the Soviet Union—as though they were somehow of equal worth and equal significance. Mr. Speaker, that is a travesty of the truth! The Soviet Union has never concealed its designs. In the words of Mr. Brezhnev, “the total triumph of all Socialism all over the world is inevitable—for this triumph we shall struggle with no lack of effort.” Indeed, there has been no lack of effort.

Contrast this with the record of the West. We do not aim at domination, at hegemony, in any part of the world. Even against those who oppose and who would destroy our ideals, we plot no aggression. Of course, we are ready to use the full vigour of a powerful nation not using its power for expansion or subversion, and yet they should remember that when, after the last War, the United States had a nuclear arsenal, it was never once exploited her superiority. No country ever used such great power more responsibly or with such restraint.

Where she says “no country ever used the power of China has been more responsibly and with such restraint,” she was referring to and complimenting the United States.

Putin and Xi talk about the United States as some sort of hegemony, pushing our values on others. The fact is, whatever they think, America’s principles and systems of government have spread across the world primarily through example, not by force.

To understand the American view, let’s look at a speech made by John Quincy Adams on the Fourth of July, 1821. There are a lot of lessons that you can draw from a speech 200 years ago.

A small excerpt of this speech is often quoted in arguing for more isolationist foreign policy. I will get to that point later.

First, I want to mention about the broader point of Adam’s speech, which was such a celebration of the Declaration of Independence as an articulation of America’s founding principles.

John Quincy Adams goes on at length extolling the American founding based on natural rights, rejecting monarchy, as we all know.

America, with the same voice which spoke itself into existence as a nation, proclaimed to mankind the inextinguishable rights of human nature, and the only lawful foundation of government. With a word which we all know.

At the time, revolutions had broken out in Europe and Latin America, threatening monarchies and empires of that day.

Adams—meaning John Quincy Adams—castigates empires that seek to nominate people by force.

He then ends the speech with a call for the spirit of liberty—that spirit of liberty that is talked about in the Declaration—and he asks that to descend upon Britain and all monarchies.

In fact, the diplomat in attendance from the Russian Empire was appalled at the statement that John Quincy Adams was making in his speech.

He reported to St. Petersburg that the speech was “an appeal to the nations of Europe to rise against their governments.”

This was provocative stuff for monarchists.

In the excerpt of the speech that is most often quoted, Adams makes a digression to clarify that he is not suggesting the United States intervene directly to support any anti-monarchy revolution.

Adams explains that the United States has respected the independence of other nations and has not intervened even when “conflict has been for principles to which she clings, as to the last drop of vital blood in the heart.”

In this case, he is referring to the anti-colonial revolutions taking place at that time in Latin America or Greece.

The most famous quote from that speech comes in the following passage about the role of the United States. So quoting from John Quincy Adams again:

Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will her heart, her beneficences and her prayers be. But she does not abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own.

People have argued how Adams’ words apply to specific foreign policy debates today, but what is beyond question is that John Quincy Adams said Americans ought to at least root for freedom and independence. It is in our American DNA to take the side of liberty against an empire.

As Margaret Thatcher explained, dictatorships and democracies aren’t morally equal.

However they feel about the prudence of any particular foreign policy decision, Americans should reject the Putin-Xi vision of a multipolar world.

Let’s look at some examples and consider the alternative values of the multipolar war Putin and Xi are offering to 6 billion people.

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, Grace Evangelical Church in Melitopol, Ukraine, was full of worshipers. Worship leaders with guitars stood in front of a giant, colorful screen displaying the lyrics of a praise song. It looked like any evangelical church here in the United States, until a speaker was singing praises to Jesus, armed Russian soldiers in camouflage barged in and stopped the service. I encourage every American to watch that video, and it is on video. The soldiers took the names of all the worshipers and detained the minister.

In the same Ukrainian city, the largest church was the Melitopol Christian Church, and that happens to be a charismatic Protestant church. Russian soldiers broke into the church with sledgehammers. They arrested the pastors in the middle of the night, waking one pastor’s 9-year-old son with a gun in his face. The large cross in the front of the church was removed—the building confiscated by the Russian occupiers not for religious reasons but for secular use.

Before the Russian invasion, there were more Protestant churches in that region than the Russian Orthodox Church, as you see how the Russians invade, there are no Protestant churches in that community. Evangelical churches are considered undesirable by Russians for being too Western, even being accused of being too American.

Religious freedom, as we know, is a core natural right. In fact, it is the first right mentioned in our own Bill of Rights. The degree to which a country respects this right of religious freedom is said to be a barometer of to which it respects individual rights in general. You cannot call yourself a free country if you suppress the freedom of religion.

The United States and China are among a handful of countries designated by the State Department as being what we call Countries of Particular Concern because of their severe violations of religious freedom.

China has been holding up to 2 million Uighurs and other Muslims in detention camps. The State Department has now officially labeled what China is doing to the Uighurs and other Muslims in detention camps as a “genocide.” They have been beaten with batons while being strapped to chairs; interrogated while water is being poured in their faces; placed in prolonged solitary confinement, constantly surveilled; deprived of sleep and food; forbidden from speaking their own language or practicing their own religion; and forced to sing patriotic songs that only Xi would approve of.

The Chinese Communist Party says that these camps are for vocational education to fight “extremism.” Here are some examples of what the Chinese Communist Party calls extremism: having too many children, being an unsafe person, being born in certain years, wearing a veil or having a beard.

My staff met with a former internee from one of these camps, and she is why she was able to get free. She described widespread torture and rape. Since this started to result in children, the Chinese Communist Party has subjected Uighurs to forced birth control and sterilization. Uighurs in other countries, including in the United States, have been subjected to harassment and intimidation, including threats against family members for speaking out about the genocide of their people.

The Chinese Communist Party sees a threat from any belief system that provides an alternative to the Chinese Communist Party’s ideology. So it has
Aside from geopolitics, it is only natural that Americans would sympathize with Taiwan over communist China because of religious freedom in Taiwan versus no religious freedom in communist China.

To quote the words of John Quincy Adams, “Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will her heart, her benedictions and her prayers be.”

So I have laid out for my colleagues the multipolar world that Xi and Putin want us all to believe that is declared in our Declaration of Independence and practiced here, and by practicing it here, we hope we are an example for other countries that prefer democracy and religious freedom.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in recess until 1 p.m.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was present, I would have voted Yea on the rollcall vote No. 221. Had I been absent, I would have voted Yea on the motion to concur in House amendment S. 2073 with amendment No. 3021, Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent on July 30, 2024, for rollcall vote No. 221. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the motion to concur in House message to accompany S. 2073 with amendment No. 3021, Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act.

WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today is the day of the whistleblower. But every day should be the day of the whistleblower.

I have asked every President since Ronald Reagan to hold a Rose Garden ceremony to honor whistleblowers. No President has done so.

That is a shame because Presidents should view whistleblowers as making their job easier not more difficult. It is often the whistleblower who gives the unvarnished truth relating to government misconduct. And once that misconduct is known, it can be taken care of.

When fraud and waste are exposed, the executive branch should bend over backwards to eliminate it. Instead, the executive branch often stupidly attacks the whistleblowers for courageously putting themselves out there.

I have given other recent examples. Department of Homeland Security whistleblowers alerted me of this administration’s misuse of the DNA Fingerprint Act. This failure allowed migrants with criminal histories to enter the United States unchecked, putting our communities at risk. The Department of Homeland Security has violated Federal law. The Office of Special Counsel substantiated the allegations and the retaliation against the whistleblowers for their disclosures. On July 23 this year, I held an oversight roundtable to highlight the whistleblower disclosures and the resulting retaliation they have suffered.

Whistleblowers from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives brought to light that the Agency wasted millions of taxpayer dollars. How so? The agency illegally misclassified human resource positions as law enforcement and paid these employees enhanced benefits they weren’t entitled to.

Whistleblowers also provided my office with records revealing the Department of Health and Human Services failed to vet sponsors for unaccompanied alien children. They provided detail never before known to the public. On July 9 this year, I held an oversight roundtable with some of these whistleblowers, giving them a public voice to share their stories for the benefit of these kids. Agencies just don’t like being exposed, apparently even if the lives of children are on the line. We have to change that to discourage cultural.

Whistleblowers recently provided me with internal FBI documents of State Department incompetence and obstruction. Specifically, documents show the State Department actively interfered with FBI operations. For example, the State Department prevented the FBI from arresting known terrorists, members of Iranian proliferation networks, and other criminals providing material support for Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The Department did this because it disagreed with the FBI’s arrest of the Iranians to upset the pending Iran Nuclear Deal. I made these FBI documents public on May 21, 2024, to prove the facts of the matter.

And most recently, I have made records and video public relating to the Trump assassination attempt. I obtained those records from local law enforcement officers, not the Federal Government. The information that I have made public is usually because of whistleblowers.

The government rarely provides information to Congress upon request. Simply put, that is a slap in the face to
not just Congress but the American people. Accordingly, it is critically important that all Federal Agencies promote openness and transparency. They must also ensure Federal employees know their rights to blow the whistle on wrongdoing.

That is why I have fought hard to ensure Federal Agencies include the anti-gag provision as required by law. That provision is a notice to employees of their rights to disclose waste, fraud, abuse, misconduct. Our Founding Fathers knew the importance of rooting out misconduct. Our Nation’s first whistleblowers reported fraud and misconduct. They are patriots. Dating back to the Revolutionary War—the same sentiment remains.

As I stand here today in July 2024—a long way’s away from the Revolutionary War—the same sentiment remains. I am proud to have introduced the National Whistleblower Appreciation Day resolution for the 11th year in a row to recognize the entire Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus. And I will tell you this again: One day, all of us together, we are going to get that Rose Garden ceremony.

SPRING 2024 PUBLIC SERVICE REVIEW

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I encourage all Americans to read the newly published Spring 2024 edition of Public Service Review. The Review is the quarterly publication of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, an exemplary organization, which I am honored to support as a member of its Board of Trustees. In the Public Service Review, readers can explore work from students, faculty, and leadership of Brandeis University’s Educational Network Whistleblower Protection (ENACT) Program. That initiative shares the Stennis Center’s mission: encouraging students to pursue careers in public service.

We are thrilled to publish writing and interviews by undergraduate students. In the pages of this issue, readers will find work from Julian Ober of the University of Maine, Vishni Samaraweera of Georgetown University, Cory Conroy of the University of Utah. They were joined by a number of Brandeis students, including Elaina Pevide, Ravi Simon, Dalia Moran, and Arianna Jackson, who all submitted thoughtful pieces.

The Assistant Director of ENACT, David J. Weinstein, also contributed, as did Lynne Chandler Garcia of the U.S. Air Force Academy. This edition also features interviews with State Representative Ambureen Rana of Maine and State Senator Becca Rausch of Massachusetts.

These students and leaders showcase the incredible work of the ENACT program, and they encourage those who seek to become whistleblowers. It is our hope that they will also inspire others to lives of service. On behalf of my fellow Board members, U.S. Senator Chris Coons, Mr. Tom Daffron, U.S. Representatives Trent Kelly and Terri Sewell, and Mike Emmers, I urge all audiences to visit www.stennis.gov to read the Spring 2024 issue of Public Service Review.

REMEMBERING SHERIFF JOHN PLASSE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and career of a true hero, Sheriff John Plasse. For four decades, Sheriff Plasse lived to serve and protect his community and his country. He died on Wednesday, July 24, after a battle with cancer.

Sheriff Plasse served in law enforcement in Terre Haute and Vigo County since 1985. He served 33 years in the Terre Haute Police Department, including 11 as chief of police, before retiring from the department in 2018. But he was not done working to keep his community safe. In 2018, he was elected to the Vigo County Commission. He held a position he until his passing.

Sheriff Plasse also served 34 years in the Indiana Army National Guard. He rose to the rank of sergeant major with the 38th Infantry Division before retiring in November 2017. He was a veteran of the War in Afghanistan and, among his many commendations, awarded a Bronze Star.

While his military and law enforcement careers are impressive, he was also beloved in Terre Haute for his selfless service in the community. He served on numerous boards and volunteered for countless charitable organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, the United Way of Central Indiana, the Hamilton Center, the Special Olympics, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, to name just a few.

Sheriff Plasse is survived by his wife Julie, and two grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the countless individuals whose lives were changed as a result of his service.

It is my honor to recognize Sheriff John Plasse for his life of service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. ALLEN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Maryland resident John R. Allen as he retires from Federal service after 20 years in the Marine Corps and 20 years at the Peace Corps.

Mr. Allen served as the Chief of the Global Crime Response and Analysis Unit for the Peace Corps, a U.S. Government Agency that sends American Volunteers to serve alongside host communities in roughly 60 countries around the world. John was a key advisor to multiple Directors of the Peace Corps on all areas of the Agency’s global safety and security program. Throughout his 20 years with the Agency, he traveled extensively representing Peace Corps and directly supporting Volunteers in Africa and Latin America.

Mr. Allen joined the Peace Corps after retiring from the Marine Corps, where he served honorably at home and abroad as a senior noncommissioned officer. He has remained active in the veterans community as the leadership liaison for the Peace Corps’ Veterans Employee Resource Group. He was also an active member of the Interagency Veterans Advisory Council (IVAC), comprised of Active-Duty and veteran representatives of approximately 100 departments and Agencies, which proudly supports the recruitment, acculturation, retention, and promotion of veterans, Reservists, National Guard personnel, and military spouses in the Federal civilian workforce. Collectively, IVAC advocates for the interests of over 500,000 veteran civilian employees.

Mr. Allen has a BA in psychology from the University of South Carolina and an MS in management from Troy University. He completed the Key Executive Leadership Program at American University and is currently working on his dissertation for a juris master degree at Denver Seminary. John resides in Urbana, MD, with his wife Susan. They are the proud parents to two adult sons, a daughter-in-law, and two rambunctious grandparents Miles John and Austin David.

I am honored to represent such an exemplary civil servant and military veteran. Please join me in congratulating John R. Allen for his Federal service, his contributions to the Peace Corps and the Marine Corps, and the larger U.S. veteran and national service community and in wishing him well as he transitions into his new position at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING TRUENORTH STEEL

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, it is my honor to recognize one of North Dakota’s legacy businesses celebrating 80
years of excellence next month in Fargo.

TrueNorth Steel began as Fargo Tank Company by a Norwegian immigrant named Ole Rommesmo. Upon coming to America, he worked as a lumberjack in Minnesota before learning the trade of welding at a steel tank plant in Minneapolis. He moved to Fargo as a welder for the Fargo Foundry Company and tried unsuccessfully four times to start his own business before finally succeeding. During World War II, he worked in northern Canada for the United States military as a welder and construction foreman for an airbase.

It was after the war in 1945 when Fargo Tank Company began, and the business has been going strong ever since. Reflecting Ole’s values and principles of integrity, humility, commitment and knowledge, it has added products and services that now reach around the world. He died in 1990, and his son Ole Rommesmo, Jr., took over the business.

In 2011, the company’s seven steel businesses merged to become TrueNorth Steel. Today, it serves many industries, including agricultural construction, mining, road building, energy, and others on projects at power plants, refineries, golf courses, hospitals, fire stations, airports, stadiums, schools and universities, government, apartment and commercial buildings, foundations, coal mines, river watersheds, water treatment plants, aquariums—and more.

I congratulate the Rommesmo family for 80 years of providing steel solutions. TrueNorth Steel is testament to the importance of family-owned businesses across the Nation, and the impact bold entrepreneurs have had on our American economy. To my friends at TrueNorth Steel, you have enhanced the quality of life we treasure in our region. You are a very high bar for others to aspire to. TrueNorth Steel is a dedicated community partner at your locations across North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana. Thank you for all you have done to build the foundations of industry and infrastructure across our Nation. I hope you will thrive for many years to come. Happy Birthday, TrueNorth Steel.

RECOGNIZING L.R. FALK CONSTRUCTION CO.

Ms. ERNST, Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize L.R. Falk Construction Co. of St. Ansgar, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1930, LaVerne Falk founded L.R. Falk Construction Company. With just a Ford Model T and a shovel, LaVerne established a hauling business, moving items between Chicago and Iowa. LaVerne recognized the untapped potential of the transportation industry and, over time, expanded the company to encompass more services. By the late 1930s, the company acquired its first rock quarry in St. Ansgar, IA. Now, L.R. Falk Construction hauls everything from vehicles to agricultural materials.

In 1970, LaVerne’s son David Falk became president of L.R. Falk Construction. Under his 40 years of leadership, the company grew its employees, expanded operations to seven quarries, and achieved sustainable growth across the State of Iowa. For over 50 years, the company’s main office stayed on St. Ansgar’s Main Street. In 2009, L.R. Falk Construction moved its office but remained in the community. In 2010, David stepped down from leadership, and his son Lindsey Falk assumed the role of president of the company.

Over its 102-year history, L.R. Falk Construction has consistently developed new products and services. Today, Lindsey Falk, the third-generation owner-operator, leads a team of over 60 full-time employees across nine quarries and three sand pits. The company has expanded its offerings to diverse building and products such as concrete stone, landscaping materials, and agricultural lime. In 2018, Lindsey founded Saint Stone, a subsidiary of L.R. Falk Construction that repurposes excess stone into marketable products that ships products nationwide.

L.R. Falk Construction Company plays an active role in the St. Ansgar community, organizing events such as the Quarry 5K Run to benefit the Claußen Park Renovation Project. The company also established the ROCK Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization which supports local projects ranging from organizing a local food bank to helping rural health care professionals in local schools.

Lindsey also acquired the Enterprise Journal, the local Mitchell County newspaper. He hopes that it would stay local and continue to serve as a community resource for Mitchell County residents, as it has done since 1861. In September of 2022, the North Iowa Area Community College Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and the Iowa Small Business Development Center honored L.R. Falk Construction Co. with the Entrepreneur of the Month Award. Additionally, the Limestone Producers Association presented the company with the Good Neighbor Award several times. The Falk family has embedded their life into the great State of Iowa, and all three generations have served as president of the Iowa Limestone Association, marking a first in the organization’s history.

L.R. Falk Construction’s commitment to providing quality services and products in St. Ansgar, IA, is evident. I want to congratulate the entire Falk family for building such an incredible family-owned and operated business that continues to serve Iowans and beyond. I am eager to see how the company continues to expand and reach new heights of success.

TRIBUTE TO LOU D’ALLESANDRO

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize State Senator Lou D’Allesandro for his decades of public service and advocacy on behalf of his fellow Granite Staters. Senator D’Allesandro—Lou as many of us call him—has been dedicated to constituent service for more than 50 years and has represented New Hampshire’s District 20 in the New Hampshire State Senate for 13 consecutive terms. He leaves a legacy of fairness, determination, and genuine care for his constituents. Lou’s exemplary years in New Hampshire government will be fondly remembered by communities across the State and by his colleagues in Concord.

Born and raised in Boston, MA, Lou studied at Worcester Academy before attending the University of New Hampshire. He was not only a focused and diligent student, but also a player on the UNH football team and co-capitan his senior year. He served 2 years of lacrosse and a year of baseball for the Wildcats. In 1963, shortly after graduating from UNH, Lou served as the first athletic director and as a basketball coach at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). He inducted into the SNHU Penman Hall of Fame in 1970 after his team won three consecutive conference titles. A year later, he would continue his educational path by earning his M.Ed. from Rivier University. Lou’s academic persistence, extracurricular achievements, and impressive career were an early indicator of his leadership skills and compassionate team-player mentality—all attributes that would guide his transition into public service.

Lou first ran for a seat in New Hampshire’s House of Representatives in 1973, and his career in public office blossomed from there. He served two terms in the house and three terms on the New Hampshire Executive Council. In 1998, Lou began his quarter-century, long run as a State senator representing District 20. During his time in office, Lou chaired the finance and capital budget committees and was a member of the administrative rules committee. This term, he also served as vice chair of the ways and means committee.

Legislatively, Lou has worked tirelessly to listen to his constituents’ values and reflect them in his extensive voting record. With a keen focus on the future, Lou concentrated much of his legislative attention on education and supporting New Hampshire’s students. He has sponsored bills ranging from increasing access to free and reduced-priced school lunches to breaking the back of student debt. He has prioritized access to early-learning opportunities for young children, noting the importance of public education in
boosting the State’s economy and future-driven development. Lou has passionately promoted funding the New Hampshire Community College system and the University of New Hampshire, demonstrating his lifelong commitment to ensuring Granite Staters’ access to public education in K-12 schools and beyond. In addition to education policy, he has also supported statewide action to address climate change and fought to expand access to Medicare and reproductive health services. His passionate advocacy for these issues and more earned him the nickname, “the Lion of the Senate.”

Throughout a half-century of public service, Lou has fostered genuine relationships built on trust, courage, and partnership. During his time in office, he frequently reached across the aisle to ensure that his constituents’ needs came before partisan division. He clearly understands the value of compromise and of compassion, even in a divisive and constantly changing political climate. The public announcement of his retirement drew bipartisan messages of bittersweet congratulations from his Senate colleagues, including the Democratic leader who commended his leadership and commitment to public service, as well as the Republican senator president who praised his dedication to accomplishing meaningful work as an elected official. Lou has exuded grounded, thoughtful wisdom, which not only helped him achieve legislative successes, but also made him an approachable and reliable representative for his constituents. As his colleague Senator Donna Soucy expressed, Lou D’Allesandro was and continues to be a “North Star,” guiding future generations of State senators and leaving a legacy of service and mentorship.

Lou’s decades of public service will be celebrated later this year, and friends, family and colleagues will join together to reflect on his remarkable accomplishments. He has spent most of his life as a community leader. Lou will undoubtedly continue to serve his friends and neighbors with care and compassion in meaningful ways. He is surrounded by love and affection from his wife Pat and their three children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. I join in celebrating and thanking Lou for all he has done for the Granite State.

REMEMBERING SHARON NORDGREN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Sharon Nordgren and recognize a longtime public servant who gave so much to the Granite State.

Sharon spent her younger years in Chicago, IL and St. Louis Park, MN, before attending the University of Minnesota. She was an extremely active member of this community, a hint at her future calling as a dedicated local leader and regular presence in New Hampshire’s Upper Valley.

Sharon played clarinet in the band, organized the school’s first golf team, and participated in the local chapter of a youth development group called Camp Fire. She also met her husband Richard in college. They wed in 1965 and planted roots in Hanover, NH 7 years later.

As a Hanover resident, Sharon almost immediately immersed herself in local affairs and started making enduring connections with others around town and across the region. She helped mobilize and empower her fellow citizens as part of the League of Women Voters in the 1970s. In the 1980s, Sharon won a seat on the Hanover Selectboard and made history as the first chairwoman of that elected body. She developed relationships with local leaders as well as Hanover-based institutions like Dartmouth College and Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital. Sharon built on this strong foundation of experience and knowledge as a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. She was first elected to the position in 1988, and her constituents voted to send her to the State capital as their State representative for 18 consecutive terms.

At the State House, Sharon instantly earned the respect and admiration of her peers. She had a warm, integrity, work ethic, and quick wit that enabled her to make fast and lasting friends on both sides of the aisle in New Hampshire’s citizen legislature. Her kindness and sense of humor were especially treasured by her colleagues on the House Finance Committee, and she could always be counted on to give thoughtful advice or lighten the mood with a soft-spoken joke as they worked long hours together to craft a State budget every 2 years. In addition to her expertise on State finances, Sharon was also a passionate advocate for affordable healthcare, reproductive rights, sensible gun regulations, and robust funding of public education. She even served as deputy Democratic leader from 1998–2004.

Sharon sadly passed away earlier this year, and her absence in just the past 5 months has been hard to miss in her hometown of Hanover, as well as our State capital of Concord. Sharon’s accomplishments as a long-serving State legislator include the many State budgets she helped to write, the many bills she helped the many issues she helped to elevate in our public discourse. As an experienced legislative leader, she could be formidable without being hostile and thorough without losing sight of the big picture; yet Sharon’s legacy must also include the many people who crossed her path and came away with a smile and a new perspective on things. She was a guiding force for so many of her colleagues, and they will continue to look to her example of a devoted public servant and a dedicated advocate for the best interests of her constituents.

Sharon’s family—including husband Richard, son Rob, and daughter Krisy—as well as her many friends will gather this month for a celebration of life, and they will undoubtedly share and cherish many fond memories of her. I will be with them in spirit as they reflect on the life of this good and generous woman.

TRIBUTE TO GRAYSON HOWES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Grayson Howes, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Grayson is a graduate of O’Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Fordham University in New York, NY, where he is pursuing a degree in global business. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Grayson for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO EVAN FIRMAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Evan Firman, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Evan is a graduate of the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity- Ramstein High School in Ramstein, Germany. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where he is pursuing degrees in economics and political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Evan for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO GRAYSON PETERSIN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Griffin Petersen, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Griffin is a graduate of Sully Buttes High School in Onida, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where he is pursuing a degree in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Griffin for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:
The following communications were received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

EC–5454. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of nine (9) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5455. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Architect and Engineering Service Fees” (FedReg Vol. 2024–D019) (RIN0750–AM16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5456. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Quality Control Standards for Automated Valuation Models” (RIN2950–AA62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5457. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Compliance with the Quality Control Standards for Automated Valuation Models” (RIN2950–AA62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5458. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel of the Treasury Department during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5459. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Excise Tax on Designated Drugs; Procedural Requirements” (RIN1545–BQ03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5460. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Required Minimum Distributions” (RIN1545–BP82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5461. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act of 1976, a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Turkey and the United Kingdom in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTDC 23–091) to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5462. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits” received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5463. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Community Services Block Grant Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2023” which includes the “Community Service Block Grant Performance Management Report”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5464. A communication from the Executive Secretary, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Definition of Representative—Case Procedures: Election Bars; Proof of Majority Support in Construction Industry Collective-Bargaining Relationships” (RIN1112–AA22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5465. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s fiscal year 2024 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5466. A communication from the Executive Director of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting, the report of the Interstate Commission General (RIN1970–AA12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5467. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Solicitor General’s 2024 Cost of Services (COPS) Annual Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5468. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the decision not to appeal the United States v. Solomon County Public Utilities Company, District Court of West Virginia received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5469. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Procedures for Transportation Dispute Resolution and Algorithm Testing Programs: Technical Amendments” (RIN2105–AE94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5470. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Procedures for Transportation Dispute Resolution and Algorithm Testing Programs” (RIN2105–AE94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5471. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program and Transportation Infrastructure Innovation Act Program Regulations” (RIN2105–AE59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5472. A communication from the Management Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “FY2025 Airport Terminal Program Notice of Funding Opportunity” (Docket No. FAA–ARP–BIL–G–24–002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5473. A communication from the Chief for Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commercial Driver’s License Standards; Incorporation by Reference of a New State Procedures Manual” (RIN2126–AC68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5474. A communication from the Chief for Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fees for the Unified Carrier Registration Plan and Agreement” (RIN2126–AC67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5475. A communication from the Legal Vice President, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Sali Grand Prix; Upper Bay, New York City, NY” (Docket No. USCG–2024–0169) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5476. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishing Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs; Technical Amendments” (RIN2105–AE94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5477. A communication from the Program Analyst, Broadband Data Task Force, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishing Occupational Opportunity Data Collection; Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program” (FCC 24–72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. 4853. A bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from promulgating or enforcing rules regarding disclosure of artificially intelligence-generated content in political advertisements.
The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services:
- Michael Louis Sulmeyer, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.
- Tonya Parran Wilkerson, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Steven G. Behmer and ending with Brig. Gen. Frank R. Verdugo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2024. (minus 1 nominee: Brig. Gen. Aaron D. Drake)
- Army nominations beginning with Col. Michael P. Flaherty, and ending with Maj. Gen. William H. Graham, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.
- Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Andree G. Carter and ending with Col. Michael P. Flaherty, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2024. (minus 1 nominee: Col. Michael P. Flaherty)
- Army nominations beginning with Col. Brian R. Zeiger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2024. (minus 1 nominee: Col. Michael P. Flaherty)
- Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Tery D. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 8, 2024. (minus 1 nominee: Brig. Gen. Michael J. Simmering)
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Gent Wohls, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Nathan P. Ayeta and ending with Col. David R. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Stephen R. Ahern and ending with Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. VanAntwerp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024. (minus 1 nominee: Brig. Gen. Michael J. Simmering)
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Matthew F. Blue and ending with Col. Stuart M. Solomon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Patrick D. Chard and ending with Col. Adria P. Zuccaro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Michael W. Bank and ending with Brig. Gen. Kimbra L. Steer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Edward H. Evans, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Michael W. Bank and ending with Col. Stuart M. Solomon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Kimbra L. Steer and ending with Col. Edward H. Evans, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Edward H. Evans, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Sheppard, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2024.
- Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Peter A. Garvin, to be Vice Admiral.
- Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Peter A. Garvin, to be Vice Admiral.
- Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary’s desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of Matthew J. Vargus, to be Lieutenant General.
Air Force nomination of Scott D. Hopkins, to be Major.
Air Force nomination of Elizabeth B. Mathias, to be Colonel.
Air Force nomination of Matthew I. Horner, to be Colonel.
Air Force nomination of Colton T. Cash, to be Major.
Air Force nomination of Bradley J. Mar- ron, to be Major.
Air Force nominations beginning with Erica F. Article and ending with Eric T. Yerly, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 9, 2024.
Air Force nominations beginning with Andrew Kyle Baldwin and ending with Desha Rose Yazzie, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 9, 2024.
Air Force nominations beginning with Elena A. Amspacher and ending with Kristina M. Zuccarelli, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 9, 2024.
Air Force nominations beginning with Samory Ahmir Abdulraheem and ending with Andrew K. Zimmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 9, 2024.
Air Force nominations beginning with Neil J. Abderhalden and ending with Matthew A. Zimmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 9, 2024.
Army nomination of Joshua A. King, to be Major.
Army nomination of Matthew F. Fouquier, to be Major.
Army nominations beginning with Vegas V. Coleman and ending with Matthew A. Dugard, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Army nomination of Hannah E. Choi, to be Major.
Army nominations beginning with Steven P. Perry, Jr. and ending with Rebecca D. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 23, 2024.
Army nominations beginning with Ryan A. George and ending with Anthony J. Smithhart II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Army nominations beginning with Roy A. Oglesby and ending with Matthew S. Maupin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Army nomination of Gary Levy, to be Colonel.
Army nomination of 0005874466, to be Lieutenant Colonel.
Army nominations beginning with Jesse J. Adamson and ending with Heung S. Yoo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Army nominations beginning with Matthew F. Fouquier and ending with Christopher W. Wallace, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Army nomination of Richard T. Hill, to be Lieutenant Colonel.
Army nomination of Timothy J. Leone, to be Colonel.
Army nomination of Ramon R. Gonzalez Figueroa, to be Colonel.
Army nomination of Ivan J. Serpaperez, to be Colonel.
Army nomination of Adam R. Mann, to be Major.
Army nomination of Cody S. Folster, to be Captain.
Army nominations beginning with Michael L. Able and ending with Ryan J. Zimmermann, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Army nomination of Thomas S. Randall, to be Colonel.
Army nomination of Edwin Rodrigues, to be Colonel.
Army nomination of Robert L. Wootten III, to be Colonel.
Army nomination of Jason P. Haggard, to be Lieutenant Colonel.
Army nomination of Mark T. Moore, to be Major.
Army nomination of John A. Temme, to be Major.
Army nominations beginning with John M. Aguilar, Jr. and ending with Eric T. Pelosi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 9, 2024.
Army nomination of Dewee S. Debusk, to be Colonel.
Army nomination of Kyle Y. Tobara, to be Major.
Army nominations beginning with Daniel E. Ball and ending with Christopher E. Powers, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 23, 2024.
Army nominations beginning with Shannon D. Huntley and ending with William D. Vanpool, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 23, 2024.
Army nominations beginning with Julie N. Marek, to be Lieutenant Colonel.
Navy nomination of Juan J. Barba-Jaume, to be Lieutenant Commander.
Navy nomination of John J. Arredondo, Jr., to be Lieutenanat Commander.
Navy nomination of Nathan K. Magare, to be Lieutenant Commander.
Navy nominations beginning with James E. Barclay and ending with Justus E. Stockman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Adam M. Baroni and ending with Loudon A. Woollen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Dennis J. Grovenor and ending with Matthew S. Maupin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Joseph M. Federico and ending with Bryan J. Kaufman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Christopher M. Andrews and ending with Andrew C. Wyman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Rafael B. Banek and ending with Jamey R. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Thomas P. Byrnes and ending with Ray L. Wolcott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Francis A. Goiran and ending with Sarah D. Thomas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with John F. Landis and ending with Ryan Murphy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Joseph E. Aickin and ending with Elbert C. Ross, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with David F. Bell and ending with Joseph R. Tullia III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Frederick J. Auth and ending with Brett M. Woodard, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Kewli W. Agha and ending with Amy L. Younger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Nicholas H. Abelein and ending with Timothy J. Zakriski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
Navy nominations beginning with Garrett L. Adams and ending with Iris P. Wood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 20, 2024.
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. BUDD (for himself and Mr. LUJAN):
S. 4831. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include peer supports as a supportive service within the National Family Caregiver Support Program, to require States to consider the unique needs of caregivers whose families have been impacted by substance use disorder, including options for in providing services under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):
S. 4832. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue a rule requiring that a reclassification of a common carrier service be made in a manner consistent with the definition of a common carrier service as a public carrier service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY:
S. 4833. A bill to exclude locality adjustments from average pay for purposes of computing the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the independent investigation and prosecution of the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers of that State and to incentivize States to enact laws that address negative health effects associated with social isolation among older individuals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORNYN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. Kaine, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. DURBIN):
S. 4841. A bill to require the Department of Education to establish a Summer for All program through summer enrichment expansion grants and summer programming grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):
S. 4850. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to develop a national strategy regarding artificial intelligence consumer literacy and conduct a national artificial intelligence literacy campaign; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. VAN HOLLLEN):

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. COTTON):
S. 4840. A bill to amend the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 to establish the Office of Literacy at the Department of Education, to provide for the establishment of the Office of Literacy at the Regional Office of the Department of Education, to require the Office of Literacy to conduct a national assessment of literacy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. COTTON):
S. 4841. A bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development Sciences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS):
S. 4842. A bill to amend the Stored Communications Act to prohibit the government from requiring providers to disclose customer records without a judicial order, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY:
S. 4843. A bill to establish a Summer for All program through summer enrichment expansion grants and summer programming grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORNYN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. Kaine, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. DURBIN):
S. 4844. A bill to require the Attorney General to establish guidance for States to require that any professional liability coverage provided for law enforcement officers of that State and to incentivize States to enact laws that address negative health effects associated with social isolation among older individuals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):
S. 4845. A bill to lower the cost of all drugs for all Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. WARNICK):
S. 4846. A bill to require the President to provide for referral of deceased applicants to the Service Academies to the senior military colleges; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):
S. 4847. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on active military-civilian partnerships at trauma centers of military medical treatment facilities within the Defense Health Agency; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ROSEN:
S. 4848. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to ensure that the Bureau of Reclamation follows the Department of the Interior In-vestment review mechanism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):
S. 4849. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the development of renewable energy projects on public lands.

By Mr. BLACKBURN:
S. 4850. A bill to establish a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to respond to requests to appear and testify to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. PADILLA:
S. 4851. A bill to amend the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to provide for the inclusion of the South Fork of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River Recreation Area in the National Wild and Scenic River System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:
S. 4852. A bill to prohibit the expansion of the Great Salt Lake Desert Research Station to include the Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. BURDICK):
S. 4853. A bill to establish the Federal Communications Commission from promulgating or enforcing rules regulating disclosure of artificial intelligence-generated content in political advertisements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNICK (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):
S. 4854. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the annual report on privatized military housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MURPHY:
S. 4855. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize the provision of appropriate training, resources, and best practices for the aging network under grants to States that address negative health effects associated with social isolation among older individuals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. MORAN):
S. 4856. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a small business start-up credit for small businesses operating in underserved communities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. LANKFORD):
S. 4857. A bill to eliminate the period of limitations for certain offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:
S. 4858. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to transactions of countries of concern that clear, verify, or settle transactions with other financial institutions of such countries; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:
S. 4859. A bill to prohibit Federal employees and contractors from directing online platforms to censor any speech that is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution and other laws.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 4860. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish coverage for certain residential substance use disorder services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HIRONO):
S. 4861. A bill to establish, in the Office of Refugees Resettlement, the Detainee Reception Services Program New Arrival Services Board to authorize a grant program for providing funding for medium-term services to eligible families and individual refugees and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HIRONO):
S. 4861. A bill to establish, in the Office of Refugees Resettlement, the Detainee Reception Services Program New Arrival Services Board to authorize a grant program for providing funding for medium-term services to eligible families and individual refugees and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.
WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3471, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a report on the fertilizer industry, and for other purposes.

S. 3392

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) 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. 3519

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3519, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, and for other purposes.

S. 3661

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3661, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to periodically assess cybersecurity threats to, and vulnerabilities in, the agriculture and food critical infrastructure sector and to provide recommendations to enhance their security and resilience, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an annual cross-sector simulation exercise relating to a food-related emergency or disruption, and for other purposes.

S. 3730

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3730, a bill to amend the Small Business Administration to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies.

S. 3755

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

S. 3801

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3801, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal Reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3838

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3838, a bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, and for other purposes.

S. 3849

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3849, a bill to promote United States leadership in technical standards by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of State to engage in certain actions to encourage and enable United States participation in developing standards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 4079

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4079, a bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes.

S. 4141

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4079, a bill to improve obstetric emergency care.

S. 4334

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4334, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4395

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4395, a bill to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 4724

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4724, a bill to amend title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act with respect to flexibility and funding for the World Trade Center Health Program.

S. 4793

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4793, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide for food-based interventions.

S. RES. 684

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 684, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in helping save the lives of children and protecting the health of people in low-income countries with limited immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (“Gavi”).

S. RES. 722

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 722, a resolution recognizing the importance of independent living and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen and expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in work and community life.

AMENDMENT NO. 2397

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4616, a bill to establish a public health plan.
MORAN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2297 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. 2549
At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2549 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. 3093
At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2553 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. 3055
At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2655 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. 3098
At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3098 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. 3099
At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3169 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.

STATMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):
S. 4837. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for transportation and subsistence for criminal justice defendants, aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. 4837

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 “Criminal Justice Administration Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT DEFENDANTS.

Section 4285 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “when the interests of justice would be served thereby and the United States judge exercise discretion, after appropriate inquiry, that the defendant is financially unable to provide the necessary transportation to appear before the required court on his own” and inserting “when the United States judge or magistrate judge is satisfied that the defendant is indigent, based on appointment of counsel pursuant to section 306A, or, after appropriate inquiry, that the defendant is financially unable to provide necessary transportation”;

(2) by striking “to the place where his appearance is required” and inserting “to the place where each appearance is required and back to the place of the person’s arrest or bona fide residence,” and

(3) by striking “his destination” and inserting “which includes money for both lodging and food, during travel to the person’s destination and during any proceeding at which the person’s appearance is required”.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE USE OF MAGISTRATE JUDGES TO DECIDE POSTJUDGMENT MOTIONS.

Section 3401 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking “and” after “trial, judgment,”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and rulings on all post-judgment motions” after “sentencing”; and

(B) in the third sentence—

(i) by striking “and” after “trial, judgment,”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and rulings on all post-judgment motions” after “sentencing”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “, with the approval of a judge of the district court,”; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (1) the following:

“(j) A magistrate judge who exercises trial jurisdiction under this section, in either a petty offense case or a misdemeanor case in which the defendant has consented to a magistrate judge, may also rule on all post-judgment motions in that case, including petitions for writs of habeas corpus, petitions for writs of coram nobis, motions to vacate a sentence under 28 U.S.C. chapter 313 of title 28, and motions related to mental competency under chapter 313 of title 18.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 775—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 15, 2024, AS “NATIONAL LEIOMYOSARCOMA AWARENESS DAY”

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 775

Whereas leiomyosarcoma is a malignant sarcoma subtype, 1 of 70 to 100 such subtypes, that arises in smooth muscle and has several subtypes itself due to its vascularity and bone invasion;

Whereas leiomyosarcoma is designated by the National Institutes of Health as a rare form of cancer;
Whereas leiomyosarcoma is largely resistant to standard chemotherapy treatments, radiation treatments, and immunotherapy trials, with 40-year-old chemotherapy treatments still a possibility

Whereas leiomyosarcoma affects all age groups, including children, young adults, the middle-aged, and the elderly, and all genders

Whereas leiomyosarcoma is diagnosed in more than 2,000 individuals in the United States each year

Whereas, with respect to leiomyosarcoma, research and clinical trials remain complicated and extremely costly due to the difficulty of recruiting patients

Whereas survival and longevity for individuals with leiomyosarcoma has not significantly improved for at least 30 years

Whereas multidisciplinary care coordination teams, because of their expertise and experience, are critical to the health of leiomyosarcoma patients

Whereas researchers continue to strive to improve quality of life for leiomyosarcoma patients, improve outcomes in clinical trials, and promote enhanced survivorship; and

Whereas increased education and awareness about sarcoma and leiomyosarcoma will contribute to the well-being of the communities of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July 15, 2024, as National Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day;—

(2) recognizes the challenges faced by leiomyosarcoma patients; and

(3) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and caregivers across the United States working to improve the quality of life of leiomyosarcoma patients and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 776—RECOGNIZING THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE AND CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CABO VERDEAN-AMERICANS TO DEMOCRACY IN CABO VERDE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 776

Whereas the archipelago of Cabo Verde was the first permanent European settlement in the tropics, the Portuguese arrived in 1456 and settled in Cidade Velha on the Island of Santiago in 1462, and Cabo Verde became an epicenter of the beginning of the transatlantic slave trade;

Whereas Kriolu Kabuverdianu, the maternal language of Cabo Verde, a mix of Portuguese and various African languages, became the world’s first European and African creole language and is the oldest living and widely spoken creole language;

Whereas British influence significantly shaped the archipelago’s economic development of its cultural landscape, particularly through the establishment of trade routes and maritime commerce facilitated by British traders and merchants;

Whereas the whispering of Cabo Verdeans’ resistance to the colonial rule of Portugal was embodied by the Badiu community and culture on the Island of Santiago, which was made into the world’s second-oldest African community of Cape Verdeans; and

Whereas the Republic of Cabo Verde is the world’s first African republic, with a predominantly African population, currently enjoying internal peace, democracy, social welfare, and freedom from colonialism.

Whereas, between 1800 and 1921, more than 70 percent of all Cabo Verdean immigrants to the United States arrived via the Port of New Bedford, Massachusetts;

Whereas the Republic of Cabo Verde became integral to the commercial cultivation of cranberries in the 19th century as the whaling industry declined and remains so today;

Whereas, with the decline of the whaling industry, Cabo Verdean-American mariners developed a strong packet trade between the archipelago of Cabo Verde and New England, bringing goods and thousands of immigrants with them;

Whereas, on January 20, 1973, Amílcar Cabral, the founder of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde, was assassinated;

Whereas, on July 5, 1975, the archipelago of Cabo Verde gained independence from Portugal;

Whereas, on July 19, 1975, the United States established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cabo Verde;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Cabo Verde was under one-party rule until 1992, when the first multiparty elections were held;

Whereas Kriolu Kabuverdianu can still be heard today in various towns and cities across New England;

Whereas, in 2019, the traditional Cabo Verdean musical genre Morna, popularized by the world-renowned late singer and “Barefoot Diva,” Cesária Évora, was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

Whereas, in June 2022, according to the World Food Programme, almost 20 percent of the United Nations, almost ten percent of the Republic of Cabo Verde’s population faced acute food insecurity as a result of the drought, the COVID–19 pandemic, and the upheaval in global food and energy markets caused by the Russian Federation’s illegal invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, in December 2023, the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation selected the Republic of Cabo Verde as eligible to develop a regional compact for the purpose of regional economic integration;

Whereas the selection was made in recognition of the Republic of Cabo Verde’s commitment to good governance, consistent, strong passage of the Millennium Challenge Corporation scorecard, successful prior partnerships with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, ongoing efforts to strengthen regional economic integration with a commitment to continued, consistent, strong passage of the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

Whereas, in December 2023, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde, José Ulisses Correia e Silva, met with the President of the United States President Barack Obama in the Cabinet Room of the White House to discuss and strengthen bilateral relations, emphasizing mutual efforts to promote economic development, democracy, and regional security;

Whereas the Pedro Pires Institute for Cape Verdean Studies at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, is the only academic research institute in the United States dedicated to the study of Cabo Verde and Cabo Verdeans and serves as a bridge between Massachusetts, the archipelago of Cabo Verde, and the Cabo Verdean diaspora;

Whereas the Republic of Cabo Verde upholds the principles of freedom and democracy;

Whereas the Republic of Cabo Verde enjoys relatively high literacy rates, high per capita income, and positive health indicators;

Whereas, in 2021, New Hampshire and the Republic of Cabo Verde entered into a State Partnership Program administered by the National Guard Bureau, which deepens United States-Cabo Verde relations and encourages and opportunities for exchange between both military personnel;

Whereas, in 2019, the traditional Cabo Verdean musical genre Morna, popularized by the world-renowned late singer and “Barefoot Diva,” Cesária Évora, was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

Whereas, in December 2023, the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation selected the Republic of Cabo Verde as eligible to develop a regional compact for the purpose of regional economic integration;

Whereas the selection was made in recognition of the Republic of Cabo Verde’s commitment to good governance, consistent, strong passage of the Millennium Challenge Corporation scorecard, successful prior partnerships with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, ongoing efforts to strengthen regional economic integration with a commitment to continued, consistent, strong passage of the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

Whereas, in 2019, the Republic of Cabo Verde’s initial $10,000,000 compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which, in 2019, included the construction of several new roads and bridges and expanded and modernized the Port of Praia, which boosted its competitiveness by decreasing cargo processing times and shipping costs, and the Republic of Cabo Verde’s subsequent $66,000,000 compact, which concluded in 2017, improved access to clean water and sanitation, strengthened land rights, and facilitated ambitious policy and institutional reforms to improve the country’s overall investment climate;

Whereas, in December 2023, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde, José Ulisses Correia e Silva, met with the President of the United States President Barack Obama, in the Cabinet Room of the White House to discuss and strengthen bilateral relations, emphasizing mutual efforts to promote economic development, democracy, and regional security;

Whereas, in June 2022, according to the World Food Programme, almost 20 percent of the United Nations, almost ten percent of the Republic of Cabo Verde’s population faced acute food insecurity as a result of the drought, the COVID–19 pandemic, and the upheaval in global food and energy markets caused by the Russian Federation’s illegal invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, in December 2023, the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation selected the Republic of Cabo Verde as eligible to develop a regional compact for the purpose of regional economic integration;

Whereas the selection was made in recognition of the Republic of Cabo Verde’s commitment to good governance, consistent, strong passage of the Millennium Challenge Corporation scorecard, successful prior partnerships with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, ongoing efforts to strengthen regional economic integration with a commitment to continued, consistent, strong passage of the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

Whereas, in December 2023, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde, José Ulisses Correia e Silva, met with the President of the United States President Barack Obama in the Cabinet Room of the White House to discuss and strengthen bilateral relations, emphasizing mutual efforts to promote economic development, democracy, and regional security;
the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014;
Whereas, on January 22, 2024, Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to the Republic of Cabo Verde to highlight how the United States has accelerated the United States-Africa partnership since the United States-Africa Leaders Summit held in December 2022;
Whereas members of the Cabo Verdean-American community have served in every United States conflict, from the Revolutionary War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan;
Whereas, in March 2024, the New Hampshire National Guard and the Cabo Verde Armed Forces held the GRANITE FALCO Combined Exercise, the first major United States-Cabo Verde combined exercise under the bilateral State Partnership Program;
Whereas, in June 2024, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde, José Ulisses Correia e Silva, attended the Summit on Peace in Ukraine in Switzerland and met with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and the President of the Swiss Confederation, Viola Patricia Amherd;
Whereas the Republic of Cabo Verde has a close and beneficial strategic partnership with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to address common challenges such as small arms proliferation, maritime security, and terrorism;
Whereas the Republic of Cabo Verde remains an integral part of the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, and numerous other international organizations; and
Whereas July 5, 2025, will be the 50th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cabo Verde, which will be celebrated by diaspora communities across New England and beyond; Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) recognizes the contributions and best wishes to the people of the Republic of Cabo Verde as they celebrate the 49th anniversary of the independence of the archipelago of Cabo Verde;
(2) expresses support for the principles of freedom, democracy, and good governance to which the people and Government of the Republic of Cabo Verde are committed;
(3) commends the Cabo Verdean-American community for its contributions to the United States as a bridge between the two countries before and after independence based on shared history, diaspora, and values;
(4) notes the important role that the Republic of Cabo Verde has played in African and broader transatlantic affairs since gaining independence on July 5, 1975; and
(5) commends Cabo Verde’s support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and people of Ukraine and condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 777—KEEPING GUNS OUT OF CLASSROOMS
Mr. MURPHY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. Res. 777

Whereas Congress has consistently made clear that it is unlawful for Federal funds to be used to arm school personnel with firearms or to train such personnel in the use of firearms;
Whereas, in response to the shooting in Parkland, Florida, Congress passed the STOP School Violence Act (Public Law 117–159); the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114–95; 129 Stat. 1631); and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10551 et seq.) to specify that “(n) amounts provided as a grant (for school security under that part) may be used only for the purpose of training or the use of firearm or training in the use of a firearm’’;
Whereas section 4102 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1122), as added by section 410 of Title II of Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114–95; 129 Stat. 1630), defines drug and violence prevention in schools as including the ‘creation of a school environment that is free of weapons’;
Whereas existing research demonstrates that arming school personnel with firearms or training such personnel to use firearms will not make schools safer;
Whereas a survey of gun violence on school campuses showed that out of 225 incidents of gun violence between 1999 and 2018, trained armed personnel or school-based police failed to disarm an attacker twice;
Whereas proposed and existing programs to arm school personnel with firearms or to train such personnel in the use of firearms provide significant and training than law enforcement officers receive;
Whereas research demonstrates that—
(1) increased gun access and possession are not associated with protection from violence; and
(2) a greater prevalence of guns increases the likelihood of gun violence;
Whereas a greater prevalence of guns in schools creates undue risk of students gaining unauthorized access to firearms and the potential for unintentional shootings and school staff using guns in situations that do not warrant lethal force;
Whereas students of color, students with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups would experience a disparate impact of programs that arm school personnel as those students are disproportionately disciplined and arrested;
Whereas heightened policing within public school spaces decreases the sense of safety of students and associated anticipations of violence leads to increased anxiety, fear, and depression;
Whereas 54 percent of teachers in the United States expressed fear that access to firearms in schools makes schools less safe, according to a RAND Research Report from May 2023;
Whereas the majority of parents of school-aged children oppose arming school personnel, according to surveys;
Whereas the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Education Association, and the American Federation of Teachers have all publicly opposed State-level policies to arm teachers and school personnel;
Whereas, as of June 2024, there is no evidence supporting the value of arming school personnel;
Whereas, before the enactment of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117–119; 136 Stat. 13131), the December 2018 report of the Federal Commission on School Safety endorsed the use of Federal funds to train school personnel to use firearms even though, according to transcripts of the affiliated listening tour, the broad consensus among listening tour participants was disapproval toward programs that would arm school personnel; and
Whereas section 13401 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117–119; 136 Stat. 13131) authorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.) that prohibits using funds under that Act to provide any person with a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved—
That it is the sense of the Senate that Federal funds should not be used to arm school personnel with firearms or to train such personnel in the use of firearms.

SENATE RESOLUTION 778—ACKNOWLEDGING THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND EXPRESSING REGRET FOR THE MISTREATMENT OF VETERANS RETURNING HOME FROM THE WAR
Mr. SULLIVAN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 778

Whereas members of the Armed Forces of the United States began serving in an advisory role to the Republic of Vietnam in 1955;
Whereas, in 1965, ground combat units of the Armed Forces of the United States arrived in Vietnam, which resulted in approximately 23,000 personnel of the Armed Forces who were already present there; the United States, by 1968, had a military involvement of 1.3 million, such troops reached a peak of over 537,000, including members of the Armed Forces in the region who were supporting the combat operations;
Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam (commonly known as the ‘Paris Peace Accords’’ was signed, which required the release of all prisoners of war of the United States held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all Armed Forces of the United States from South Vietnam;
Whereas, on March 29, 1973, the Armed Forces of the United States completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;
Whereas, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control;
Whereas more than 58,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States lost their lives in the Vietnam war, and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States were wounded in Vietnam;
Whereas thousands of veterans of the Vietnam war were exposed to Agent Orange and other harmful herbicides during the course of their service, carrying home delayed wounds of toxic exposure at the highest rate of any generation of veterans before;
Whereas the Vietnam war was an extremely divisive issue in the United States, as a result of certain biased and shameful attacks from some in media and academia, politicians, and many citizens;
Whereas some opponents of the war did not limit their opposition to normal political discourse, but engaged in violent protests, as a result of certain biased and shameful attacks from some in media and academia, politicians, and many citizens;
Whereas members of the Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam war were unnecessarily targeted with personal attacks for their service as the result of decisions that were beyond their control; and
Whereas Vietnam Veterans Day is observed on April 30, marking the anniversary of the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved—
That it is the sense of the Senate that Federal funds should not be used to arm school personnel with firearms or to train such personnel in the use of firearms.
Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the extraordinary sacrifice of veterans of the Vietnam War and commends them, and their families, for their unwavering and courageous sacrifice to the United States;

(2) expresses urgent support for increased education in the schools of the United States to better reflect the courage and sacrifice of veterans of the Vietnam War and the lack of support back home;

(3) urges the President to formally acknowledge the widespread mistreatment of many veterans of the Vietnam War as part of the ongoing Vietnam War Commemoration; and

(4) expresses regret for the mistreatment of veterans and their families during and after the war.

SENATE RESOLUTION 779—STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION AND ITS “BORDER CZAR”, KAMALA HARRIS, FOR FAILING TO SECURE THE UNITED STATES BORDER

Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. Res. 779

Whereas, on March 24, 2021, President Biden asked Vice President Kamala Harris to lead, as “border czar”, the Administration’s diplomatic efforts to address the “root causes” of illegal immigration into the United States from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras;

Whereas Vice President Kamala Harris did not even visit the southern border until June 25, 2021, 93 days after being named “border czar”;

Whereas when Vice President Kamala Harris traveled near the southern border for the first time on June 25, 2021, she decided to travel to El Paso, Texas, which is located 800 miles from the Lower Rio Grande Valley;

Whereas former United States Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz stated that during his nearly 2 years in that position between August 2021 and June 2023, he “never had one conversation with [President Biden] or the [Vice President Harris], for that matter. I was the best-trained border patrol agent in the United States, and I commanded 21,000 people. That’s a problem.”;

Whereas current United States Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens stated that Vice President Kamala Harris has not spoken with him since he was appointed in July 2023;

Whereas, since Joe Biden and Kamala Harris became President and Vice President, respectively, there have been—

(1) more than 7,900,000 illegal immigrant encounters nationwide;

(2) more than 7,900,000 illegal immigrant encounters at the United States southern border; and

(3) an estimated 2,000,000 known gotaways who evaded the United States Border Patrol, which is more known gotaways than evaded the Border Patrol during the entire previous decade;

Whereas, in May 2024, there were 170,723 illegal immigrant encounters at the United States southern border, which represents a 183 percent increase from the average May encounter total during the administration of President Trump;

Whereas May 2024 was the 39th straight month where monthly illegal immigrant encounters have been higher than the highest monthly under President Trump;

Whereas illegal immigrants with violent criminal histories who have murdered innocent Americans, including Laken Bailey, Jocelyn Nguyen, Rachelle Morin, and others throughout the United States, pose an existential threat to the safety and security of the American people;

Whereas, in June 2024, NBC News reported that more than 50 illegal immigrants with ties to ISIS were on the loose in the United States after being released by officials of the Biden administration;

Whereas during the Biden administration, more than 350 illegal immigrants with ties to ISIS and whose names appear on the terrorism watch list were stopped while trying to cross the southern border;

Whereas, during less than the first 10 months this year, the Department of Homeland Security encountered 31,077 Communist Chinese nationals have been encountered at the southwest border;

Whereas the Biden border crisis is costing the United States approximately $150,700,000,000 each year, which equals an annual cost of $1,156 per taxpayer;

Whereas, in May 2024, Republican members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate released documents showing the Biden administration secretly flew more than 400,000 illegal immigrants into the United States from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras;

Whereas the far left open border policies of President Biden, “border czar” Harris, and the Democratic Party are to blame for this historic immigration crisis;

Whereas in August 2022, President Biden administration decided to make the border crisis significantly worse by formally ending former President Trump’s successful Remain in Mexico program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the Biden administration policies that have failed to secure the United States border;

(2) affirms that the people of the United States deserve elected officials who—

(A) understand the gravity of the crisis at the border; and

(B) will execute policies that will fix the border crisis; and

(3) clearly and firmly states that the continuation of the Biden-Harris border policies would be disastrous for the United States and its citizens.

SENATE RESOLUTION 780—RECOGNIZING AUGUST 1, 2024, AS “NATIONAL TOLL WORKER RECRUITMENT DAY”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 78

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes August 1, 2024, as “National Toll Worker Recruitment Day”;

(2) recognizes the need for, and appreciation of, the service of poll workers; and

(3) encourages people to help American citizens to vote in the 2024 elections by serving as poll workers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 781—SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TEAMS IN THE 2024 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC SUMMER GAMES

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. BUTLER) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 781

Whereas, for more than 100 years, the Olympic and Paralympic Movements have—

(1) educated young people through amateur athletics;

(2) brought together athletes from many countries in friendly competition; and

(3) forged new relationships among athletes bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

Whereas the 2024 Olympic Games will take place in Paris, France from July 26, 2024, to August 11, 2024, and the 2024 Paralympic Games will take place in Paris, France from August 26, 2024, to September 8, 2024;

Whereas the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams (referred to in this preamble as “Team USA”) have won 2,057 gold medals, 1,736 silver medals, and 1,615 bronze medals, totaling 5,388 medals, during the past Summer and Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games;

Whereas, at the 2024 Olympic Games, 206 countries will compete in more than 32 sports and 329 events, and at the 2024 Paralympic Games, more than 184 countries will compete in 22 sports and 549 events;

Whereas, at the 2024 Olympic Games, Team USA will compete in 44 sports disciplines and 208 contested events;

Whereas the United States plans to send 592 athletes to participate in the 2024 Olympic Games, including 314 women;

Whereas the United States has already qualified 138 athletes to participate in the 2024 Paralympic Games, with many more expected to qualify;

Whereas the people of the United States stand united in respect, admiration, and pride for the athletes of Team USA and their athletic accomplishments, sportsmanship, grace under pressure, rivalry with other competitors, and commitment to excellence;

Whereas the many accomplishments of Team USA would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the many sports organizations, administrators, coaches, and family members who have provided critical support to the athletes;

Whereas the United States maintains a commitment to the safety and security of Team USA;

Whereas the United States Government is grateful to France for hosting the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

Whereas, upon the conclusion of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games, the United States will assume the role of host-country of the next Summer Games and stands ready to support the athletes and organizers of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games; and

Whereas Team USA exemplifies rigorous competition, fair play, and the pursuit of dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the athletes and coaches of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams (referred to in this resolution as “Team USA”) and the families who support them;

(2) commends the Government of France and the Paris Metropolitan Government for their efforts to commit tremendous resources to provide a safe and secure environment for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

(3) supports the athletes of Team USA in competing at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games; and

(4) commits to ensuring a safe and secure environment for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3185. Mr. MARKKY (for himself and Mr. CHU) 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 personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3189. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3200. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7024, 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 disaster assistance, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3203. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3204. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3206. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

(2) AM BROADCAST STATION.—The term "AM broadcast station" means a broadcast station that—

(A) is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; and

(B) is operated on a channel in the AM broadcast band.

SEC. 4. APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

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

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(4) DEVICE.—The term "device" means a piece of equipment or an apparatus that is designed—

(A) to receive signals transmitted by a radio broadcast station (as defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 155)); and

(B) to play back content or programming derived from those signals.

(5) DIGITAL AUDIO AM BROADCAST STATION.—The term "digital audio AM broadcast station" means an AM broadcast station that—

(A) is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; and

(B) uses an in-band On-channel system (as defined in section 73.606 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulation)) for broadcasting purposes.

(6) EXCLUSION.—The term "digital audio AM broadcast station" does not include an all-digital AM station (as defined in section 73.402 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulation)).

(7) MANUFACTURER.—The term "manufacturer" has the meaning given in the term in section 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

(8) RECIPIENT.—The term "recipient" means a passenger motor vehicle that—

(a) is sold for use in the United States; and

(b) is manufactured by a manufacturer that—

(1) designs, manufactures, and builds the vehicle at a specified frequency for the purpose of broadcast, or

(2) receives signals transmitted by an AM broadcast station (as defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301, 307)) in accordance with section 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code.
SA 3196. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for 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:

DIVISION F—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

SEC. 9001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This division may be cited as the “Department of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025”.

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

DIVISION F—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

SEC. 9001. Short title; table of contents.

SEC. 9002. Definitions.

TITLe I—WORKFORCE MATTERS

SEC. 9101. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Rogers Act; creation of the Department of State.

SEC. 9102. Workforce modernization efforts.

SEC. 9103. Training slots of the Department of State for Civil and Foreign Service personnel.

SEC. 9104. Competitive local compensation plan.

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Sec. 9709. Extensions.
implemented for all Foreign Service personnel.

SEC. 9108. OPTIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS.

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on options for conducting confidential 360-degree reviews in personnel files for promotion panel consideration.

(b) EVALUATION SYSTEMS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) one or more options to integrate confidential 360-degree reviews, references, or evaluations by superiors, peers, and subordinates, including the consideration of automated reference requests; and

(2) other modifications or systems the Secretary considers relevant.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall describe, with respect to each evaluation system included in the report—

(1) any legal constraints or considerations; (2) the timeline required for implementation; (3) any starting and recurring costs in comparison with the current system; (4) the likely or potential implications for promotion decisions and trends; and (5) the impact on meeting the personnel needs of the Foreign Service.

SEC. 9109. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the date of the enactment of this Act, the following new section:

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SEC. 909. Portability of professional licenses.
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(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 9 of title 22, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the entry for section 909 the following entry:

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910. Portability of professional licenses.
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SEC. 9110. EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEPARTMENT-PAID STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9201 of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2022 (22 U.S.C. 2737) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by inserting “or” after “of”; (2) in subsection (c), by inserting “and” after “paragraph (1)”; and

(b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN PROMOTION ISSUES.—In parallel with assignment process modernization efforts under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) assess whether any point systems tied to promotion incentives should consider service in hard-to-fill or critical positions; and

(2) assess whether the practice of dividing the assignment process into winter and summer cycles is necessary or efficient compared to a stable matching process.

(c) REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the assignment process under this section, including—

(1) data on match rates, including in filling critical or priority positions, officer and hiring office satisfaction, and the impact on tandem placements;

(2) recommendations for further modifications to the bidding process;

(3) an overview of the strategy used to communicate any changes to the workforce; and

(4) results of analysis into additional transparency efforts, including those described in subsection (a)(3).

SEC. 9111. CAREER INTERIMMISSION PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO EXTEND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE.—The Secretary and Administrator are authorized to extend Federal Employee Health Benefit coverage for up to 3 years.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREMIUM PAYMENTS.—If an employee elects to continue coverage pursuant to subsection (a) for longer than 365 days, the employee shall be responsible for 100 percent of the premium (employee share and government share) during such longer period.

SEC. 9112. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to increase the number of professional counselors, including licensed clinical social workers, providing services for employees under the direction of the Bureau of Medical Services, and the eligible population may be active or retired Limited Non-Career Appointment terms.

(b) EMPLOYMENT TARGETS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall seek to employ not fewer than 4 additional professional counselors, including licensed clinical social workers, in the Bureau of Medical Services to work to fill regional medical center needs.

SEC. 9113. ASSIGNMENT PROCESS MODERNIZATION Clemmons.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall modernize the Foreign Service bidding process, and specifically implement the following elements:

(1) A stable-pair matching, preference-based system for non-direct Foreign Service employees and hiring bureaus, allowing for a more strategic alignment of workforce and resources.

(b) Incorporation of lessons learned from the previous stable-pair matching bidding pilot framework referred to as “Match”, but applied more expansively to include non-diplomatic assignments up through FS-01 positions, taking advantage of efficiency benefits such as tandem assignment functionalities.

(c) Mechanisms to ensure transparency, effectiveness, and flexibility in the assignment process, while maintaining equal opportunities for all officers.

(4) An independent auditing process to ensure adherence to established rules, effectiveness in meeting the Department’s needs, and prevention of bias or manipulation, including through the use of protected categories in making assignment decisions.

(d) Consideration of certain promotion issues.—In parallel with assignment process modernization efforts under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) assess whether any point systems tied to promotion incentives should consider service in hard-to-fill or critical positions; and

(2) assess whether the practice of dividing the assignment process into winter and summer cycles is necessary or efficient compared to a stable matching process.

(e) REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the assignment process under this section, including—

(1) data on match rates, including in filling critical or priority positions, officer and hiring office satisfaction, and the impact on tandem placements;

(2) recommendations for further modifications to the bidding process;

(3) an overview of the strategy used to communicate any changes to the workforce; and

(4) results of analysis into additional transparency efforts, including those described in subsection (a)(3).

SEC. 9114. REPORT ON MODIFYING CONSULAR TOUR AND FIRST TOUR REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a consistent and transparent approach to modification of consular tours requirements for non-consular-coned generalist members of the Foreign Service; and

(b) In General.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of the changes described in such subsection, a timeline for implementation, and an assessment of the benefits and consequences of such changes, including any obstacles.

SEC. 9115. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON VETTING AND TRANSPARENCY.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON VETTING AND TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a consistent and enhanced vetting process to ensure that individuals with substantiated claims of discrimination or harassment against them, to include when administrative or disciplinary
actions are taken, are not considered for assignments to senior positions or promotions to senior grades within the Foreign Service.

(b) ELEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE VETTING POLICIES—The notification of the conclusion of an investigation into an allegation of discrimination or harassment, the Office of Civil Rights, Office of Global Talent Management, and each entity responsible for investigating allegations, along with a summary of the findings to the committee responsible for assignments to senior positions prior to such committee rendering a recommendation on employment.

(c) RESPONSE.—The Secretary shall develop a process for candidates to respond to any allegations substantiated and presented to the committee responsible for assignments to senior positions.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Department workload and the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of section 40118 of title 49, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Fly America Act”) on Department travelers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include:

(1) an analysis of the extent to which the Fly America Act—

(1) disproportionately impacts Department personnel;

(2) impacts travelers, including their ability to find suitable flights and the ability to complete their travel in a timely and effective manner;

(3) increases or decreases costs to the United States Government;

(4) produces overly burdensome restrictions in times of urgent travel such as Emergencies, Visits to a Travel and Ordered Authorized Departure; and

(5) a description of other relevant issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9129. COMPRESSOR GENERAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT TRAVELER EXPERIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the global footprint of the Department.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include:

(1) an analysis of the extent to which the Fly America Act—

(1) disproportionately impacts Department personnel;

(2) impacts travelers, including their ability to find suitable flights and the ability to complete their travel in a timely and effective manner;

(3) increases or decreases costs to the United States Government;

(4) produces overly burdensome restrictions in times of urgent travel such as Emergencies, Visits to a Travel and Ordered Authorized Departure; and

(5) a description of other relevant issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9130. COMPLIANCE WITH GLOBAL HEALTH CONTINGENCY PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall incorporate training on workplace flexibility, including the availability of job share and part-time employment opportunities, into employee onboarding and every level of supervisory training.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on workplace flexibility, including data on the number of employees utilizing job share or part-time employment arrangements.

SEC. 9124. EXPANSION OF SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN MONTHLY WORKERS’ COMPENSATION PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS FOR PERSONNEL UNDER CHIEF OF MISSION AUTHORITY.

Section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (20 U.S.C. 2680b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “of a” and inserting “of an”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”;

(b) in subsection (h)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “January 1, 2016” and inserting “September 11, 2001”.

SEC. 9125. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE OR REIMBURSE FOR CERTAIN SECURITY SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to provide or reimburse for appropriate security services to mitigate risks to certain employees or members of their households resulting from or related to the employee’s official duties or affiliation with the Department or USAID. These security equipment or services may include security cameras and services to de- prioritize or remove internet search results revealing personally identifiable information.

(b) REQUIRED POLICY.—Prior to providing or reimbursing services pursuant to subsection (a), the Department shall establish a policy that—

(1) outlines the requirements for qualifying for provision or reimbursement of services; and
(3) mandates expeditious consideration of such requests.

(c) PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, protect personally identifiable information on any United States citizens while undertaking the activities described in subsection (a) unless the collection is authorized by a court as part of a criminal investigation.

TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

SEC. 9201. STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING FACILITIES.

The Secretary should use existing waiver authorities to expedite upgrades and critical maintenance for the Harry S. Truman Federal Building to address the goal of having at least 85 percent of construction and upgrades completed by December 31, 2027.

SEC. 9202. PRESENCE OF CHIEFS OF MISSION AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ARRIVAL AT DIPLOMATIC POST WITHIN 60 DAYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that to be eligible for payment of travel expenses for initial arrival at the assigned post, a chief of mission must arrive at the post not later than 60 days after the date on which the chief of mission was confirmed by the Senate.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The restriction under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a chief of mission who arrived at the assigned post more than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate if the delay was caused by one or more of the following:

(A) A flight delay that was outside of the control of the chief of mission or the Department.

(B) A natural disaster, global health emergency, or other naturally occurring event that prevented the chief of mission from entering the country of the assigned post.

(C) Delay or refusal by the government of the host country to accept diplomatic accreditation.

(D) Family or medical emergency.

(E) Extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the chief of mission.

(3) family abroad.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) upon a determination that extenuating circumstances warrant such a waiver and upon submission of a brief description of the determination to the appropriate congressional committees.

(c) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, and in each case that a chief of mission arrives at an assigned post more than 60 days after confirmation, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report identifying any chief of mission who arrived at the assigned post more than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate, and includes a description of the justification.

(d) NOTIFICATIONS ON DEPARTURES OF CHIEFS OF MISSION.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of any chief of mission who has permanently departed from the assigned post within 90 days of the enactment of this section.

SEC. 9203. PERIODIC INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW OF CHIEFS OF MISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of State shall conduct management reviews of chiefs of mission, charge d’affaires, and other principals assigned overseas during inspection visits, when those officers have been at post more than 180 days.

(b) DISPOSITION.—Reviews conducted pursuant to this section shall be provided to the rating officer for formal discussion as part of the performance evaluation process. The management review shall remain in the employee’s personnel file unless otherwise required by law. The subject of a review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall have the opportunity to submit comments and a response to the review, and the response shall be included in the employee’s file for promotion panel review.

(c) NONDISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT IN Case OF SERIOUS MANAGEMENT CONCERNS.—The Inspector General of the Department of State shall notify the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and the appropriate congressional committees within 30 days of any review in which serious management concerns are raised and substantiated, and which is not otherwise submitted as part of the periodic inspection or report.

SEC. 9204. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan at the Department (in this section referred to as the “Special Envoy”). The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary and should not hold another position in the Department while holding the position of Special Envoy.

(b) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall—

(1) lead United States efforts to support negotiations and humanitarian response efforts related to alleviating the crisis in Sudan;

(2) be responsible for coordinating policy development and execution related to ending the conflict and a future path to national recovery and democratic transition in Sudan that is conducive to the Department’s objectives in the Department and co-ordinating with interagency partners; and

(3) consult regularly with the appropriate congressional committees, and keep such committees fully and currently informed on the status of diplomatic efforts and negotiations.

(c) STAFFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Special Envoy is staffed with personnel approved by the envoy, including through reassignment of positions responsible for issues related to Sudan that currently exist within the Department, encouraging details or assignment of employees of the Department from regional and functional bureaus with expertise relevant to Sudan, or through request for interagency details or assignment of employees of the Department from regional and functional bureaus with expertise relevant to Sudan, or through request for interagency details or assignment of employees of the Department from regional and functional bureaus with expertise relevant to Sudan.

(2) BRIEFING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the number of full-time equivalent positions supporting the Special Envoy and the relevant expertise and duties of any employees of the Department serving as detailed.

(d) SUNSET.—The position of the Special Envoy for Sudan shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9205. SPECIAL ENVY FOR BELARUS.

Section 6406(d) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2022 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 2735a) is amended by adding after section 64 (22 U.S.C. 2735a) the following:

(4) LOANS.—In addition to the authorities described in subsection (a), the Department of State is authorized to provide, by contract, grant, or other appropriate mechanisms, such as matching funds, for the performance of appropriate museum visitor and educational outreach programs and related events, including—

(A) organizing programs and conference activities;

(B) creating, designing, and installing exhibits; and

(C) conducting museum shop services and food services at the National Museum of American Diplomacy.

(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—The Secretary of State is authorized to retain the proceeds obtained from customary and appropriate fees charged for the use of facilities, including venue rental for events consistent with the activities described in subsection (a)(1) and museum shop services and food services at the National Museum of American Diplomacy, for the purpose of funding the Museum and its programs and activities and shall remain available until expended.

(3) DETERMINATIONS PRIOR TO SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.—The determination described in paragraph (2) with respect to a document, artifact, or other article described in paragraph (1), taking into account considerations such as the activities described in subsection (a)(1) of the National Museum of American Diplomacy shall be considered to be the property of the United States Government and shall be subject to disposition solely in accordance with this subsection.

(4) SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.—Whenever the Secretary of State makes a determination described in paragraph (3) with respect to a document, artifact, or other article described in paragraph (1), the Department of State is authorized to sell, trade, or transfer the document, artifact, or other article; the activities described in paragraph (3) with respect to a document, artifact, or other article described in paragraph (1) is a determination that—

(A) the document, artifact, or other article would serve to maintain or enhance the historic, artistic, or cultural significance of the document, artifact, or other article; and

(B) the sale at a fair market price based on an independent appraisal or trade or transfer of the document, artifact, or other article would serve to maintain or enhance the historic, artistic, or cultural significance of the document, artifact, or other article; and

(C) the sale, trade, or transfer of the document, artifact, or other article would be in the best interests of the United States.

(5) EXPORTS.—In addition to the authorities under paragraph (2) relating to the sale, trade, or transfer of documents, artifacts, or other documents, the Inspector General of the Department of State shall notify the Secretary of State if the Department of State believes that the document, artifact, or other article described in paragraph (1) of this section would be an identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable identifiable 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other articles described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may—

“(A) loan the documents, artifacts, or other articles to other institutions, both foreign and domestic, for the purpose of repair, study, or exhibition when not needed for use or display by the National Museum of American Diplomacy; and

“(B) to borrow documents, artifacts, or other articles from other institutions or individuals, both foreign and domestic, for activities consistent with subsection (a)(1).”

SEC. 9207. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) SENATE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a need for the United States Government to maintain a permanent institutional hub for technical expertise, strategic advice, and knowledge management in negotiations, mediation, and peace processes in order to prioritize and invest in diplomacy;

(2) the United States plays a role in enabling and supporting peace processes and complex political negotiations, the success of which is essential to stability and democracy around the world, and to the vital security interests of the United States;

(3) the meaningful engagement of conflict-affected communities, particularly women, youth, and other impacted populations, is critical to a durable, implementable, and sustainable peace;

(4) negotiation requires a specific technical and functional skillset, and thus institutional expertise in this practice area, should include trained practitioners and subject matter experts;

(5) such skills should continue to be employed as the United States Government advisable and contributes to peace processes, including those where the United States plays a supporting role or is led by multilateral and intergovernmental actors;

(6) training programs for United States diplomats should draw upon this expertise and United States lessons learned to help diplomats should draw upon this expertise and international partners; and

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the meaningful engagement of conflict-affected communities, particularly women, youth, and other impacted populations, is critical to a durable, implementable, and sustainable peace;

(2) negotiation requires a specific technical and functional skillset, and thus institutional expertise in this practice area, should include trained practitioners and subject matter experts;

(3) such skills should continue to be employed as the United States Government advisable and contributes to peace processes, including those where the United States plays a supporting role or is led by multilateral and intergovernmental actors;

(4) training programs for United States diplomats should draw upon this expertise and United States lessons learned to help diplomats should draw upon this expertise and international partners; and

SEC. 9208. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF FUNDS FOR SOLAR PANELS.

The Department may not use Federal funds to support the procurement of goods, services, or contracts for which there is a readily available, comparable, and sustainable alternative.

SEC. 9209. RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE INQUIRIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congressional Research Service is charged with rendering effective and efficient service to Congress and responding expeditiously, effectively, and efficiently to any inquiry.

(b) RESPONSES.—The Secretary and Administrator shall ensure that for any inquiry or request from the Congressional Research Service with respect to Members of Congress and congressional staff—

(1) an initial answer responsive to the request is sent within 14 days of receipt of the inquiry; and

(2) a complete answer responsive to the request is sent within 90 days of receipt of the inquiry, together with an explanation as to why the request could not be responded to more swiftly.

SEC. 9210. MISSION IN A BOX.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Increasing the United States’ global diplomatic footprint is imperative to advance United States’ national security interests, particularly in the face of a massive diplomatic expansion of our strategic competitors.

(2) Opening or re-opening diplomatic missions, often in small island nations where there is no United States Government presence, but that are advancing United States strategic objectives.

(3) Diplomatic missions should be resourced and equipped for success upon opening, and allow diplomats to focus on advancing United States national interests in-country.

(4) The United States can and should move more swiftly to open new diplomatic missions and provide United States diplomats and locally employed staff with a workplace that meets locally appropriate quality, safety, and security standards.

(b) MISSION IN A BOX.—The Secretary shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on how the Department is creating a “mission in a box” concept to provide new diplomatic missions with the resources and authorities needed to open a new post or support center, streamline and support the process of opening new diplomatic missions, including arrangements for basic office equipment, vehicles, and housing;

(c) SENIOR OFFICIAL TO LEAD NEW EMBASSY EXPANSION.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall designate an assistant secretary-level senior official to expedite and make recommendations for the reform of procedures for opening new diplomatic missions abroad, particularly in small island states.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The senior official designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be responsible for proposing policy and procedural changes to the Secretary to—

(1) expediting the resourcing of new diplomatic missions by waiving or reducing when possible mandatory processes required to open new diplomatic missions, taking into account the threat environment and circumstances in the host country;

(2) when necessary, quickly adjudicating whether the Department must streamline and support the process of opening new posts to identify efficiencies and remove obstacles that are unduly complicating the opening of new diplomatic missions, particularly in small island states and similarly situated locations;

(3) ensuring new missions receive the management and operational support needed, including by designating such support be undertaken by another post, regional support center, or Department entities based in the United States; and

(4) ensuring that the authorities provided in the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of Public Law 106–113, as amended by the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (section 9301 of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3879), are fully utilized in the planning for all new diplomatic missions.
(d) **NEW DIPLOMATIC MISSION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘‘new diplomatic mission’’ means any bilateral diplomatic mission opened since January 1, 2020, in a country where there had not been a bilateral diplomatic mission since the date that is 20 years before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **SYNOPSIS.**—The authorities and requirements of this section shall terminate 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

### SEC. 9211. REPORT ON UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN CHENGDU, PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the suspension of operations at the United States Consulate General in Chengdu, People’s Republic of China, on July 27, 2020, on diplomatic and consular activities of the United States in Southwestern China, including the provision of consular services to United States citizens, and on relations with the people of Southwestern China, including areas designated by the Government of the People’s Republic of China as autonomous.

### SEC. 9212. PERSONNEL REPORTING

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and at least every 120 days thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

1. describing the personnel levels, hiring, and attrition of the Civil Service, Foreign Service, eligible family members, locally employed staff, and contractor workforce, with respect to an operating unit-by-unit basis; and

2. including a status update on progress toward fiscal year hiring plans for Foreign Service and Civil Service.

### SEC. 9213. SUPPORT CO-LOCATION WITH ALLIED PARTNER NATIONS

The Secretary, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, may alter, repair, and furnish United States Government-owned and leased space for use by the government of a foreign country to facilitate co-location of such government in such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine, including with respect to reimbursement of all or part of the costs of alteration, repair, or furnishing. Reimbursements or advances of funds pursuant to this section may be credited to the currently applicable appropriation available for the purposes for which such appropriation is authorized.

### SEC. 9214. STREAMLINE QUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BIDDERS

Section 402 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4852) is amended—

1. in subsection (a)—

   (A) by inserting ‘‘be awarded’’ after ‘‘joint venture proposals may’’;

   (B) by striking ‘‘bid on’’ both places it appears; and

   (C) in paragraph (1), by striking ‘‘$18,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$25,000,000’’; and

2. in subsection (b)—

   (A) in paragraph 1, by striking ‘‘two’’ and inserting ‘‘three’’; and

   (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ‘‘at a United States diplomatic or consular establishment abroad’’ and inserting ‘‘on a Federal or consular establishment abroad’’;

   (ii) by striking paragraphs (E) and (G); and

   (iii) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (E); and

   (iv) in paragraph (E), as redesignated by clause (iii), by striking ‘‘80’’ both places it appears and inserting ‘‘65’’.

### TITLE III.—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

#### SEC. 9301. SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ANALYTICS

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State fiscal year 2025 $35,000,000 for bureaus to hire Chief Data Officers through the ‘‘Bureau Chief Data Officer Program’, consistent with section 6302 of the Department of Commerce Appropriation Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 2651a note).

#### SEC. 9302. REALIGNING THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL PROGRAM

**Section 9509(a)(1) of the Department of State Authorities Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 116–263; 22 U.S.C. 12059(a)(1)) is amended by—**

1. striking ‘‘by the Under Secretary of State for Management adminis- tered by the Bureau for Cybersecurity and Digital Policy’’ before the period at the end.

#### SEC. 9303. MEASURES TO PROTECT DEPARTMENT DEVICES FROM THE PROLIFERATION AND USE OF FOREIGN COMMERCIALLY SPYWARE

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1. **(1) APPLICABLE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term ‘‘applicable committees of Congress’’ means—

   (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

   (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

2. **(2) FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.**—The term ‘‘foreign commercial spyware’’ means—

   (A) any device or software, including a foreign commercial spyware device, that—

   (i) detects and transmits to an unauthorized location information that is classified information or is information of a kind that is restricted by international treaty or law; and

   (ii) is designed, developed, or modified to perform functions for which it is not intended; or

   (B) any software, regardless of its origin, that is designed, developed, or modified to perform functions for which it is not intended; or

   (C) Federal or privately developed software that is not designed, developed, or modified to perform functions for which it is not intended.

3. **(3) FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE SPYWARE.**—The term ‘‘foreign commercial spyware’’ includes—

   (A) foreign commercial spyware devices; and

   (B) any device that contains foreign commercial spyware.

(b) **PROTECTION OF COVERED DEVICES.**—

1. **(1) REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

   (A) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the measures in place to identify and catalog instances of such compromises for covered devices by foreign commercial spyware;

   (B) survey the processes used by the Department and USAID to identify and catalog instances of foreign commercial spyware; and

   (C) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the measures in place to identify and catalog instances of such compromises for covered devices by foreign commercial spyware.

(c) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which an element of the espionage involving foreign commercial spyware is discovered or compromised, the Secretary shall—

1. **(1) REPORTING TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the measures in place to identify and catalog instances of such compromises for covered devices by foreign commercial spyware;

2. **(2) REPORTING TO DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS.**—The Secretary shall—

   (A) develop an annual reporting process for proposals regarding United States Government-funded international collaborations on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and research; and

3. **(3) REPORTING TO THE BUREAU CHIEF DATA OFFICER.**—The Secretary shall—

   (A) develop an annual reporting process for proposals regarding United States Government-funded international collaborations on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and research; and

4. **(4) REPORTING TO THE BUREAU CHIEF DATA OFFICER.**—The Secretary shall—

   (A) develop an annual reporting process for proposals regarding United States Government-funded international collaborations on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and research; and

5. **(5) REPORTING TO THE BUREAU CHIEF DATA OFFICER.**—The Secretary shall—

   (A) develop an annual reporting process for proposals regarding United States Government-funded international collaborations on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and research; and

### SEC. 9304. REPORT ON CLOUD COMPUTING IN BUREAUX OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of the Bureau of Consular Affairs’ efforts to improve cloud-based products and services as well as options to require enterprise-wide adoption of cloud computing, including for all consular operations.

### SEC. 9305. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROJECTS

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Department of State should, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, prioritize information technology systems with high potential to accelerate the passport renewal processes, reduce processing times, and reduce dependency on legacy systems.

### SEC. 9306. LEVERAGING APPROVED TECHNOLOGY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCIES

The Secretary and Administrator shall ensure appropriate and secure technological solutions are authorized and available for employees, where these tools and technologies facilitate co-location of such government in such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine, including with respect to reimbursement of all or part of the costs of alteration, repair, or furnishing. Reimbursements or advances of funds pursuant to this section may be credited to the currently applicable appropriation available for the purposes for which such appropriation is authorized.

### SEC. 9307. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish an Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology (referred to in this section as the ‘‘Office’’), which may be located within the Bureau for Cybersecurity and Digital Policy.

(b) **LEADERSHIP.**—

1. **(1) SPECIAL ENVOY.**—The Office shall be headed by a Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology, who shall—

   (A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

   (B) have the rank and status of ambassador;

2. **(2) OFFICE.**—The Office shall report to the Ambassador-at-Large for Cybersecurity and Digital Policy.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Office may include representatives from other key Federal agencies or research and technology-focused fellowship programs, as determined by the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology and with the consent of the Ambassador-at-Large for Cybersecurity and Digital Policy, in coordination with appropriate senior officials of the Department and such agencies.

(d) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Office shall include—

1. establishing, in coordination with relevant bureaus, offices and other Federal agencies, an interagency security review process for proposals regarding United States Government-funded international collaboration on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated research;

2. establishing and coordinating an interagency strategy to facilitate international coordination with United States and partners regarding the development, use, and deployment of critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and specifications, including intellectual property protection, and illicit knowledge transfer;
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(3) facilitating technology partnerships with countries and relevant political and economic unions that are committed to—
(A) the rule of law and respect for human rights, including freedom of speech, and expression;
(B) the safe and responsible development and use of certain critical and emerging technologies and the establishment of relevant norms and standards, including for research security and the protection of sensitive data and technology; and
(C) the advancement of an open, democratic governance architecture governed by a multi-stakeholder model instead of centralized government control;
(4) developing innovative solutions to counter illicit knowledge and data transfer related to certain critical and emerging technology research;
(5) coordinating with other technology partners on export control policies for certain critical and emerging technologies including counter illicit knowledge and data transfer related to certain critical and emerging technology research;
(6) conducting diplomatic engagement, in coordination with other federal agencies, and relevant Federal departments and agencies, with entities that seek to develop and coordinate policies designed to counter illicit knowledge and data transfer in academia related to critical and emerging technology research;
(7) coordinating with allies, partners, and other relevant Federal agencies to prevent the exploitation of research partnerships related to certain critical and emerging technologies;
(8) sharing information regarding the threat posed by the transfer of certain critical and emerging technologies to authoritarian governments, including the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation, and the ways in which autocratic regimes are utilizing technology, including for military and security purposes, to erode individual freedoms and other foundations of open, democratic societies; and
(9) collaborating with private companies, trade associations, and think tanks to realize the purposes described in paragraphs (1) through (8).

SEC. 9401. AFRICA BROADCASTING NETWORKS.
Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media, and the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Intelligence, the following:
(1) an inventory of all international research and development programs for certain critical and emerging technologies funded by the Department or USAID that include partnerships or other collaborations with international organizations that are affiliated with, or receive support from, the Government of the People’s Republic of China or the Government of the Russian Federation;
(2) an assessment of the role of the People’s Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, and the Russian Federation in sectors critical to the advancement of critical and emerging technologies and the threats they pose to the United States; and
(3) an inventory of all international research and development programs for certain critical and emerging technologies funded by the Department or USAID that include partnerships or other collaborations with international organizations that are affiliated with, or receive support from, the Government of the People’s Republic of China or the Government of the Russian Federation.

SEC. 9402. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.
Section 306 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6205) is amended—
(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and
(2) by inserting after paragraph (f) the following new subsection:
(1) SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT OF GRANTEE.
"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a grantee may not be debarred or suspended without consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and a three-fourths majority vote of the Advisory Board in support of such action.
(2) SUSPENSION.—
"(A) CRITERIA FOR SUSPENSION.—A grantees may not be suspended unless the Advisory Board determines that the criteria described in section 513.405 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, have been met.
"(B) SUSPENDING OFFICIAL.—The Advisory Board shall collectively serve as the suspending official (as described in section 513.185 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations).
(3) DEBARMENT.—
"(A) CRITERIA FOR DEBARMENT.—A grantee may not be debarred unless the Advisory Board determines that one or more of the causes described in section 513.305 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, has been established.
"(B) DEBARRING OFFICIAL.—The Advisory Board shall collectively serve as the debarring official (as described in section 513.105 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations).";

SEC. 9403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXPOS.
Section 9601 of the Department of State Authorization Acts of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3909) is amended in subsection (b) by striking “fiscal years 2023 and 2024” and inserting “fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026”;

SEC. 9404. RESEARCH AND SCHOLAR EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIPS.
(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that-
(1) it is in the strategic interest of the United States to strengthen relations with Sub-Saharan African states to promote shared interests in the areas of—
(A) democracy and good governance;
(B) education and human capital;
(C) trade and economic development;
(D) science and technology;
(E) university, food, and agriculture; and
(F) the preservation and management of natural resources, including critical minerals; and
(2) historically black colleges and universities (referred to in this section as “HBCUs”) have a long history of—
(A) cultivating diaspora relations with Sub-Saharan African states; and
(B) developing innovative solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges.

(b) STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary and the Administrator should seek to strengthen and expand partnerships and educational exchange opportunities, including working with HBCUs, which build the capacity and expertise of students, scholars, and experts from Sub-Saharan Africa in key development sectors.

SEC. 9405. WAIVER OF UNITED STATES RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR CHILDREN OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/ RADIO LIBERTY EMPLOYEES.
Section 320(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1431(a)(1)) is amended—
(1) in subparagraph (1)(B), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;
(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
(3) by adding at the end of the following new paragraph:
“(3) the child residing in the legal and physical custody of a citizen parent who is residing abroad as a result of employment with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.”;

TITLE V—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY
SEC. 9501. SECURE EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION AND COUNTERTERRORISM ACT REQUIREMENTS.
(a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe new guidance and requirements consistent with the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of division A of appendix

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lic Law 115–233; 136 Stat. 3879) and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report
detailing such guidance and requirements,
including the impact of implementation
of this Act and other diplomatic facilities
and construction projects.

(b) CONSEQUENCE FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—If
the Secretary fails to meet the requirement
under subsection (a), Federal funds appro-
priated to the Department shall be used for
official travel by senior staff in the execu-
tive office of the Diplomatic Security Serv-
cice, including the Assistant Secretary for
Diplomatic Security, until such time as the
Secretary meets the requirement.

(c) The Secretary may waive the restriction
in subsection (b) to meet urgent and critical needs if the Secretary provides
written notification to the appropriate con-
gressional committees in advance of travel.

SEC. 9502. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION FOR
SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENTS.

Section 283(a) of the Omnibus Diplomatic
Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22
U.S.C. 4833(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesigning paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respective-
ly;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
lowing new paragraph:

(2) INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—
The Secretary shall provide written notifica-
tion to the appropriate congressional commit-
tees of the United States, the United States
Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Com-
mittee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Se-
lect Committee on Intelligence of the House of Represen-
tatives, including the impact of implementa-
tion on United States diplomatic facilities
and international organizations, including to
technical bodies of the United Nations.

(3) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by
paragraph (1) of this section, by striking
"paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph
(3)".

SEC. 9503. NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING SECU-
RITY DECISIONS AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

Section 103(c) of section 103 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22
U.S.C. 4802(c)) is amended by—

(1) by redesigning paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respecti-
vely;

(2) by striking "" and inserting "";

(3) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by
paragraph (1) of this section, by striking
"paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph
(3)".

SEC. 9504. SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSION PAY FLEXIBILITIES.

Section 610(c)(6) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 2363(c)) is amended by striking ""180 days"" and
inserting ""180 days or such shorter period as
may be determined by the Secretary of State.""

SEC. 9505. MODIFICATION TO NOTIFICATION RE-
QUIREMENT FOR SECURITY CLEAR-
ANCE SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS.

Section 625 of the Department of State
Authorization Act of 2023 (division H of Pub-
llic Law 116–94) is amended by—

(1) by redesigning paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respec-
tively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking ""—With respect"" and inserting the following: ""—Notifi-
cation.—"";

(3) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (1) by striking ""revocation on"" and all that follows ""revocation on"" and insert-
ing ""revocation on—"

(A) the present employment status of the covered official and whether the job duties or the covered official have changed since such suspension or revocation;

(B) the reason for such suspension or rev-
covation;

(C) the investigation of the covered of-
official and the results of such investigation; and

(D) any negative fallout or impacts for the Department of State, the United States
Government, or national security of the United States as a result of the actions for
which the security clearance was suspended or revoked;", and

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

(2) SUBMISSION TO INTELLIGENCE COMMU-
NITIES.—To the extent the basis for any sus-
pension or revocation of a security clearance is premised on the unauthorized release of intelligence (as defined by section 3 of the National
Intelligence Operations Act of 2007 (56 U.S.C. 3001)), the Select Committee on Intel-
ligence of the Senate and the Permanent Se-
lect Committee on Intelligence of the House of Represen-
tatives shall, in coordination with the appropriate congressional committee for the purposes of this section.

TITLE VI—UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 9601. PERSONNEL SERVICE AGREEMENT
AUTHORITY FOR THE UNITED STATES
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DE-
VELOPMENT.

Section 636(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2396(a)) is amended by amending at the end the following para-
graph:

(17) employing individuals or organiza-
tions, by contract, for services abroad for
purposes of this Act and title II of the Food
for Peace Act, and individuals employed by
contract to perform such services shall not
be considered to be employees of the United States Government except that the Administrator of the
United States Agency for International De-
velopment may determine the applicability
to such individuals of section 5 of the State
Department Basic Authorities Act of 1965 (22
U.S.C. 2672) regarding tort claims when such
claims arise in foreign countries in connec-
tion with United States operations abroad,
and of other authorities by the Admin-
istrator concerning the employment of such individuals abroad, and such contracts are
authorized to be negotiated, the terms of
the contracts to be prescribed, and the work
to be performed, where necessary, without
regard to such statutory provisions as relate
to the negotiation, making, and performance of contracts and performance of work in
the United States.

SEC. 9602. CRISIS OPERATIONS AND DISASTER
SURGE STAFFING.

Section 625 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2395) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(k) CRISIS OPERATIONS AND DISASTER
SURGE STAFFING.—(1) The United States
Agency for International Development is au-
thorized to appoint personnel in the excepted
service using funds authorized to be appro-
priated to carry out the purposes set forth in
the heading "Transition Initiatives" in an Act
making appropriations for the Department of
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Pro-
gression and Programs Appropriations Act,
and chapter 4 of part II of this Act of and
section 509(b) of the Global Fragility Act of
2019 (title V of division J of Public Law 116–
94) to prevent or respond to foreign crises
and contexts with growing instability;

(2) funds authorized to carry out such
purposes may be made available for operat-
ing expenses and administrative costs of
such personnel and may remain attributed to
any minimum funding requirement for which
the funds were originally appropriated.

(3) The Administrator of the United States
Agency for International Develop-
ment shall coordinate with the Department of
Personnel Management on implementation of the
appointment authority under paragraph (1).

SEC. 9603. EDUCATION ALLOWANCE WHILE ON
MILITARY LEAVE.

Section 908 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4088) is amended by inserting after "English
Language Development" after "A Department"

SEC. 9604. INCLUSION IN THE PET TRANSPO-
RATION EXCEPTION TO THE FLY
AMERICA ACT.

Section 622(a)(1) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division H of Public Law 116–91; 22 U.S.C. 4081a) is amended
in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by striking "“the Department is” and
inserting "“the Department and the United
States Agency for International Develop-
ment” after "A Department";

(2) by striking "United States Agency for International Develop-
ment" after "A Department".

SEC. 9701. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
TO PROMOTE UNITED STATES CITI-
ZEN EMPLOYMENT AT THE UNITED
NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL OR-
GANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President should di-
rect United States departments and agencies
to, in coordination with the Secretary—

(1) fund and recruit Junior Professional Of-
ficers for positions at the United Nations and
related specialized and technical organiza-
tions; and

(2) facilitate secondments, details, and
transfers to agencies and specialized and
technical bodies of the United Nations
organization.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
There is authorized to be appropriated an ad-
ditional $20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2023 through 2028 to support Junior Professional Officers, details, transfers, and internships that advance United States interests at multilateral institutions and international organizations, including to
recruit, train, and host events related to such
positions, and to promote United States
citizen candidates for employment and lead-
ship positions at multilateral institutions
and international organizations.

(c) AVAILABLE.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain
available until expended.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not
later than 15 days prior to the obligation of
funds authorized to be appropriated under
this section, the Secretary shall submit to the
appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the
Senate and the Committee on Appropriations
of the House of Representatives a notifi-
cation outlining the amount and proposed
use of such funds.

SEC. 9792. AMENDMENT TO REWARDS FOR JU-
STICE PROGRAM.

Section 36(b) of the State Department
Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2771(b)) is amended by—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking "or" and inserting a semicolon;
(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘; or’’; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(15) the apprehension, restraint, seizure, forfeiture, or repatriation of stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption.’’

SEC. 9709. PASSPORT AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION.

The Act entitled ‘‘An Act to regulate the issue and validity of passports, and for other purposes’’ (54 Stat. 646; 22 U.S.C. 211a), is amended—

(1) by inserting ‘‘and through the use of Department of State electronic systems, after the provisions of such User Fee Act section’’, and‘‘; and

(2) by striking ‘‘person’’ and inserting ‘‘entity’’.

SEC. 9704. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PAYMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

Section 7(1) of Public Law 106–178 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended, in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (B), by striking ‘‘December 31, 2025’’ and inserting ‘‘December 31, 2026’’.

SEC. 9705. SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) international travel is essential to fostering international relations, understanding global issues first-hand, and jointly advancing United States interests abroad; and

(2) only by close coordination and thanks to the dedication of personnel at United States embassies, consulates, and other missions abroad can the success of these vital missions abroad can the success of these vital
tours be possible.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reaffirm to all diplomatic posts the importance of Congressional travel and shall require all such posts to support congressional travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees fully, by making such support available on any day of the week, including Federal and local holidays and, to the extent practical, requiring the direct involvement of mid-level or senior officers.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-LEVEL TRAVEL.—In the case of a simultaneous visit from the President, the First Lady or First Gentleman, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Defense, the requirement under subsection (a) does not apply in the case of a simultaneous visit from the President, the First Lady or First Gentleman, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Defense.

(d) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall require all designated control officers to have been trained on supporting congressional travel at posts abroad prior to the assigned congressional visit.

SEC. 9706. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WITH VISA APPLICANTS.

Section 333(a)(5)(A) of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005 (8 U.S.C. 1375a(a)(5)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

‘‘(vi) Mailings under this subsection may be transmitted by electronic means, including electronic mail. The Secretary of State may communicate with visa applicants using personal contact information provided to them or to the Secretary of Homeland Security by the applicant, petitioner, or designated agent or attorney.’’

SEC. 9707. ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF VISA INFORMATION.

Section 222 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1222) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘‘(1) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the immigration laws of the United States, State, or local government, if such law, rule, or regulation would normally require the transmission of such information, the Secretary shall provide for the electronic transmission of such information to the Department of State, including by the transmission of such information to the Department of State using electronic mail, including electronic mail. The Secretary or the official responsible for the electronic transmission of such information shall, at the Secretary’s discretion, make such transmission in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the law, rule, or regulation.’’

SEC. 9708. INCLUSION OF COST ASSOCIATED WITH INVESTIGATING REPORTS.

(a) ESTIMATED COST OF REPORTS.—Beginning on October 1, 2026, and for the next three fiscal years, the Secretary shall require the results of each report submitted to the Secretary for purposes of this section to include the total estimated cost of producing such report and the estimated number of personnel hours.

(b) ANNUAL TOTAL COST OF REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2025, and for the next three fiscal years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the cost associated with producing each report required by this section.

SEC. 9709. EXTENSIONS.

(a) Passport Fees.—Section 1(b)(2) of the Passport Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214(b)(2)) shall be applied by striking ‘‘September 30, 2010’’ and inserting ‘‘September 30, 2020’’.

(b) USAID CIVIL SERVICES—Section 625(j)(1)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2385(j)(1)(B)) shall be amended—

(1) by striking ‘‘October 1, 2010’’ and inserting ‘‘September 30, 2020’’;

(c) Overseas Pay Comparability and Limitation.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority provided under section 1131 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 123 Stat. 1904) shall remain in effect through September of each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015.

(2) LIMITATION.—The authority described in paragraph (1) may not be used to pay an eligible member of the Foreign Service (as defined in section 1131(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 123 Stat. 1904)) a locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage that would be payable to such member under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, if such member’s official duty station were in the District of Columbia.

(d) Inspectors General.—Section 101(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–212; 124 Stat. 2332) shall remain in effect through September 30, 2020, and may also be used to facilitate the assignment of persons for oversight of programs in Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen.

(e) Security Review Committees.—The authority provided under section 301(a)(3) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4831(a)(3)) shall remain in effect for facilities in Afghanistan and shall apply to facilities in the United States Code, if such member’s official duty station were in the District of Columbia.

(f) Assistant.—The term ‘‘Assistant’’ means the Assistant Director for International Nuclear Energy Policy of the United States Code, if such member’s official duty station were in the District of Columbia.
(A) is owned, controlled, or operated by—
(i) an ally or partner nation; or
(ii) an associated individual; or
(B) is organized under the laws of, or other- 
wise subject to the jurisdiction of, a country de-
scribed in paragraph (2), including a cor-
poration that is incorporated in a country de-
scribed in that paragraph.
(6) NUCLEAR.—The term “civil nu-
clear” means activities relating to—
(A) nuclear plant construction;
(B) nuclear fuel services;
(C) nuclear energy financing;
(D) nuclear plant operations;
(E) nuclear plant regulation;
(F) nuclear safety;
(G) community engagement in areas in 
reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;
(i) infrastructure support for nuclear en-
ergy;
(j) nuclear plant decommissioning;
(K) nuclear liability;
(L) safe storage and safe disposal of spent nuclear fuel;
(M) environmental safeguards;
(N) nuclear nonproliferation and security; and
(O) technology related to the matters de-
scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (N).
(b) EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATION.—
(A) in general.—The term “embarking civil nuclear nation” means a country that—
(i) does not have a civil nuclear energy pro-
gram;
(ii) is in the process of developing or ex-
panding a civil nuclear energy program, in-
cluding safeguards and a legal and regu-
atory framework for—
(I) nuclear safety;
(II) nuclear security;
(III) radioactive waste management;
(IV) civil nuclear energy;
(V) environmental safeguards;
(VI) community engagement in areas in 
reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;
(VII) nuclear liability; or
(VIII) advanced nuclear reactor licensing;
(iii) is in the process of selecting, devel-
opping, constructing, or utilizing advanced light water reactors and associated nuclear reac-
tors, or advanced civil nuclear technologies; or
(iv) is eligible to receive development lend-
ing from the World Bank.
(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “embarking civil nuclear nation” does not include—
(i) the People's Republic of China;
(ii) the Russian Federation;
(iii) the Republic of Belarus;
(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran;
(v) the Democratic People's Republic of 
Korea;
(vi) the Republic of Cuba;
(vii) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
(viii) the medium Arab Republic; or
(ix) any other country—
(I) the property or interests in property of 
the government of which are blocked pursu-
ant to the International Emergency Eco-
nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or
(II) the government of which the Secretary of 
State has determined has repeatedly pro-
vided support for acts of international ter-
rorism for purposes of—
(aa) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assist-
ces Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a); or
(bb) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Con-
trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or
(cc) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export 
Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 
4813(c)(1)(A)(i)); or
(dd) any other relevant provision of law.
(9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.
(10) SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.—The term “spent nuclear fuel” has the meaning given 
to the term in the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative 
(C) NUCLEAR.—The term “U. S. nuclear energy company” means a company that—
(A) is organized under the laws of, or other-
wise subject to the jurisdiction of, the 
United States; and
(B) is involved in the nuclear energy indus-
try.
SEC. 1099C. CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION AND 
INTEGRATION:
(a) WHITE HOUSE FOCAL POINT ON CIVIL NUC-
LEAR COORDINATION.—
(I) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Given the critical importance of developing and implementing, 
with input from various agencies throughout 
the executive branch, a cohesive policy with 
respect to international efforts related to 
civil nuclear energy, it is the sense of Con-
gress that—
(A) there should be a focal point within the 
White House, which may, if determined to be 
appropriate, be a part of the National Security 
Council, for coordination on issues relating to 
those efforts;
(B) to provide that focal point, the Presi-
dent should establish, within the Executive 
Office of the President, an office, to be 
known as the “Office of the Assistant to the 
President for International Nuclear Energy 
Policy” (referred to in this subsection as the “Office”);
(C) the Office should act as a coordinating office for—
(i) international civil nuclear cooperation; and
(ii) civil nuclear export strategy;
(D) the Office should be headed by an indi-
vidual appointed as an Assistant to the President with the title of “Director for 
International Nuclear Energy Policy” (referred to in this subsection as the “Office”);
(E) the Office should—
(i) coordinate civil nuclear export policies for the United States;
(ii) develop, in coordination with the offi-
cials described in paragraph (2), a cohesive Federal strategy for engagement with for-
egnern governments (including ally or partner nations and the governments of embarking civil nuclear nations) to the extent appropriate, and associated individuals with respect to 
civil nuclear exports;
(iii) in consultation with the officials described 
in paragraph (2) to ensure that necessary 
framework agreements and trade controls re-
lating to civil nuclear materials and tech-
nologies are in place for key markets; and
(iv) develop—
(I) a whole-of-government coordinating strategy for civil nuclear cooperation;
(II) a whole-of-government strategy for civil nuclear exports; and
(III) a whole-of-government approach to support appropriate foreign investment in 
civil nuclear energy projects supported by the United States in embarking civil nuclear 
nations.
(2) OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—The officials re-
ferrred to in paragraph (1)(E)—
(A) appropriate officials of any Federal agency that the President determines to be 
appropriate; and
(B) appropriate officials representing for-
egnern countries and governments, including—
(i) ally or partner nations;
(ii) embarking civil nuclear nations; and
(iii) any other organization (including a for-
ternal entity) that the President (if appointed) and the officials 
described in subparagraph (A) jointly deter-
mine to be appropriate.
(b) NUCLEAR EXPORT WORKING GROUP.—
(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a 
working group, to be known as the “Nuclear Exports Working Group” (referred to in this 
subsection as the “working group”).
(2) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall 
be composed of—
(A) high-level Federal officials, selected 
internally by the applicable Federal agency or 
organization, from any Federal agency or 
oraganization that the President determines to 
be appropriate; and
(B) other senior-level Federal officials, se-
lected internally by the applicable Federal agency or 
oraganization, from any other Fed-
eral agency or organization, for which the Sec-
retary determines to be appropriate.
(3) REPORTING.—The working group shall 
report to the appropriate White House offi-
cial, which may be the Assistant (if ap-
pointed).
(4) DUTIES.—The working group shall co-
ordinate, not less frequently than quarterly, 
with the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Com-
mittee of the Department of Commerce, the 
Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee of the 
Department of Energy, and other advisory or 
saker groups, as necessary, to main-
tain an accurate and up-to-date knowledge of 
the standing of civil nuclear exports from 
the United States, including with respect to 
meeting the targets established as part of the 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy 
described in paragraph (5)(A).
(5) STRATEGY.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year 
after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall establish a 10-year civil 
nuclear trade strategy, including biennial targets for the export of civil nuclear tech-
nologies, including light water and non-light 
water reactors and associated equipment and 
technologies, civil nuclear materials, and 
spent nuclear fuel that align with meeting in-
ternational energy demand while seeking to 
avoid or reduce emissions.
(B) COLLABORATION REQUIRED.—In estab-
lishing the strategy under subparagraph (A), the working group shall collaborate with—
(i) any Federal agency that the President 
determines to be appropriate; and
(ii) representatives of private industry.
SEC. 1099D. ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLY OR PART-
NER NATIONS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall 
launch, in accordance with the nuclear 
technology export regulations (including regu-
lations), an international initiative to mod-
ernize the civil nuclear outreach to embark-
ing civil nuclear nations.
(b) FINANCING.—In carrying out the initia-
tive described in subsection (a), the Presi-
dent, acting through an appropriate Federal 
official, who may be the Assistant (if ap-
pointed) or the Chief Executive Officer of the International Development Finance 
Corporation, if determined to be appropriate, and in coordination with the officials described 
in section 1099C(a)(2), may, if the President de-
termines to be appropriate, seek to establish 
cooperative financing relationships for the export of civil nuclear components, 
materials, and infrastructure to em-
banking civil nuclear nations.
(c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the initia-
tive described in subsection (a), the Presi-
dent shall—
(1) assist nongovernmental organizations and 
appropriate offices, administrations, 
agencies, laboratories, and programs of the 
Department of Energy and other relevant 
Federal agencies and offices in providing 
education and training to foreign govern-
ment officials on nuclear safety, security, and 
safe-
guards—
(I) through engagement with the Inter-
national Atomic Energy Agency; or
(ii) independently, if the entity determines that it would be more advan-
tageous under the circumstances to provide
the applicable education and training independently;

(2) assist the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to expand the support provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to embarking civil nuclear nations for nuclear safety, security, and safeguards;

(3) designate the work of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the Export-Import Bank of the United States to achieve to the private investment community to create public-private financing relationships to assist in the adoption of civil nuclear technologies by embarking civil nuclear nations, including through exports from the United States;

(4) seek to better coordinate, to the maximum extent practicable, the work carried out by any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(5) coordinate the work of the Export-Import Bank of the United States to improve the efficient and effective exporting and importing of civil nuclear technologies and materials.

SEC. 1099E. COOPERATIVE FINANCING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS AND EMBARKING CIVIL NU-CLEAR NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate an appropriate White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), and the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation to coordinate with the officials described in section 1099C(a)(2) to develop, as the President determines to be appropriate, financing relationships with ally or partner nations to assist in the adoption of civil nuclear technologies exported from the United States or ally or partner nations to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(b) UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSES.

(1) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES COMPETI-

TIVENESS CLAUSE.—In this subsection, the term ‘‘United States competitiveness clause’’ means any United States competitiveness provision in any agreement entered into by the Department of Energy, including—

(A) a cooperative agreement;

(B) a cooperative research and development agreement; and

(C) a patent waiver.

(2) INCLUSION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the relevant officials described in that subsection shall consider the impact of United States competitiveness clauses on any financing relationships with ally or partner nations to the extent that such clauses are as necessary to facilitate financing relationships with ally or partner nations under subsection (a).

SEC. 1099F. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR EN-
ERGY COOPERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), shall launch an international initiative (referred to in this section as the ‘‘initiative’’) to provide financial assistance to, and facilitate the building of technical capabilities by, in accordance with this section, embarking civil nuclear nations for activities relating to the development of nuclear energy programs.

(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative described in subsection (a), the Secretary (if appointed), may award grants of financial assistance to embarking civil nuclear nations in accordance with this subsection.

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant of financial assistance under paragraph (1) shall not be more than $5,500,000.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may award financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any embarking civil nuclear nation:

(1) Not more than 1 grant of financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation each fiscal year; and

(2) Not more than a total of 5 grants of financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation each fiscal year; and

(d) SENIOR ADVISORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative described in subsection (a), the Secretary (if appointed), may establish an arrangement under which the Secretary may contract with a nuclear energy company to hire 1 or more senior advisors to assist in the building of technical capabilities for those activities.
nation in establishing a civil nuclear program.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—A senior advisor described in paragraph (1) shall have relevant expertise in and qualifications to advise the embarking civil nuclear nation on, and facilitate on behalf of the embarking civil nuclear nation, 1 or more of the following activities:

(A) The development of financing relationships;

(B) The development of a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of nuclear power plants;

(C) The development of a standardized licensing framework for light water civil nuclear technologies and non-light water civil nuclear technologies;

(D) The identification of qualified organizations and service providers.

(E) The identification of funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program.

(F) Market analysis.

(G) The identification of the safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability requirements for civil nuclear programs required for a civil nuclear program.

(H) Risk allocation, risk management, and nuclear liability.

(i) Technical assessments of nuclear reactors and technologies.

(j) The identification of actions necessary to participate in a global nuclear liability regime, including the convening of an emergency compensation for nuclear damage, with Annex, done at Vienna September 12, 1997 (TIAS 15–415).

(k) Stakeholder engagement.

(l) Management of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

(M) Any other major activities to support the establishment of a civil nuclear program, such as the establishment of export, financing, construction, training, operations, and education requirements.

(3) CLARIFICATION.—Financial assistance under this subsection may be provided to an embarking civil nuclear nation in addition to any financial assistance provided to that embarking civil nuclear nation under subsection (b).

(4) LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of the Inspectors General for the Department of Energy and the Department of Energy shall coordinate—

(1) to establish and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a joint strategy concerning comprehensive oversight of activities authorized under this section to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and

(2) to engage in independent and effective oversight of activities authorized under this section through joint or individual audits, inspections, investigations, or evaluations.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State to carry out the initiative $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

SEC. 1099I. BIENNIAL CABINET-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY, SECURITY, SAFEGUARDS, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, in coordination with international partners, as determined by the Secretary of State, shall hold a biennial conference on nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability referred to in this section as a “conference”.

(b) CONFERENCE FUNCTIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should—

(1) hold in which ally or partner nations may engage with each other for the purpose of reinforcing the commitment to—

(A) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(B) environmental safeguards; and

(C) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites; and

(2) facilitate—

(A) the development of—

(i) joint commitments and goals to improve safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(ii) international institutions that support safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(iii) cooperative financing relationships to promote competitive alternatives to Chinese and Russian financing;

(iv) a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of civil nuclear power plants;

(v) a standardized licensing framework for civil nuclear technologies;

(vi) a strategy to change internal policies of multinational development banks, such as the World Bank, to support the financing of civil nuclear projects;

(vii) a document containing any lessons learned from countries that have partnered with the Russian Federation or the People’s Republic of China with respect to civil nuclear power, including any detrimental outcomes resulting from that partnership; and

(viii) a global civil nuclear liability regime;

(B) cooperation for enhancing the overall aspects of civil nuclear power, such as—

(i) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;

(ii) nuclear laws (including regulations);

(iii) waste management;

(iv) [insert relevant text];

(v) technology transfer;

(vi) human resources development;

(vii) localization;

(viii) reactor operations;

(ix) nuclear liability; and

(x) decommissioning; and

(C) the development and determination of the mechanisms described in paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 1099J(a), if the President intends to establish an Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center as described in that section.

(c) INPUT FROM INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should include in its agenda—

(i) convenes nuclear industry leaders and leaders of government agencies with expertise relating to nuclear safety, security, safeguards, or sustainability to discuss best practices relating to—

(A) the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radioactive materials; and

(B) the role of the nuclear industry should play in planning, building, and operating advanced nuclear reactors, including with respect to the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radioactive materials, including spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

(d) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) lead by a White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed); who shall serve as the White House focal point with respect to matters relating to the working group.

(2) composed of—

(A) senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(B) any senior-level Federal official selected by the White House; or any senior-level Federal official described in paragraph (1) from any Federal agency or organization.

(e) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the National Security Council.

(f) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) provide direction and advice to the officials described in section 1099(a)(2)(A) and appropriate Federal agencies, as determined by the working group, with respect to the establishment of a Strategic Infrastructure Fund (referred to in this subsection as the “Fund”) to be used to—

(A) to support those aspects of projects relating to—

(2) to engage in independent and effective oversight of activities authorized under this section through joint or individual audits, inspections, investigations, or evaluations.

(3) to develop and assemble documents, contracts, and related items required to establish a civil nuclear program; and

(C) to develop a standardized model for the establishment of a civil nuclear program that can be used by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(2) coordinating with countries participating in the Center and with the Nuclear Export Working Group established under section 1099C(b) to—

(A) to identify funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program;

(B) to provide market analysis; and

(C) to create—

(i) project structure models;

(ii) models for electricity market analysis; and

(iii) models for nonelectric applications market analysis;

(iv) financial models; and

(D) identifying and developing the safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability; and

(E) designing, supporting, and implementing national programs and experience; and

(F) designing, supporting, and implementing national programs and experience.

(G) to provide market analysis; and

(H) to support those aspects of projects relating to—

(i) project structure models;

(ii) models for electricity market analysis; and

(iii) financial models; and

SEC. 1099J. ADVANCED REACTOR COORDINATION AND RESOURCE CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Strategic Infrastructure Fund Working Group (hereinafter referred to in this section as the “working group”) to provide input on the feasibility of establishing a program to support strategically important capital-intensive infrastructure projects.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be—

(1) led by a White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), who shall serve as the White House focal point with respect to matters relating to the working group; and

(2) composed of—

(A) senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(B) any senior-level Federal official selected by the White House official described in paragraph (1) from any Federal agency or organization.

(c) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the National Security Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) provide direction and advice to the officials described in section 1099(a)(2)(A) and appropriate Federal agencies, as determined by the working group, with respect to the establishment of a Strategic Infrastructure Fund (referred to in this subsection as the “Fund”) to be used to—

(A) support those aspects of projects relating to—

(2) to coordinate with countries participating in the Center and with the Nuclear Export Working Group established under section 1099C(b) to—

(A) to identify funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program; and

(B) to provide market analysis; and

(C) to create—

(i) project structure models;

(ii) models for electricity market analysis; and

(iii) financial models; and

(D) identifying and developing the safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability; and

(E) designing, supporting, and implementing national programs and experience; and

(F) designing, supporting, and implementing national programs and experience.
(1) civil nuclear technologies; and
(2) microprocessors; and
(B) for strategic investments identified by the working group, and
(2) address critical areas in determining the appropriate design for the Fund, including—
(A) transfer of assets to the Fund;
(B) transfer of assets from the Fund;
(C) how assets in the Fund should be invested; and
(D) governance and implementation of the Fund.
(3) Report required.—(a) In general.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the committee the findings of the working group that includes suggested legislative text for how to establish and structure a Strategic Infrastructure Fund.
(4) Committees described.—The committees referred to in paragraph (1) are—
(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and
(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Budget and Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.
(3) Administration of the Fund.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include suggested legislative language requiring the appropriate design from a Strategic Infrastructure Fund established in accordance with this section to be administered by the Secretary of State (or a designee of the Secretary of the Treasury).
SEC. 1098L. JOINT ASSESSMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA ON NUCLEAR LIABILITY RULES.
(a) In general.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall establish and maintain within the U.S.-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Government of the Republic of India that convenes on a recurring basis—
(1) to assess the implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed at Washington October 10, 2008 (TIAS 08-1206);
(2) to discuss opportunities for the Republic of India to align domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms; and
(3) to develop a strategy for the United States and the Republic of India to pursue bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements related to analyzing and implementing those opportunities.
(b) Report.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the joint assessment developed pursuant to subsection (a).
SEC. 1099M. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.
Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to alter or otherwise affect the interpretation or implementation of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153).

SA 3198. Mr. MACHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7024, 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 for victims of natural disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 108. REDISTRIBUTION—
(a) In general.—Section 34(h)(3) is amended by striking ‘‘$400,000 in the case of a joint return ($200,000 in any other case)’’ and inserting ‘‘$150,000 in the case of a joint return ($75,000 in any other case)’’.
(b) Effective date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022.

SA 3199. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military construction, military facilities, 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 XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2386. LAND CONVEYANCE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERIM LEASE, DEFENSE FUND—SAN PEDRO, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.
(a) Conveyance authorized.—The Secretary may convey to the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) to use such conveyed parcel the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out a conveyance under subsection (a) or an interim lease execution under subsection (b), including costs for environmental and real estate due diligence and any other preparatory costs related to the conveyance or lease execution.
(b) Refund of excess amounts.—If amounts collected from the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out a conveyance under subsection (a) or an interim lease execution under subsection (b) exceed the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out a conveyance under subsection (a) or an interim lease execution under subsection (b), the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate).
(c) Valuation.—The values of the property interests to be conveyed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be determined by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary, in consultation and in accordance with Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.
(d) Conditions of conveyance.—A conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to all existing easements, restrictions, and covenants of record and the following conditions:
(1) The parcels of real property described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (h) shall be used solely for park and recreational activities:
(a) the construction of park and recreational facilities, and
(b) the construction and maintenance of recreational facilities;
(2) the acquisition of additional real property, including any improvements thereon, as set forth in subsection (e).
(e) Consideration.—In-kind consideration provided by the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) under this subsection may include—
(1) the acquisition of additional real property, including any improvements thereon, that the Secretary determines is acceptable, and
(2) any other consideration, including but not limited to, the reimbursement of the costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance described in paragraph (1).
(f) Reversionary interest.—(1) In general.—If the Secretary determines at any time that a parcel of real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance specified in this section, all right, title, and interest in and to the land, including any improvements, thereon, shall at the option of the Secretary, revert to and become the property of the United States,
SA 3200. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7024, 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, and to provide tax incentives for investments in the District of Columbia. The amendment was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

EC 106. ENSURING THAT CHILD TAX CREDIT DOES NOT EXCEED PROJECTED COST.—(a) REDUCTION OF CHILD TAX CREDIT IN CASE OF UNANTICIPATED DEFICIT INCREASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of the first taxable year beginning after any applicable fiscal year for which there is an unanticipated deficit increase, the amount of the credit allowable under section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to such taxable year shall be reduced by an amount equal to the applicable percentage of the amount of the credit otherwise allowable under such section (as determined without regard to this section) with respect to such taxable year.

(2) NONAPPLICATION TO SUBSEQUENT TAXABLE YEARS.—(A) the sum of—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end thereof the following: 

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by inserting ‘‘across public and private sectors,’’ after ‘‘Nation’s progress’’; and

(B) by inserting ‘‘including consideration of public-private collaborations, as appropriate’’ after ‘‘population’’;

(4) UNANTICIPATED DEFICIT INCREASE.—The term ‘‘annual deficit increase’’ means, with respect to any fiscal year, the excess (if any) of—

(A) the sum of—

(i) the absolute value of the amount of the reduction in revenue attributable to section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for such fiscal year, and

(ii) the amount of direct spending attributable to section 24 of such Code for such fiscal year;

(B) the projected child tax credit cost for such fiscal year.

SA 3201. Ms. COLLINS proposed an amendment to the bill S. 133, to extend the National Alzheimer’s Project; as follows:

SEC. 1. EXTENSION OF PROJECT.

Section 2 of the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (42 U.S.C. 11225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ‘‘and coordination of’’ and inserting ‘‘on, and coordination of’’; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

‘‘(A) promotion of healthy aging and mitigation of risk factors for Alzheimer’s’’;

‘‘(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting ‘‘and other underserved populations, including individuals with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome, after ‘‘population’’; and

(ii) by striking ‘‘;’’ and inserting a semicolon;

(D) by redesigning paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

‘‘(6) provide information on, and promote the adoption of, healthy behaviors that may reduce the risk of cognitive decline and promote and protect cognitive health; and’’;

‘‘(7) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) by inserting ‘‘across public and private sectors,’’ after ‘‘Nation’s progress’’; and

(B) by inserting ‘‘including consideration of public-private collaborations, as appropriate’’ after ‘‘population’’;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end thereof the following:

‘‘(xii) A designee of the Department of Justice’’; and

(ii) by inserting ‘‘and coordination of’’ after ‘‘on’’; and

(iii) by striking ‘‘, and coordination of’’ and inserting ‘‘on, and coordination of’’;

‘‘(B) the amount equal to the sum of—

(i) the absolute value of the amount of the reduction in revenue attributable to this title in the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate for H.R. 7024, Tax Relief for America’s Families and Workers Act of 2024, as published January 25, 2024, for such fiscal year, and

(ii) the amount of direct spending attributable to this title in the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate for H.R. 7024, Tax Relief for America’s Families and Workers Act of 2024, as published January 25, 2024, for such fiscal year.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘‘Secretary’’ means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate.
SEC. 1550. SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall acquire, provide, and disseminate data, analytics, information, and services concerning space and encourage the development of commercial space capabilities by acquiring and disseminating unclassified data, analytics, information, and services on space activities.

(b) ACQUISITION OF DATA.—(1) The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall provide access to the public, at no charge, a fully updated, unclassified database of information concerning space objects and behavior, which shall include—

(i) the data and information acquired under subsection (b), except to the extent that such data or information is classified or made otherwise inaccessible by a trade secret under section 1331 of the United States Code; and

(ii) the provision of basic space situational awareness services and space traffic coordination based on the data referred to in paragraph (1), including basic analytics, tracking calculations, and conjunction data messages.

(c) DATABASE ON SATELLITE LOCATION AND BEHAVIOR.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall provide access for the public, at no charge, a fully updated, unclassified database of information concerning space objects and behavior, which shall include—

(1) the data and information acquired under subsection (b), except to the extent that such data or information is classified or made otherwise inaccessible by a trade secret under section 1331 of the United States Code; and

(2) the provision of basic space situational awareness services and space traffic coordination based on the data referred to in paragraph (1), including basic analytics, tracking calculations, and conjunction data messages.

Sec. 1555. Space Situational Awareness and Space Traffic Coordination.
(3) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(6) to perform space situational awareness and space traffic management duties pursuant to the SAPE Orbit Act.’’;

(d) Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(b) Advisory. The Bureau shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce, who shall—

(1) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

(2) report directly to the Secretary of Commerce; and

(3) have a rate of pay that is equal to the rate payable to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 3203. Mr. PADILLA 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. 17. IMPROVING CYBERSECURITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF THE U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.—The term ‘‘U.S. Academic Research Fleet’’ means the United States-flagged vessels that—

(A) have been accepted into, and are active participants within, the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System;

(B) are operated as oceanographic research vessels by research universities and laboratories;

(C) receive funding from the National Science Foundation; and

(D) have scientific instrumentation on board as a member vessel through a standard evaluation process.

(b) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘‘Director’’ means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(c) OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL.—The term ‘‘oceanographic research vessel’’ has the meaning given the term in section 212 of title 46, United States Code.

(d) PLAN TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report in consultation with the Bureau of Space Commerce and the Office of Space Science from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

(2) TRANSITION.—

(A) TRANSITION PLAN.—

(i) an assessment of the telecommunication and networking needs of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, consistent with the typical scientific mission of that vessel;

(ii) the typical research functions and topics of such vessels;

(B) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) any necessary equipment, such as satellite communications equipment, software, high-performance computing clusters, shipboard and shoreside equipment, or personnel;

(ii) estimated personnel costs in excess of current estimates including any necessary training, support, or logistics;

(iii) an assessment of the time required to implement any upgrades required to meet the needs described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) under varying budgets and funding scenarios;

(iv) the adoption of common solutions or consortia among the fleet to centralize elements of fleet cybersecurity, telecommunications or data management at a single facility; and

(v) in consultation with any non-Federal owners of a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, a spending plan for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, non-Federal owners of vessels of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, users of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, or any combination thereof, to provide funding to cover the costs described in subparagraph (C).

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Director shall, in preparing the plan required by paragraph (1), consider—

(A) the network capabilities, including speed and bandwidth targets, necessary to meet the scientific mission needs of each class of vessel within the U.S. Academic Research Fleet for such purposes as—

(i) executing the critical functions and communications of the vessel;

(ii) providing network access for the health and well-being of deployed personnel, including communications to conduct telemedicine (including mental health care), counseling, interviews with crisis response providers, and other remote individual care and services;

(iii) as necessary to meet operations, uploading any scientific data to a shoreside server, including the copying of data off ship for disaster recovery or risk mitigation purposes;

(iv) as appropriate, conducting real-time streaming to enable shore-based observers to participate in ship-based maintenance or research activities;

(v) real-time coordinated viewing of—

(I) scientific instrumentation so that it is possible to conduct scientific surveys and seafloor mapping with fully remote subject-matter experts; and

(II) critical operational technology by manufacturers and vendors so that it is possible to provide repairs to systems with limited expertise on the vessel, with fully remote subject-matter experts advising; and

(vi) appropriate, enabling video communications to allow improved outreach to, and other educational services for, k-12 students, including occasional remote classroom teaching for instructors at sea to improve oceanographic access for students; and

(B) in consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Standards and Technology, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate—

(i) the cybersecurity recommendations in the report of the private scientific advisory group known as JASON entitled ‘‘Cybersecurity at NSF Major Facilities’’ (JSR-21-10E) and dated October 2021 as applied to the U.S. Academic Research Fleet;

(ii) aligning with international standards and guidance for information security, including the use of encryption for sensitive information, the detection and handling of security incidents, and other areas determined relevant by the Director;

(iii) facilitating access to cybersecurity personnel and training of research and support personnel; and

(iv) the requirements for controlled unclassified or classified information.

SA 3204. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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:

DIVISION I—NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM REALIZATION

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ‘‘National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2024’’.
SEC. 02. MODIFICATION OF FINDINGS.

Section 2 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “50 States, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,” and inserting “States and Tribal jurisdictions”;

(B) by striking “of them” and inserting “State”;

and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “Almost half of the United States population resides in areas that are at risk or experiencing earthquake during the 50-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2024:”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “A 2023 report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Geological Survey (FEMA P-366) estimates the annualized earthquake losses to the national building stock is $14,700,000,000 per year and the total economic exposure to earthquake losses (buildings and contents) across the nation is $107,300,000,000,” and

(B) by adding at the end the following—

(ii) by striking “and is” and inserting “and construction and inserting “; construction, evaluation, and retrofitting”;

(ii) by striking “and (E)” and inserting the following: “(E) inventoried buildings and infrastructure with high seismic risk, especially those that are critical to community resilience, (F) programs that require or incentivize replacement or retrofit of existing buildings and infrastructure with high seismic risk, including those that are critical to community resilience, and (G)”;

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Tribal,” after “local;”;

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “could provide” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “is necessary to provide the scientific understanding needed to improve and expand the earthquake early warning system:”;

(5) in paragraph (8), by striking “cave-ins” and inserting “collapses;”

(6) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “and local” and inserting “local, and Tribal governments;” and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “transfer knowledge and information to” and inserting “exchange knowledge and information between;” and

(C) in the third sentence, by striking “specifications, criteria and inserting “guidelines, codes, standards;”

(7) in paragraph (12)—

(A) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking “When earthquakes occur, the built environment is generally and inserting “Relatively newer buildings and infrastructure have generally been”;

(ii) by striking “and is” and inserting “when earthquakes occur, but most are”;

and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “In addition, buildings and infrastructure built to older codes and standards may pose significant risk of injury, loss of life, or irreparable damage, and the report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 8(b), as amended by section 5 of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 1997 (Pub. L. 105–109) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (FEMA P2000/NST SP-1254) provides recommendations for improving post-earthquake functional recovery time of the built environment to support community resilience goals and many of these recommendations still need to be implemented;” and

(B in paragraph (13)—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting “in 2011” after “a tsunami vulnerability” after “liquefaction susceptibility;” and

(B) in the second sentence, by inserting “(2011 dollars)” after “$300,000,000;” and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “The public interest in reducing known risks is not included in such valuation.”;

SEC. 03. MODIFICATION OF PURPOSE.

Section 3 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7702) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “and local” and inserting “local, and Tribal government;” and

(B) by striking “locations and structures” and inserting “buildings and infrastructure;”

in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “and construction” and inserting “; construction, evaluation, and retrofitting;” and

(B) by inserting “housing and care facilities for vulnerable populations,” after “occupancy buildings;” and

in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “and local” and inserting “local, and Tribal government;” and

(B) by striking “encourage consideration of” and inserting “incorporate”;

SEC. 04. MODIFICATIONS.

Section 4 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7703) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “including secondary effects such as earthquake-caused tsunamis;” and

(2) by adding at the end the following—

(ii) The term ‘tribal government’ means any Indian tribe, the term ‘tribal government’ as used in section 406 of the Indian素晴らしい Health Act (42 U.S.C. 701), the term ‘tribal organization’ as used in section 609 of the Indian Tribal Self-Governance Act (25 U.S.C. 460hh), and the term ‘tribal governing body’ as used in section 609 of the Indian Tribal Self-Governance Act (25 U.S.C. 460hh)."

SEC. 05. IMPROVEMENTS TO NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION ACT.

(a) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Subsection (a)(2) of section 5 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7704) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter before clause (i)—

(i) by striking “and local” and inserting “local, and Tribal governments;” and

(ii) by striking “and constructing” and inserting “; designing, constructing, evaluating, and retrofitting;”

(B) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

“(ii) development of standards, guidelines, and voluntary standards, guidelines, and consensus codes for earthquake hazards reduction for buildings, structures, and life infrastructure, including post-earthquake recovery-based performance objectives that address reoccupancy and downtime of community-prioritized buildings, structures, and services provided by lifeline infrastructure;”

(C) in clause (iii), by striking “and hazards reduction;” and

(D) in clause (iv)—

(i) by inserting “and maintaining” after “publishing;”

(ii) by inserting “in coordination with the National Tsunami Hazards Mitigation Program;”

and

(iii) by striking “and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end the following: “subject to the availability of funds, development of best practices and guidelines to create an inventory of and conduct seismic performance evaluations of buildings, structures, and lifeline infrastructure with high seismic risk, especially those that are critical to community resilience;”

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“subject to the availability of funds, the provision of technical assistance upon request by a State, local, or Tribal government regarding—

“I the creation of an inventory of buildings, structures, and lifeline infrastructure;”

“II the performance of seismic performance evaluations; and

“III cost-effective best practices for retrofitting existing buildings, structures, and lifeline infrastructure;”

and

“subject to the availability of funds, the provision of technical assistance upon request by a State, local, or Tribal government regarding—

“I the creation of an inventory of buildings, structures, and lifeline infrastructure;”

“II the performance of seismic performance evaluations; and

“III cost-effective best practices for retrofitting existing buildings, structures, and lifeline infrastructure;”

and

(3) by redesigning subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) improve the understanding of—

“(i) the multiple hazards associated with earthquakes, including tsunamis, landslides, structural fires, and the compound effects of climate on these hazards;”

and

“(ii) potential mitigation measures for such hazards;”

(b) DUTIES OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION.—Subsection (a)(3)(D)(ii) of such section is amended—

(1) in subclause (V), by inserting “and associated secondary hazards” before the period at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(VII) Coordinating with the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission on the timing of broadcasting of emergency alerts generated by the earthquake early warning system;”

(c) BIPARTISAN REPORT.—Subsection (a)(4)(A) of such section is amended by striking “under paragraph (3)(D)(I)” each place it appears and inserting “under paragraph (3)(D)(II)”;

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Subsection (a)(5)(A) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting “the Chair of the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee and” after “including;”

(2) by striking “and local government” and inserting “; local, and Tribal governments;” and

(3) by inserting “social,” after “scientific.”

(e) LEAD AGENCY FOR RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.—Subsection (b)(1) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “and local” and inserting “local, and Tribal governments;” and

(2) by redesigning subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) improve the understanding of earthquake-caused fires and support the development of engineering tools and construction methods that mitigate the risk of fire following earthquakes;”

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“(D) develop, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, best practices and guidelines for a State, local, or Tribal government to create an inventory of buildings, structures, or lifeline infrastructure that are critical to community resilience or otherwise have high seismic risk;”

“(E) coordinate with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, technical assistance to a State, local, or Tribal government requesting such assistance with respect to the creation of an inventory of buildings, structures, or lifeline infrastructure;”

(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—Subsection (b)(2) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by inserting “and Tribal governments” after “States”;

(ii) by inserting “and performance evaluations” after “safety inspections”;

(iii) by inserting “appropriate audiences” after “including Tribal governments, of”;

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “including Tribal entities,” after “appropriate audiences”;

(C) in clause (iii)—

(i) by striking “of seismic resistant” and inserting “that enhance seismic safety,” after “including Tribal governments,” and

(ii) by inserting “that enhance seismic safety, improve post-earthquake functional recovery, and reduce losses from earthquakes” after “and lifeline infrastructure”; (D) in clause (iv)—

(i) by striking “and local” and inserting “local, and Tribal”; and

(ii) by striking “and” and inserting a semicolon;

(E) by redesigning clause (v) as clause (vi), and

(F) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

“(v) shall provide technical assistance to State, local, or Tribal governmental entities in the creation of evacuation plans in the event of an earthquake, landslide, tsunami, or other earthquake-related hazard; and”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting “AND TRIBAL” after “STATE”;

(B) in clause (i), by inserting “or Tribal government” after “State”;

(C) in clause (i), by striking “safety and” inserting “safety, community resilience, or public awareness”; (g) RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Subsection (b)(3) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (b), by striking “and Tribal” after “STATE”;

(2) in subparagraph (c), before clause (1), by inserting “or Tribal government after “State”; and

(C) in clause (i), by striking “safety and” inserting “safety, community resilience, or public awareness”;

(h) RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—Subsection (b)(4)(A) of such section is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by inserting “updated evacuation and liquefaction risk maps;” and

(2) in clause (vii), by striking “Historically Black Colleges and Universities and those serving large proportions of Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, and other underrepresented populations” and inserting “institutions described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067(a))”.

SEC. 06. SEISMIC PERFORMANCE PROPERTY STANDARDS.—Section 947 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 7670a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “safety both places it appears and inserting “performance and;”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “shake-related property damage” and inserting “seismic-related property damage”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each Program agency, as part of their Program responsibilities, shall execute research, projects, grants, and other activities that support, promote, advance, or otherwise implement the recommendations in the report submitted by subsection (b) to improve the performance of the built environment in terms of post-earthquake reoccupancy and functional recovery time.”

SEC. 07. SEISMIC STANDARDS.—Section 8 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7705b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “under paragraph (1)” and inserting “under subsection (a)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each Program agency, as part of their Program responsibilities, shall execute research, projects, grants, and other activities that support, promote, advance, or otherwise implement the recommendations in the report submitted by subsection (b) to improve the performance of the built environment in terms of post-earthquake reoccupancy and functional recovery time.”

(d) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—(1) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—No later than September 30, 2025, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, each Program agency shall submit to the Interagency Coordinating Committee a report on activities and progress made to support, promote, or otherwise implement the recommendations included in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

(2) INCLUSION IN BIENNIAL REPORTS OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—The Interagency Coordinating Committee shall include the information received under paragraph (1) in each biennial report submitted under section 5(a)(4), including consideration of a prioritized work plan to coordinate activities among the Program agencies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fully implement the recommendations described in paragraph (1).”

SEC. 08. IMPROVEMENTS TO POST-EARTHQUAKE INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM. Section 11 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706b) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting “domestic and international” after “investigate major”; and

(2) in the fifth sentence, by inserting “Federal Emergency Management” after “Agency”.

SEC. 09. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. (a) GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(8) of section 12 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7706) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (1), by striking “,” and inserting a comma; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) $10,590,000 for fiscal year 2024;

(L) $10,590,000 for fiscal year 2025;

(M) $10,590,000 for fiscal year 2026;

(N) $10,590,000 for fiscal year 2027;

(O) $10,590,000 for fiscal year 2028.”

(b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—Subsection (b)(2) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “,” and inserting a comma;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(O) $100,900,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which not less than $36,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic System established under section 13;

(L) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, of which not less than $36,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic System established under section 13;

(M) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, of which not less than $36,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic System established under section 13;

(N) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2027, of which not less than $36,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic System established under section 13;

(O) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2028, of which not less than $36,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic System established under section 13;

(2) by striking “$100,900,000” and inserting “$58,000,000”;

(3) by adding after “$100,900,000” the following:

“(Q) $58,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

(R) $58,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

(S) $58,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

(T) $58,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;”

(c) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—Subsection (c)(2) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “,” and inserting a comma;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(O) $100,900,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which not less than $36,000,000 shall be made available for completion of the Advanced National Seismic System established under section 13;”

(2) in clause (vii), by striking “Historically Black Colleges and Universities” and inserting “institutions described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067(a));”.
"(K) $5,900,000 for fiscal year 2024.
"(L) $5,900,000 for fiscal year 2025.
"(M) $5,900,000 for fiscal year 2026.
"(N) $5,900,000 for fiscal year 2027, and
"(O) $5,900,000 for fiscal year 2028."

SA 3205. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, to authorize appropriations for the 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:

Strike section 121 and insert the following:

**SEC. 121. INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE.**

(a) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR USE OF UNITED STATES INVENTORY AND INVENTORY FROM OTHER SOURCES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may, on a grant or lease basis not to exceed $500,000,000 in any fiscal year, make available to the foreign military and national security forces and ministries of defense (or security agencies serving a similar defense function) of foreign partners, and to regional organizations with security missions, defense articles to replenish comparable stocks that such forces or such institutions have provided to other foreign military or national security forces or ministries of defense (or security agencies serving a similar defense function) of foreign partners in the Indo-Pacific region, or to regional organizations with security missions in the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW.**—The provision of defense articles under this section shall be subject to the requirements of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), including sections 3 and 36 of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2753, 2776).

(b) **TERMINATION.**—The authority provided by this section shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

SA 3206. 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 appropriate place, insert the following:

**DIVISION F—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**SEC. 9001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This division may be cited as the “Division of State Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this division is as follows:

**DIVISION F—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

Sec. 9001. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 9002. Definitions.

**TITLE I—WORKFORCE MATTERS**

Sec. 9101. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Rogers Act; creation of the Department of State.

Sec. 9102. Workforce modernization efforts.

Sec. 9103. Training float of the Department of State for Civil and Foreign Service personnel.

Sec. 9104. Competitive local compensation plan.

Sec. 9105. Language incentive pay for civil service employees.

Sec. 9106. Strategy for targeted recruitment of civil servants.

Sec. 9107. Electronic medical records.

Sec. 9108. Options for comprehensive evaluation.

Sec. 9109. Portability of professional licenses.

Sec. 9110. Expanding opportunities for Department for Foreign Student Internship program.

Sec. 9111. Career intern program adjustment to enhance retention.

Sec. 9112. Professional counseling services.

Sec. 9113. Assignment process modernization.

Sec. 9114. Report on modifying consular tour and first tours requirements.

Sec. 9115. Comprehensive policy on vetting and transparency.

Sec. 9116. Authority to provide or reimburse for certain security services.

**TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**

Sec. 9201. State-of-the-art building facilities.

Sec. 9202. Presence of chiefs of mission at diplomatic posts.


Sec. 9204. Special Envoy for Sudan.

Sec. 9205. Special Envoy for Belarus.


Sec. 9207. Authority to establish Negotiations Support Unit within Department of State.

Sec. 9208. Restrictions on the use of funds for solar panels.

Sec. 9209. Responsibility to Congress for Research Service inquiries.

Sec. 9210. Mission in a box.


Sec. 9212. Personnel reporting.

Sec. 9213. Support co-location with allied partner nations.

Sec. 9214. Strengthen qualification of construction contract bidders.

**TITLE III—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY**

Sec. 9301. Supporting Department of State initiatives.

Sec. 9302. Realigning the Regional Technology Officer Program.

Sec. 9303. Measures to protect Department devices from the proliferation and use of foreign commercial software.

Sec. 9304. Report on cloud computing in Bureau of Consular Affairs.

Sec. 9305. Information technology pilot projects.

Sec. 9306. Leveraging approved technology for administrative efficiencies.

Sec. 9307. Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology.

**TITLE IV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY**

Sec. 9401. Africa broadcasting networks.

Sec. 9402. United States Agency for Global Media.

Sec. 9403. Extension of authorizations to support United States participation in international fairs and expos.

Sec. 9404. Research and scholar exchange partnerships.


**TITLE V—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY**

Sec. 9501. Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act requirements.

Sec. 9502. Congressional notification for Serious Security Incidents.

Sec. 9503. Notifications regarding security decisions at diplomatic posts.

Sec. 9504. Security clearance suspension pay flexibilities.

Sec. 9505. Modification to notification requirement for security clearance suspensions and revocations.

**TITLE VI—UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Sec. 9601. Personal services agreement authority for the United States Agency for International Development.

Sec. 9602. Crisis operations and disaster surge staffing.

Sec. 9603. Education allowance while on military leave.

Sec. 9604. Inclusion in the pet transportation exception to the Fly America Act.

**TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS**

Sec. 9701. Authorization of appropriations to promote United States citizen employment at the United Nations and international organizations.

Sec. 9702. Amendment to Rewards for Justice program.

Sec. 9703. Passport automation modernization.

Sec. 9704. Extension of certain payment in connection with the International Space Station.

Sec. 9705. Support for congressional delegations.

Sec. 9706. Electronic communication with visa applicants.

Sec. 9707. Electronic transmission of visa information.

Sec. 9708. Inclusion of cost associated with producing reports.

Sec. 9709. Extensions.

**SEC. 9002. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.
S5612

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE  
July 30, 2024

SEC. 9101. COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROGERS ACT; CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Congress recognizes and honors those who have served, or are presently serving, in the diplomatic corps of the United States, in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Act enacting the Rogers Act of 1924, which on May 24, 1924, established what has come to be known as the Foreign Service. Today, the Department of State includes more than 13,000 Foreign Service personnel working alongside more than 11,000 civil service personnel and 45,000 locally engaged staff at more than 270 embassies and consulates.

SEC. 9102. WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION EFFORTS.

The Secretary should prioritize efforts to further modernize the Department, including:

(1) making workforce investments, including increasing wages for locally employed staff and providing other non-cash benefits, and having up to 100 new members of the Foreign Service above projected attrition to reduce overseas vacancies and mid-level staffing gaps;

(2) existing authorities that allow the Department to acquire and open new embassy compounds quicker and at significantly less cost to get diplomats on the front lines of strategic competition; and

(3) modernizing legacy systems and human resource processes.

SEC. 9103. TRAINING FLOAT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR CIVIL AND FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the reasons for the reduction of 10 percent in the number of Foreign Service personnel in the Department, and any additional resources and authorities needed to maintain a training float of personnel in the Department.

(b) MONITORING.—For any established training float, not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the reasons for the reduction of 10 percent in the number of Foreign Service personnel in the Department, and any additional resources and authorities needed to maintain a training float of personnel in the Department.

SEC. 9104. COMPETITIVE LOCAL COMPENSATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the effectiveness and stability of United States diplomatic missions are linked to the dedication and expertise of locally employed staff; and

(2) ensuring competitive compensation packages benchmarked against the local market is essential not only to retain valuable talent but also to reflect a commitment to employment opportunities.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated $47,500,000 for fiscal year 2025 to support implementation of the prevailing wage rate goal for Local Compensation Plan positions at the 75th percentile.

SEC. 9105. LANGUAGE INCENTIVE PAY FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

The Secretary and Administrator may provide special monetary incentives to acquire or retain proficiency in foreign languages to fill critical positions in the Department of the United States or any other diplomatic mission, as necessary, particularly as the Department opens new embassies and consulates.

SEC. 9106. STRATEGY FOR TARGETED RECRUITMENT OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a targeted strategy for filling gaps, including increasing wages for locally employed personnel and providing other non-cash benefits, to members of the Foreign Service under the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4024(b)(3)).

SEC. 9107. ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Foreign Service personnel at the Department serve with distinction in austere places and under challenging conditions around the world with limited healthcare availability;

(2) the use of paper medical records, which require Foreign Service personnel to carry files containing protected health information from post to post, limits the availability of their health information to Department medical personnel during critical health threats;

(3) electronic medical records are necessary, particularly as the Department opens new embassies in the South Pacific, thousand of miles from a medical officer, who may not have access to up-to-date personnel medical files;

(4) the lack of electronic medical records is even more pronounced for mental health records, as the Department only has a small number of regional medical officer psychiatrists and relies heavily on telehealth for most Foreign Service personnel; and

(5) due to the critical need for electronic medical records, it is imperative that the Department address the situation quickly and provide a global baseline for implementation of large-scale projects of this type.

(b) ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS REQUIREMENT.—Not later than December 31, 2027, the Secretary shall have fully implemented an electronic medical records system for all Foreign Service personnel and their eligible family members that is considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applicable for in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applicable for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such an assignment or detail if such member of the Foreign Service has a covered license; and

(c) PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 908 (22 U.S.C. 4088) the following new section:

SEC. 909. PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which a member of the Foreign Service or spouse of a member of the Foreign Service has a covered license and such member of the Foreign Service or spouse relocates his or her residency due to an assignment or detail to a post in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applicable for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such an assignment or detail if such member of the Foreign Service.

(b) ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS REQUIREMENT.—Not later than December 31, 2027, the Secretary shall have fully implemented an electronic medical records system for all Foreign Service personnel and their eligible family members that is considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applicable for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such an assignment or detail if such member of the Foreign Service.

(c) PORTABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which a member of the Foreign Service or spouse of a member of the Foreign Service has a covered license and such member of the Foreign Service or spouse relocates his or her residency due to an assignment or detail to a post in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applicable for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such an assignment or detail if such member of the Foreign Service.

(1) provides a copy of the member’s notification of assignment to the licensing authority in the jurisdiction in which the new residency is located.

(2) remains in good standing with—

(A) the licensing authority that issued the covered license; and

(B) other licensing authorities that have issued to the member of the Foreign Service or spouse a license valid at a similar...
scope of practice and in the discipline applied in the jurisdiction of such licensing authority; and (3) submits to the authority of the licensing state or jurisdiction for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.

(b) INTERSTATE LICENSE COMPACTS.—If a member of the Foreign Service is licensed and able to operate in multiple jurisdictions through a compact, the member may elect to participate in the Program and shall be subject to the requirements of the compact or the applicable provisions of law of the applicable State and not this section.

(c) COVERED LICENSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered license’ means a professional license or certificate—

(1) that is in good standing with the licensing authority that issued such professional license or certificate;

(2) that the member of the Foreign Service has actively used during the two years immediately preceding the relocation described in subsection (a); and

(3) that entitles the holder to practice law.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 908 the following new item:

“Sec. 909. Portability of professional licenses.”

SEC. 9110. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEPARTMENT-PAID STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) In General.—Section 9201 of the Department-PAID Internship Program Act of 2022 (22 U.S.C. 7373) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by inserting “or have graduated from such an institution within the six months preceding application to the Program” after “paragraph (1)”;

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting “and gives preference to individuals who have not participated in Department internships with the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development after “career in foreign affairs”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following subsection:

“(k) WORK HOURS FLEXIBILITY.—Students participating in the Program may work fewer than 40 hours per week and a minimum of 24 hours per week to accommodate their academic schedules, provided that the total duration of the internship remains consistent with program requirements.”

(1) MENTORSHP PROGRAM.—The Secretary and Administrator are authorized to establish a mentoring and coaching program that pairs members of the Foreign Service or Civil Service employees with interns who choose to participate throughout the duration of their internship.

SEC. 9111. CAREER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT TO ENHANCE RETENTION.

(a) AUTHORITY TO EXTEND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE.—The Secretary and Administrator are authorized to offer employees the option of extending Federal Employee Health Benefit coverage during pre-approved leave without pay for up to 3 years.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREMIUM PAYMENTS.—If an employee elects to continue coverage, the employee shall be responsible for 100 percent of the premium (employee share and government share) during such longer period.

SEC. 9112. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SERVICES.

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall seek to increase the number of professional counselors, including licensed clinical social workers, providing services for employees and family members. Positions may be filled under Limited Non-Career Appointment terms.

(b) EMPLOYMENT LIMITS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall seek to employ no fewer than 4 additional professional counselors, including clinical social workers, in the Bureau of Medical Services to work out of regional medical centers abroad.

SEC. 9113. ASSIGNMENT PROCESS MODERNIZATION.

(a) In General.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall modernize the Foreign Service bidding process, and specifically implement the following elements:

(1) A stable-pair matching, preference-ranking system for non-directed Foreign Service employees and hiring bureaus, allowing for a more strategic alignment of workforces and resources.

(2) Incorporation of lessons learned from the previous stable-pair matching bidding pilot framework referred to as “Match”, but applied more expansively to include non-directed assignments with FS-01 positions, taking advantage of efficiency benefits such as tandem assignment functionalities.

(3) Mechanisms to ensure transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and flexibility in the assignment process, while maintaining equal opportunities for all officers.

(b) Independent audit process to ensure adherence to established rules, effectiveness in meeting the Department’s needs, and prevention of bias or manipulation, including through the use of protected categories in making assignment decisions.

(c) Consideration of certain promotion issues.—In parallel with assignment process modernization efforts, the Secretary shall—

(1) assess whether any point systems tied to promotion incentives should consider service in hard-to-fill or critical positions; and

(2) assess whether the practice of dividing the assignment process into winter and summer cycles is as efficient compared to stable matching processes.

(d) Reporting and Oversight.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the assignment process under this section, including—

(1) data on matching in filling critical or priority positions, officer and hiring office satisfaction, and the impact on tandom placements;

(2) recommendations for further modifications to the bidding process;

(3) an overview of the strategy used to communicate any changes to the workforce; and

(4) results of analysis into additional transparency efforts, including those described in subsection (a)(3).

(e) An annual report describing the results of analysis into additional transparency efforts, including those described in subsection (a)(3).

SEC. 9114. REPORTING MODIFYING CONSULAR TOUR AND FIRST TOUR REQUIREMENTS.

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that evaluates the results of implementing—

(1) reducing, removing, and adding flexibility to the directed consular tours requiring participation and robust data sets.

(b) PER DIEM ALLOWANCE FOR NEWLY HIRED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.

(a) PER DIEM ALLOWANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any newly hired Foreign Service employee who is in initial orientation training, or any other training expected to
last less than 6 months in the Washington, D.C. area before transferring to the employee's first assignment overseas or domestically outside the Washington, D.C. area shall, unless the Department determines, based on an analysis of such training, receive a per diem allowance at the levels prescribed under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) SUBCHAPTER III EXPENSES.—A newly hired Foreign Service employee may not receive any lodging expenses under the applicable per diem allowance pursuant to paragraph (1) of such training.

(a) GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary of State shall—
(A) maintain a permanent residence in the Washington, D.C., area (not including government-supplied housing during such orientation training); and
(B) does not vacate such residence during such orientation training or other training.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
(1) the term "per diem allowance" has the meaning given such term in section 5701 of title 5, United States Code; and
(2) the term "Washington, D.C., area" means the area within a 50-mile radius of the Washington Monument.

SEC. 9118. TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL OR MOBILITY ALLOWANCE DURING TRAINING PERIOD.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department and USAID shall—

(1) issue and maintain guidance on how to apply for job sharing arrangements, a database of job share opportunities, into employee job share and part-time employment opportunities, into employee workplace flexibility training, including the availability of job share and part-time employment opportunities, into employee onboarding and every level of supervisory training.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of section 40118 of title 49, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Fly America Act") on Department travelers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the extent to which the Fly America Act—
(1) disproportionately impacts Department personnel;
(2) impacts travelers, including their ability to find suitable flights and the ability to complete their travel in a timely and effective manner;
(3) increase or decreases costs to the United States Government;
(4) produces overly burdensome restrictions in times of urgent travel such as Emergency Visitation (Travel and Ordered/Authorized Departure; and
(5) a description of other relevant issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9121. QUARTERLY REPORT ON GLOBAL FOOTPRINT.

(a) GENERAL.—(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the global footprint of the Department, including the following:

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include, for each diplomatic post—

(1) the number and type of Department employees assigned to the post; and
(2) the number of allocated positions that remain unfilled.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in classified form.

SEC. 9122. REPORT ON FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PROVIDING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

(a) GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report that identifies former United States Government senior officials who have been approved by the Secretary to advise foreign governments.

(b) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 9123. JOB SHARE AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT DURING TRAINING PERIOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and publish a Department policy on job share and part-time employment opportunities. The policy shall include a template for job sharing arrangements, a database of job share and part-time employment opportunities, and a point of contact in the Bureau of Global Talent Management.

(b) WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY TRAINING.—The Secretary shall incorporate training on workplace flexibility, including the availability of job share and part-time employment arrangements, into employee onboarding and every level of supervisory training.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of section 40118 of title 49, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Fly America Act") on Department travelers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of the extent to which the Fly America Act—
(1) disproportionately impacts Department personnel;
(2) impacts travelers, including their ability to find suitable flights and the ability to complete their travel in a timely and effective manner;
(3) increases or decreases costs to the United States Government;
(4) produces overly burdensome restrictions in times of urgent travel such as Emergency Visitation (Travel and Ordered/Authorized Departure; and
(5) a description of other relevant issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9124. EXPANSION OF SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN MONTHLY WORKERS’ COMPENSATION PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS FOR PERSONNEL UNDER CHIEF OF MISSION AUTHORITY.

SEC. 9125. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE OR REIMBURSE FOR CERTAIN SECURITY SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to provide or reimburse for appropriate security services to mitigate risks to certain employees or members of their households resulting from or related to the employee’s official duties or affiliation with the Department or USAID. These security equipment or services may include security cameras and services to de-prioritize or remove internet search results revealing personally identifiable information.

(b) REQUIRED POLICY.—Prior to providing or reimbursing services pursuant to subsection (a), the Department shall establish a policy that—

(1) outlines the requirements for qualifying for provision or reimbursement of services;
(2) identifies the office responsible for vetting requests for provision or reimbursement of services;

(c) PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall not collect personally identifiable information on any United States citizens while undertaking the activities described in subsection (a) unless such data is authorized by a court as part of a criminal investigation.

TITLE II—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

SEC. 9201. STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING FACILITIES.

The Secretary shall use existing waiver authorities to expedite upgrades and critical maintenance for the Harry S. Truman Federal Building, with the goal of having at least 85 percent of construction and upgrades completed by December 31, 2027.

SEC. 9202. PRESENCE OF CHIEFS OF MISSION AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ARRIVAL AT DIPLOMATIC POST WITHIN 60 DAYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that to be eligible for payment of travel expenses for initial arrival at the assigned post, a chief of mission must arrive at the post not later than 60 days after the date on which the chief of mission was confirmed by the Senate.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The restriction under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a chief of mission who arrives later than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate if the delay was caused by one or more of the following:

(A) A natural disaster, global health emergency, or other naturally occurring event that prevented the chief of mission from entering the country of the assigned post.

(B) A delay in travel due to the control of the chief of mission or the Department.

(C) A delay in the control of the host country to accept diplomatic accreditation.

(D) Family or medical emergency.

(E) Extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the chief of mission.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) upon a determination that extenuating circumstances warrant such a waiver upon submission of a brief description of the determination to the appropriate congressional committees.

(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and, in each case that a chief of mission arrives at an assigned post more than 60 days after confirmation, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report identifying any chief of mission who arrived at the assigned post...
more than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate, and includes a description of the jus-
tification.
(b) NOTIFICATIONS.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, for 5 years, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of any chief of mission who has permanently departed the designated post within 90 days of the departure.

SEC. 9203. PERIODIC INSPECTOR GENERAL RE-
VIEWS OF CHIEFS OF MISSION.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, and for a 3-year period thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of State shall conduct management reviews of chiefs of mission and other principal officials assigned overseas during inspection visits, when those officers have been at post more than 180 days.
(b) DISPOSITION.—Reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall be provided to the rating officer for formal discussion as part of the performance evaluation process. The management review shall remain in the employee’s personnel file unless otherwise required by law. The subject of a review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall have the opportunity to respond to and comment on the review, and the response shall be included in the employee’s file for promotion panel review.
(c) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT IN CASE OF SERIOUS MANAGEMENT CONCERNS.—The Inspector General of the Department of State shall notify the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and the appropriate congressional committees within 30 days of any review in which serious management concerns are raised and substantiated, and which is not otherwise submitted as part of the periodic inspection or report.

SEC. 9204. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN.
(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall, with the consent of the Senate, appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan at the Department of State (in this section referred to as the “Special Envoy”). The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary and should not hold another position in the Department while holding the position of Special Envoy.
(b) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall—
(1) serve as the United States diplomatic operative, in the absence of a chief of mission, to support negotiations and humanitarian response efforts related to alleviating the crisis in Sudan;
(2) be responsible for coordinating policy development and execution related to ending the conflict and a future path to national recovery and democratic transition in Sudan across the spectrum of Government to maintain a permanent institutional hub for technical expertise, strategic advice, and knowledge management in negotiations, mediation, and peace processes in order to prioritize and invest in diplomacy;
(3) the United States plays a role in enabling and supporting peace processes and complex political negotiations, the success of which is essential to stability and democracy around the world;
(4) the meaningful engagement of conflict-affected communities, particularly women, youth, and other impacted populations, is vital to durable, implementable, and sustainable peace;
(5) such skills should continue to be employed as the United States Government advises and contributes to peace processes, in classes where the United States plays a supporting role or is led by multilateral and international partners; and
(6) training programs for United States diplomats should draw on the expertise that United States lessons learned to help equip diplomats with skills to respond to peace processes and complex political negotiations, and how to respond.
(b) DISPOSITION OF DOCUMENTS, ARTIFACTS, AND OTHER ARTICLES.—
(1) PROPERTY.—All historic documents, artifacts, or other articles acquired by the Department of State for the permanent museum; and
(2) SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.—The Secretary of State shall be authorized to sell, trade, or transfer such article to the United States Government to be sold, transferred, or used in accordance with this subsection.

SEC. 9205. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR BELARUS.
Section 1 of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2023 (division F of Public Law 118–31; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 9206. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN DI-
PLOMACY.
Title I of the State Department Basic Authorizations Act of 1966 is amended by adding after section 64 (22 U.S.C. 2735a) the following:

SEC. 65. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN DI-
PLOMACY.
(a) ACTIVITIES.—
(1) SUPPORT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is authorized to provide, by contract, grant, or otherwise, for the performance of appropriate museum visitor and educational outreach services and related events, including—
(A) organizing programs and conference activities;
(B) creating, designing, and installing exhibits; and
(C) conducting museum shop services and food services in the public exhibition and related physical and virtual space utilized by the National Museum of American Diplomacy.
(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—The Secretary of State is authorized to retain the proceeds obtained from customary and appropriate fees charged for the use of facilities, including venue rental for events consistent with the activities described in subsection (a)(1) and museum shop services and food services at the National Museum of American Diplomacy.
(b) DISPOSITION OF DOCUMENTS, ARTIFACTS, AND OTHER ARTICLES.—
(1) PROPERTY.—All historic documents, artifacts, or other articles acquired by the Department of State for the permanent museum shall be subject to disposition in accordance with the National Museum of American Diplomacy as set forth in the collections management policy of the Museum;
(2) SALE, TRADE, OR TRANSFER.—The Secretary of State shall be authorized to sell, trade, or transfer such article to the United States Government for the permanent museum; and
(3) the sale, trade, or transfer of the document, artifact, or other article would be in the best interests of the United States.

SEC. 9207. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH NEGOTA-
TIIONS SUPPORT UNIT WITHIN DE-
PARTMENT OF STATE.
(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—
(1) there is a need for the United States Government to maintain an institutional hub for technical expertise, strategic advice, and knowledge management in negotiations, mediation, and peace processes in order to prioritize and invest in diplomacy;
(2) the United States plays a role in enabling and supporting peace processes and complex political negotiations, the success of which is essential to stability and democracy around the world;
(3) the meaningful engagement of conflict-affected communities, particularly women, youth, and other impacted populations, is vital to durable, implementable, and sustainable peace;
(4) negotiation requires a specific technical and functional skillset, and thus institutional expertise in this practice area should include trained practitioners and subject matter experts;
(5) such skills should continue to be employed as the United States Government advises and contributes to peace processes, in classes where the United States plays a supporting role or is led by multilateral and international partners; and
(6) training programs for United States diplomats should draw on the expertise that United States lessons learned to help equip diplomats with skills to respond to peace processes and complex political negotiations, and how to respond.
(b) NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT.—Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act (22 U.S.C. 2735) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

Sec. 1. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH NEGOCIA-
TIONS SUPPORT UNIT WITHIN DE-
PARTMENT OF STATE.
(1) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH.—The Secretary of State may establish within the Department of State a unit to be known as the ‘‘Negotiations Support Unit’’ for carrying out the functions described in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this section.
(2) Functions.—The functions described in this paragraph are the following:

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more than 60 days after confirmation by the Senate, and includes a description of the jus-
tification.
(b) NOTIFICATIONS.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, for 5 years, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of any chief of mission who has permanently departed the designated post within 90 days of the departure.

SEC. 9203. PERIODIC INSPECTOR GENERAL RE-
VIEWS OF CHIEFS OF MISSION.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on April 1, 2025, and for a 3-year period thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of State shall conduct management reviews of chiefs of mission and other principal officials assigned overseas during inspection visits, when those officers have been at post more than 180 days.
(b) DISPOSITION.—Reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall be provided to the rating officer for formal discussion as part of the performance evaluation process. The management review shall remain in the employee’s personnel file unless otherwise required by law. The subject of a review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall have the opportunity to respond to and comment on the review, and the response shall be included in the employee’s file for promotion panel review.
(c) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT IN CASE OF SERIOUS MANAGEMENT CONCERNS.—The Inspector General of the Department of State shall notify the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and the appropriate congressional committees within 30 days of any review in which serious management concerns are raised and substantiated, and which is not otherwise submitted as part of the periodic inspection or report.

SEC. 9204. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN.
(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall, with the consent of the Senate, appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan at the Department of State (in this section referred to as the “Special Envoy”). The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary and should not hold another position in the Department while holding the position of Special Envoy.
(b) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall—
(1) serve as the United States diplomatic operative, in the absence of a chief of mission, to support negotiations and humanitarian response efforts related to alleviating the crisis in Sudan;
(2) be responsible for coordinating policy development and execution related to ending the conflict and a future path to national recovery and democratic transition in Sudan across the spectrum of Government to maintain a permanent institutional hub for technical expertise, strategic advice, and knowledge management in negotiations, mediation, and peace processes in order to prioritize and invest in diplomacy;
(3) the United States plays a role in enabling and supporting peace processes and complex political negotiations, the success of which is essential to stability and democracy around the world;
(4) the meaningful engagement of conflict-affected communities, particularly women, youth, and other impacted populations, is vital to durable, implementable, and sustainable peace;
(5) negotiation requires a specific technical and functional skillset, and thus institutional expertise in this practice area should include trained practitioners and subject matter experts;
(6) such skills should continue to be employed as the United States Government advises and contributes to peace processes, in classes where the United States plays a supporting role or is led by multilateral and international partners; and
(7) training programs for United States diplomats should draw on the expertise that United States lessons learned to help equip diplomats with skills to respond to peace processes and complex political negotiations, and how to respond.
(b) NEGOTIATIONS SUPPORT UNIT.—Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act (22 U.S.C. 2735) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

Sec. 1. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH NEGOCIA-
TIONS SUPPORT UNIT WITHIN DE-
PARTMENT OF STATE.
(1) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH.—The Secretary of State may establish within the Department of State a unit to be known as the ‘‘Negotiations Support Unit’’ for carrying out the functions described in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of this section.
(2) Functions.—The functions described in this paragraph are the following:
“(A) Serving as a permanent institutional hub and resource for negotiations and peace process expertise and knowledge management.

(B) Advising the Secretary of State, other relevant senior officials, members of the Foreign Service, and employees of the Department of State on the substance, process, and implications of negotiations, mediation, peace processes, and other complex political negotiations from strategy and planning to implementation.

(C) Advising on the development and implementation of United States policy related to complex political negotiations and peace processes including those led by multilateral and international partners.

(D) Advising on mediation and negotiation programs to implement United States policy.

(E) Supporting training for Foreign Service Officers and civil servants on tailored negotiation and mediation skills.

(F) Working with other governments, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, as appropriate, to support the development and implementation of United States policy on peace processes and complex political negotiations.

(G) Any additional duties the Secretary of State may prescribe.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 for the establishment of the Negotiations Support Unit under paragraph (1).

SEC. 9208. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF FUNDS FOR SOLAR PANELS.

The Department may not use Federal funds to procure any solar energy products that were manufactured in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China or other regions in the country, which are known to be produced with forced labor.

SEC. 9209. RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congressional Research Service is charged with rendering effective and efficient service to Congress and congressional staff—

(1) a list of authorities and processes related to the opening of new diplomatic missions;

(2) a list of authorities and processes related to the opening of new diplomatic missions that the Department can waive to expedite and make recommendations on how new diplomatic missions can be opened in a "box" concept to provide new diplomatic missions the needed resources and authorities to quickly and efficiently stand up and operate a mission from the moment United States personnel arrive, or even before the opening of a new mission, particularly in small island nations.

(b) RESPONSES.—The Secretary and Administrator shall ensure that for any inquiry or request is sent within 90 days of receipt of the request, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees a report on how new diplomatic missions can be opened in a "box" concept to provide new diplomatic missions the needed resources and authorities to quickly and efficiently stand up and operate a mission from the moment United States personnel arrive, or even before the opening of a new mission, particularly in small island nations.

(c) SENIOR OFFICIAL TO LEAD NEW EMBASSY EXPANSION.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall designate an assistant secretary-level senior official to expedite and make recommendations to the Secretary for proposing policy and procedural changes to the Secretary to—

(A) expediting the resourcing of new diplomatic missions abroad when possible mandatory processes required to open new diplomatic missions, taking into account the threat environment and circumstances in the host country;

(B) when necessary, quickly adjudicating within the Department any decision points that arise during the planning and construction phases of the establishment of a new mission;

(C) ensuring new missions receive the management and operational structures needed, including by designating such support be undertaken by another post, regional support center, or Department entities based in the United States.

(D) ensuring that the authorities provided in the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of div. A of APPG) (Public Law 106–113), as amended by the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (section 9301 of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3879), are fully utilized in the planning for all new diplomatic missions.

(d) NEW DIPLOMATIC MISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “new diplomatic mission” means any bilateral diplomatic mission opened since January 1, 2020, in a country where there had not been a bilateral diplomatic mission since the date that is 20 years before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) SUNSET.—The authorities and requirements of this section shall terminate 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9211. REPORT ON UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN CHENGDU, PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the suspension of operations at the United States Consulate General in Chengdu, People’s Republic of China, on July 27, 2020, on diplomatic and consular activities of the United States in Southwest China, including the provision of consular services to United States citizens, and on relations with the government of the People’s Republic of China as autonomous.

SEC. 9212. PERSONNEL REPORTING.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the suspension of operations at the United States Consulate General in Chengdu, People’s Republic of China, on July 27, 2020, on diplomatic and consular activities of the United States in Southwest China, including the provision of consular services to United States citizens, and on relations with the government of the People’s Republic of China as autonomous.

SEC. 9213. SUPPORT CO-LOCATION WITH ALLIED PARTNER NATIONS.

The Secretary, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, may alter, repair, and furnish United States Government-owned and leased space for use by the government of a foreign country to facilitate co-location of such government in such space, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine, including with respect to reimbursement of all or part of the costs of such alteration, repair, or furnishing. Reimbursements or advances of funds pursuant to this section may be credited to the currently applicable appropriation for such purposes for which such appropriation is authorized.

SEC. 9214. STREAMLINE QUALIFICATION OF CONSULAR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BIDDERS.

Section 902 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4852) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by inserting “‘be awarded’ after “joint venture persons may”;
(B) by striking “bid on” both places it appears;
(C) in paragraph (1), by striking “$10,000,000” and inserting “$25,000,000”; and
(2) in subsection (c)—
(A) in the table heading, by striking “two” and inserting “three”; and
(B) in paragraph (2)—
(i) in subparagraph (D), by striking “at a United States diplomatic or consular establishment abroad” and inserting “on a Federal contract abroad”;
(ii) by striking subparagraphs (E) and (G); and
(iii) by redesigning subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (E); and
(iv) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated by clause (ii), by striking “30” both places it appears and inserting “60”.

TITLE III—INFORMATION SECURITY AND CYBER DIPLOMACY

SEC. 9301. SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ANALYTICS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of State for fiscal year 2025 $3,000,000 for bureaus to hire Chief Data Officers through the “Bureau Chief Data Officer Program” (as required by section 620 of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2021, division F of Public Law 118-31; 2 U.S.C. 2601a note).

SEC. 9302. REALIGNING THE REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY OFFICER PROGRAM.

Section 9508(a)(1) of the Department of State Authorization Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117-236; 22 U.S.C. 10305(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “,” and shall be administered by the Bureau for Cyberspace and Digital Policy” before the period at the end.

SEC. 9303. MEASURES TO PROTECT DEPARTMENT DEVICES FROM THE PROLIFERATION AND USE OF FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—
(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and
(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED DEVICE.—The term “covered device” means any electronic mobile device, including smartphones, tablet computing devices, or laptop computing device, that is issued by the Department for official use.

(b) FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SPYWARE SPYWARE.—The terms “foreign commercial spyware” and “foreign commercial spyware software” have the meanings given those terms in section 1120A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3232a).

(c) PROTECTION OF COVERED DEVICES.—
(1) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Director of the Cyberspace and Infrastructure Security Agency—
(A) issue standards, guidance, best practices, and policies for Department and USAID personnel to protect covered devices from being compromised by foreign commercial spyware;
(B) survey the processes used by the Department and USAID to identify and catalog instances where a covered device was compromised by foreign commercial spyware over the prior 2 years and it is reasonably expected to have resulted in an unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information; and
(C) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the measures in place to identify and catalog instances of such compromises for covered devices by foreign commercial spyware, which may be submitted in classified form.

(2) MEASUREMENT.—The measurement shall be completed no later than 60 days after the date on which the Department becomes aware that a covered device was seriously compromised by foreign commercial spyware and, where applicable, with the relevant agencies, shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the facts concerning such targeting or compromise, including—
(A) the location of the personnel whose covered device was compromised;
(B) the number of covered devices compromised;
(C) an assessment by the Secretary of the damage to the national security of the United States resulting from any loss of data or sensitive information; and
(D) an assessment by the Secretary of any foreign government or foreign organization or entity, and, to the extent possible, the foreign individuals, who directed and benefited from any information acquired from the compromise.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report regarding any covered device that was compromised by foreign commercial spyware, including the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (2).

SEC. 9304. REPORT ON CLOUD COMPUTING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of State shall—
(a) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of the Bureau of Consular Affairs adoption of cloud-based products and services as well as options to require enterprise-wide adoption of cloud computing, including for all consular operations.

SEC. 9305. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROJECTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Department of State shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, prioritize information technology systems that require modernization or migration from existing systems to the cloud to improve the scalability, reliability, and security of information technology services provided to consular services through the Bureau’s cloud computing strategy.

SEC. 9306. LEVERAGING APPROVED TECHNOLOGY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCIES.

The Secretary and Administrator shall ensure appropriate and secure technological solutions are authorized and available for employee use, where feasible, to promote technological fluency in the workforce, including the ability to evaluate, in the evaluation and selection process to ensure performance management standards while maximizing efficiency.

SEC. 9307. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology (referred to in this section as the “Office”), which may be located within the Bureau for Cyberspace and Digital Policy.

(b) LEADERSHIP.—
(1) SPECIAL ENVY.—The Office shall be headed by a Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology, who shall—
(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
(B) have the rank and status of ambassador; and
(C) report to the Ambassador-at-Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Office may include representatives or expert detailers from other key Federal agencies or research and technology-focused fellowship programs, as appropriate, and shall be headed by a Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology and with the consent of the Ambassador-at-Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy, in coordination with appropriate senior officials of the Department and such agencies.

(d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall include—
(1) establishing, in coordination with relevant bureaus, offices and other Federal agencies, an interagency security review process for proposals regarding United States Government-funded international collaborations on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated research;
(2) establishing and coordinating an interagency strategy to facilitate international cooperation with United States allies and partners regarding the development, use, and deployment of critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and safeguards; intellectual property protection, and illicit knowledge transfer;
(3) facilitating technology partnerships with countries and relevant political and economic unions that are committed to—
(A) the rule of law and respect for human rights, including freedom of speech, and expression;
(B) the safe and responsible development and use of certain critical and emerging technologies; and
collaboration with other countries and relevant political and economic unions that are committed to—
(A) the rule of law and respect for human rights, including freedom of speech, and expression;
(B) the safe and responsible development and use of certain critical and emerging technologies; and
(C) a secure internet architecture governed by a multistakeholder model instead of centralized government control;
(D) robust international cooperation to promote open and interoperable technological products and services that are necessary to freedom, innovation, transparency, and privacy; and
(E) a secure international and intergovernmental strategy to facilitates international collaboration on certain critical and emerging technologies and associated standards and safeguards; intellectual property protection, and illicit knowledge transfer;
(4) supporting efforts to harmonize technology governance regimes with partners, focusing on baseline pre-competitive research and development initiatives, and collaborating to pursue such opportunities in certain critical and emerging technologies; and
(5) coordinating with other technology partners on export control policies for certain critical and emerging technologies, including countering illicit knowledge and data transfer related to certain critical and emerging technology research;
(6) conducting diplomatic engagement, in coordination with other bureaus, offices, and Federal dependencies, with allies and partners to develop standards and coordinate policies designed to counter illicit knowledge and data transfer in aca-
demic related to certain critical and emerging technologies and associated research;
(7) coordinating with allies, partners, and other relevant Federal agencies to prevent the proliferation of technologies related to certain critical and emerging technologies;
(8) sharing information regarding the threats posed by the transfer of critical and emerging technologies to authoritarian governments, including the People’s
Republic of China and the Russian Federation, and the ways in which autocratic regimes are utilizing technology, including for military and security purposes, to erode individual liberties and foundations of open, democratic societies; and

(9) collaborating with private companies, trade associations, and think tanks to realize the purposes described in paragraphs (1) through (8).

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an unclassified report, with a classified index, if necessary, regarding—

(1) the activities of the Office related to paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (d), including any cooperative initiatives and partnerships pursued with United States allies and partners, and the results of such activities, initiatives, and partnerships;

(2) the activities of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, and the United States in sectors related to certain critical and emerging technologies and the threats they pose to the United States; and

(3) the outcome of all international research and development programs for certain critical and emerging technologies funded by the Department or USAID that include participation by institutions or organizations that are affiliated with, or receive support from, the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Government of the Russian Federation.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—The term "critical and emerging technologies" means the technologies in consultation with other Federal agencies, from the critical and emerging technologies list published by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, as amended by subsequent updates to the list issued by the NSTC.

TITLE IV—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SEC. 4041. AFRICA BROADCASTING NETWORKS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the resources and timeline needed to establish within the Agency an organization the mission of which shall be to promote democratic values and institutions in Africa by providing objective, accurate, and relevant news and information to one of people of Africa, and counter disinformation from malign actors, especially in countries in which a free press is banned by the government or not fully established, the region, the world, including the United States through uncensored news, responsible discussion, and open debate.

SEC. 4042. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.

Section 306 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6205) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

"(f) SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT OF GRANTEES.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a grantee may not be debarred or suspended without consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and a three-fourths majority vote of the Advisory Board in support of such action.

"(h) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board shall collectively serve as the suspending official (as described in section 513.105 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations), has been established.

"(i) SUSPENDING OFFICIAL.—The Advisory Board shall collectively serve as the debarring official (as described in section 513.105 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations).

SEC. 4043. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS TO SUPPORT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS.

Section 9601 of the Department of State Authorities Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117–233; 136 Stat. 3909) is amended in subsection (b), by striking "2023 and 2024" and inserting "fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027."

SEC. 4044. RESEARCH AND SCHOLAR EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is in the strategic interest of the United States to strengthen relations with Sub-Saharan African states to promote shared interests in the areas of—

(A) democracy and good governance;

(B) education and technology;

(C) trade and economic development;

(D) science and technology;

(E) biodiversity, food, and agriculture; and

(F) the preservation and management of natural resources, including critical minerals; and

(2) historically Black colleges and universities (referred to in this section as "HBCUs") have a long history of—

(A) cultivating diaspora relations with Sub-Saharan African states; and

(B) developing solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

(b) STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary and the Administrator should seek to strengthen and expand partnerships and educational exchange opportunities, including by working with HBCUs, which build the capacity and expertise of students, scholars, and experts from Sub-Saharan Africa in key development sectors.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator is authorized to—

(1) provide technical assistance to HBCUs to assist in fulfilling the goals of this section, including, but not limited to, negotiating agreements, legal documents, and related infrastructure; and

(2) upon request, provide feedback to HBCUs, to the maximum extent practicable, after a grant rejection from relevant Federal programs in order to improve future grant applications, as appropriate.

SEC. 4045. WAIVER OF UNITED STATES RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR CHILDREN OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Section 320(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1413(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (1)(B), by striking "or" and inserting a semicolon;

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

"(3) the child residing in the legal and physical custody of a citizen parent who is residing abroad as a result of employment with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

TITLE V—DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

SEC. 5001. SECURE EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION AND COUNTERTERRORISM ACT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe new guidance and requirements consistent with the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of division A appendix G of Public Law 106–113), as amended by the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3879) and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the guidance and requirements, including the impact of implementation on United States diplomatic facilities and construction projects.

(b) CONSEQUENCE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary fails to meet the requirement under subsection (a) no Federal funds appropriated to the Department shall be used for official travel by senior staff in the Executive office of the Diplomatic Security Service, including the Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, until such time as the Secretary meets the requirement.

(c) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the restriction in subsection (b) to meet urgent and critical needs if the Secretary provides written notification to the appropriate congressional committees in advance of travel.

SEC. 5002. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION FOR SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENTS.

Section 301(a) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4833(a)), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the Chair of the House Select Committee on Intelligence of the United States, of any Serious Security Incident that has taken place.

"(3) THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the Chair of the House Select Committee on Intelligence of any Serious Security Incident that has taken place.

SEC. 5003. NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING SECURE DECISIONS AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

Section 303(c) of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4802(c)) is amended—
(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;
(2) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”;
and
(3) by striking at the end the following new paragraph:
“(2) The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate congressional committees within 10 days of any tentative to retain, authorize, or approve decisions at an overseas post, including the movement of personnel.”.

SEC. 9505. MODIFICATION TO NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS.

Section 610(c)(6) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4010(c)(6)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;
and
(2) by striking “IN GENERAL.—With respect” and inserting the following: “NOTIFICATION.

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (1), as paragraph (1);

(A) by striking “revocation” and on all that follows through “or revocation” and inserting “revocation on—

“(A) the present employment status of the covered official and whether the job duties of the covered official have changed since such suspension or revocation;

“(B) the reason for such suspension or revocation;

“(C) the investigation of the covered official and the results of such investigation; and

“(D) any negative fallout or impacts for the Department of State, the United States Government, or national security of the United States as a result of the actions for which the security clearance was suspended or revoked.”;

and
(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(2) by striking “or” and inserting a semicolon;
and
(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(15) the restraining, seizing, forfeiting, or repatriating of stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption.”.

SEC. 9703. PASSPORT AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION.

The Act entitled “An Act to regulate the issue and validity of passports, and for other purposes”, approved July 3, 1926 (44 Stat. 887, 22 U.S.C. 211a), is amended—

(1) by inserting “and through the use of Department of State electronic systems, after “the insular possessions of the United States,”; and

(2) by striking “person” and inserting “entity.”.

SEC. 9704. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PAYMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTER-NATIONAL SPACE STATION.

Section 7(1) of Public Law 106–178 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended, in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (D) of section 7(1), by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2030.”.

SEC. 9705. SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) congressional travel is essential to fostering international relationships, understanding global issues first-hand, and jointly advancing United States interests abroad; and

(2) only in close coordination and thanks to the dedication of the United States embassies, consulates, and other missions abroad can the success of these vital trips be possible.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated an additional $20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2031 for the Secretary to support congressional travel by members and staff of the appropriate congressional committees fully, by making such support available on any day of the week, including Federal and national holidays, to the extent practical, providing the direct involvement of mid-level or senior officers.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-LAMPORT ACTS.—The requirement under subsection (a) does not apply in the case of a simultaneous visit from the President, the
FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

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Mr. SCHUMER, Madam President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

The Subcommittee on Economic Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.
CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024—Continued

### Senator John Hoeven:

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Total: 1,432.86

**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.**

_Senator Debbie Stabenow,_

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, June 19, 2024.

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**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024**

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**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.**

_Senator Patty Murray,_

Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 23, 2024.

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**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

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**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.**
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| Delegation Expenses
|                 |                 |          |               |               |       |
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| Israel          | New Israeli Sheqel | 1,125.26|               |               |       |
| United Arab Emirates | UAE Dinar    | 328.06 |               |               |       |
| Cambodia        | Riel           | 858.03  |               |               |       |
| India           | Indian Rupee   | 881.07  |               |               |       |
| Thailand        | Baht           | 544.38  |               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 8,980.14|               |               |       |
| Delegation Expenses
|                 |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Cambodia        | Riel           | 339.00  |               |               |       |
| Libya           | Libyan Dinar   | 53.00   |               |               |       |
| Tunisia         | Tunisian Dinar | 1,297.43|               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 2,574.90|               |               |       |
| Andrew Platt    |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Bosnia          | Convertible Mark| 436.95  |               |               |       |
| Kosovo          | Euro           | 314.77  |               |               |       |
| Serbia          | Serbian Dinar  | 445.00  |               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 9,359.30|               |               |       |
| Delegation Expenses
|                 |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Convertible Mark | 80.14 |               |               |       |
| Kosovo          | Euro           | 150.33  |               |               |       |
| Serbia          | Serbian Dinar  | 326.00  |               |               |       |
| Risk Sahgal     |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Canada          | Canadian Dollar | 1,434.50|               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 1,549.80|               |               |       |
| Delegation Expenses
|                 |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Canada          | Canadian Dollar | 507.00  |               |               |       |
| Brian Doser     |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Colombia        | Colombian Peso  | 1,444.33|               |               |       |
| Mexico          | Mexican Peso   | 1,140.00|               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 1,292.74|               |               |       |
| Linda Erickson  |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Colombia        | Colombian Peso  | 1,444.33|               |               |       |
| Mexico          | Mexican Peso   | 1,140.00|               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 1,248.54|               |               |       |
| Kimberly Segura |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Germany         | Euro           | 663.02  |               |               |       |
| Romania         | Romanian Leu   | 582.47  |               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 947.00  |               |               |       |
| Abigail Grace   |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Germany         | Euro           | 663.02  |               |               |       |
| Romania         | Romanian Leu   | 582.47  |               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 947.00  |               |               |       |
| Delegation Expenses
|                 |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Germany         | Euro           | 2,877.86|               |               |       |
| Romania         | Romanian Leu   | 2,466.61|               |               |       |
| Santos Vanka    |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Guatemala       | Quetzal         | 231.05  |               |               |       |
| Panama          | Balboa         | 256.00  |               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 3,378.71|               |               |       |
| Delegation Expenses
|                 |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Guatemala       | Quetzal         | 475.12  |               |               |       |
| Panama          | Balboa, US Dollar | 396.74 |               |               |       |
| Ralf Faarahani   |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Papua New Guinea | Kina           | 904.32  |               |               |       |
| Philippines     | Philippine Peso | 1,014.86|               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 26,865.00|               |               |       |
| Santos Vanka    |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Papua New Guinea | Kina           | 904.32  |               |               |       |
| Philippines     | Philippine Peso | 1,014.86|               |               |       |
| United States   | US Dollar      | 31,477.60|               |               |       |
| Delegation Expenses
|                 |                 |          |               |               |       |
| Papua New Guinea | Kina           | 1,684.59|               |               |       |
| Philippines     | Philippine Peso | 391.25  |               |               |       |
| Total           |                | 100,508.89| 143,619.17| 127,599.85| 371,727.91 |

*Delegation Expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 23, 2024.

SENIOR PATSY MURRAY,

Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 23, 2024.
<table>
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<td>313.24</td>
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<td></td>
<td>France</td>
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**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024—Continued**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and country</th>
<th>Name of currency</th>
<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td><strong>Senator Jack Reed,</strong> Senator Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, July 26, 2024.</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>145,050.92</td>
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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 501(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sections 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

**SENATOR JACK REED,**
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, July 25, 2024.

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and country</th>
<th>Name of currency</th>
<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
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<td><strong>Senator Katie Britt,</strong> Senator Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, July 30, 2024.</td>
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<td>Chair: Sherrod Brown,3</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>145,050.92</td>
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<td>145,050.92</td>
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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 501(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sections 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

**SENATOR SHERROD BROWN,**
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, July 25, 2024.
### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024

#### Delegation Expenses:

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<tr>
<th>Name and country</th>
<th>Name of currency</th>
<th>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency</th>
<th>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency</th>
<th>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency</th>
<th>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Senator Stephen Daines:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | Canadian Dollar   | 2,211.56                               | 2,211.56                               | 2,211.56                               | 2,211.56                               |
| **Senator Ted Cruz:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator John Cornyn:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Delegation Expenses:**&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator Marco Rubio:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator Rand Paul:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator Bill Nelson:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator Al Franken:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Delegation Expenses:**&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator Jason Chaffetz:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator John Barrasso:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator Orrin Hatch:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |
| **Senator Roger Wicker:**
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar       | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               | 3,246.00                               |

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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

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**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

#### Delegation Expenses:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name and country</th>
<th>Name of currency</th>
<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</table>
| **Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation,** July 10, 2024: 
| Senator Thad Cochran: 
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar   | 3,246.00   | 1,484.94      | 3,246.00 |
| **Chairman, Committee on the Budget,** July 10, 2024: 
| Senator Richard Shelby: 
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar   | 3,246.00   | 1,484.94      | 3,246.00 |
| **Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,** July 25, 2004: 
| Senator Maria Cantwell: 
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar   | 3,246.00   | 1,484.94      | 3,246.00 |

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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

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**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024**

#### Delegation Expenses:

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<th>Per diem</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</table>
| **Senator Steve Daines:** 
| *Delegation Expenses:*&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt; | U.S. Dollar   | 605.84   | 605.84        | 605.84 |

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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.
**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024—Continued**

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<td>21,618.76</td>
<td>898.04</td>
<td>25,111.71</td>
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* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

**SENIOR JOE MANCHIN,**
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, July 24, 2024.

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

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* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

**SENIOR THOMAS CARPER,**
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, July 22, 2024.

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

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* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

**SENIOR RON WYDEN,**
Chairman, Committee on Finance, June 6, 2024.

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

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* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

**SENIOR RON WYDEN,**
Chairman, Committee on Finance, June 6, 2024.

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024**

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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 501(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

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*Delegation Expenses:*

**Notes:**
- The table lists the per diem, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses for various countries and delegations.
- Expenses are listed in U.S. dollars or equivalent currencies.
- The total for each entry is calculated by summing the per diem, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses.

**Currency Conversion:**
- U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency is provided for non-U.S. currencies.
### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024—Continued

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**U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency**

| Total | 66,593.40 | 247,741.70 | 55,580.40 | 309,915.50 |

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024

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**U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency**

| Total | 4,088.57 | 21,820.99 | 2,978.46 | 28,888.02 |

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

**CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024

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## Delegation Expenses

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.*

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## Consolided Report of Expenditure of Funds for Foreign Travel by Members and Employees of the U.S. Senate

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.*

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* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.
### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024

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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

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### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2024

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*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

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### CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024

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SENIOR CHARLES SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, July 24, 2024.
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 780, S. Res. 781, S. Res. 782, and S. Res. 783.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 780) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The resolutions (S. Res. 781 and 782) were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The resolution (S. Res. 783) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4853

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

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4853) to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from promulgating or enforcing rules regarding disclosure of artificial intelligence-generated content in political advertisements.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31; 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 late 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 Vacca nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during yesterday’s session ripen at 11:30 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the Vacca nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:30 p.m. and all time be considered expired on the Saporito nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, when I turn on the TV or read the papers, I read a lot about politics, and I read about this candidate attacking that candidate and the other candidate attacking another candidate, and on and on it goes.

But somehow or another, as a nation, here in Congress and on the campaign trail and in the corporate media, we, as a nation, have a habit of forgetting to talk about some of the most important issues that affect ordinary Americans. We talk about a lot of stuff, but, somehow, we will neglect to talk about the most important issues facing our country.

And at the top of my list is the reality that in America we are rapidly becoming an oligarchic form of society. What does that mean? It means that today we have more income and wealth inequality than at any time in the history of the United States of America.

It means that there are three people—one, two, three multibillionaires—who own more wealth than the bottom half of American society. Three people here, 160 million people there—that sounds like an issue we might want to be talking about.

We might just want to be asking about how well the economy is doing for ordinary people as opposed to the people on top. And when we ask that question, the answer is pretty clear. The top 1 percent have never, ever in American history had it so good. They are making money head over heels.

What we are seeing at the same time is a working class in this country that is struggling, they are making out fantastically well; working class people are falling further and further behind.

But let us not forget that, today in America, 60 percent of our people are living paycheck to paycheck. I grew up in a family that lived paycheck to paycheck. We lived in a rent-controlled apartment for my whole childhood. I know something about it.

And what it means that people from California to Vermont—they are struggling, living under great stress, trying to figure out how they are going to be able to take care of their families, at the same time as the people on top never had it so good.

But when we talk about oligarchy, it is not just about the top 1 percent. What it means is not just massive income and wealth inequality. It is not just the fact that the working class in this country is going nowhere in a hurry. It is also the growing concentration of ownership in America. In sector after sector, whether it is media, whether it is financial services, whether it is communications, whether it is healthcare, you have fewer and fewer large corporations that control what goes on in those sectors.

And when you have concentration of ownership, you have price-fixing, you have corporate greed, and that is one of the reasons why inflation has had the impact that it has had and why we have seen that much inflation.

There are three Wall Street investment firms today—BlackRock, Vanguard, and State Street—that combined control assets of $20 trillion and combined are the major stockholders in 95 percent of the Standard & Poor corporations. That is what power is about—three entities, three private Wall Street investment firms being able to be combined as the major stockholders in 95 percent of our corporations.

So oligarchy is about massive income and wealth inequality. Oligarchy is about the rich becoming much richer—CEOs of large corporations now making
right, and that 85 million of our people are uninsured or underinsured. And it is not just healthcare. It is prescription drugs, and we are working hard on this. As chairman of the HELP Committee, that is what we are doing, trying to drive down the costs of prescription drugs.

But today, because of the greed of the pharmaceutical industry and the inactivity of the Congress, in many cases we are paying 10 times more for prescription drugs as do the people in other countries. And on and on it goes.

We have, as a nation, the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on Earth. This is the richest nation on Earth, and we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on Earth.

In terms of our seniors, 50 percent of senior citizens in this country are living on $30,000 a year or less, and 25 percent are living on $15,000 a year or less. And nobody, let alone a senior citizen, lives on $15,000 a year or less.

So what do we do? Well, maybe for a change—I know it is a radical idea—we might want to hear on the floor of the United States Supreme Court decision on Citizens United, which allows billionaires to buy elections, and move to public funding of elections. And that is where we should be going if we believe in democracy.

When we talk about the issues facing working families, when I go around the country—and I was just up in Maine the other day, as a matter of fact—you ask people about our healthcare system. You ask them a simple question. You say: Is this healthcare system working for you?

And almost without exception, what the American people say is: Our healthcare system today is broken. It is dysfunctional, and it is way, way too expensive.

And when people say that, they are right. And I hope everybody knows that, in America today, we spend twice as much per person on healthcare as do the people of any other country—twice as much. And yet despite spending over $3,000 for every man, woman, and child—18 percent of our GDP on healthcare—our outcomes are worse than other countries that spend half as much per capita.

Our longevity is way down, behind many other countries, and, really obscenely, the life expectancy in the United States between the people on top and working-class people is 10, 12 years. In other words, if you are rich, you will live as long as people in other developed countries, but if you are working class or poor, the odds are you are going to live 10 or 15 years less.

Now, I don’t know how much we talk about that, but I think maybe it is time we talk about the reality that we remain today the only country in the industrialized world that does not guarantee healthcare for all people as a human right.
living wage. In my view, that living wage should be at least $17 an hour.

When we talk about workers’ rights, I can tell you from personal experience, having been involved in a number of strikes and union organizing campaigns, corporations spend hundreds of millions of dollars—illegally—trying to prevent workers from forming unions. That is why we must pass the PRO Act that will provide severe penalties against any corporation, any employer that uses illegal tactics to deny workers the right to form a union.

Mr. President, when we talk about childhood poverty, as I am sure you will recall, a few years ago, as a result of the American Rescue Plan, we provided $300 a month per child for the vast majority of working parents in this country. That tax credit had the impact, incredibly, of lowering the childhood poverty level in this country by over 40 percent. For minority communities, it was even greater than that. Maybe—just maybe—as a nation, we might want to end the disgrace of having the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on Earth and make permanent a strong child tax credit similar to what we had in the American Rescue Plan.

These are just some of the issues that are out there, and there are many others.

I talk to elderly people often who say: All right. We are not going to pass—you don’t have the political support to pass Medicare for All. The drug companies and the insurance companies are too powerful. You can’t take them on right now. But at least—at least—can we expand Medicare to cover dental, hearing, and vision?

Millions of elderly people in America can’t afford to go to a dentist. People have no teeth in their mouths. Yes, we can do that, and we should do that.

So all that I wanted to say is that at a time when many, many Americans are giving up on democracy—they are hurting. They look to the government, they vote, and nothing happens. The rich get richer; they get poorer. They are saying, “Hey, all of this democracy and all this election stuff—it is all a crock. It doesn’t matter,” and they are willing to look at authoritarianism as a substitute for the democracy we have.

So, to my mind, not only is it the right thing and the moral thing to start paying attention to the needs of a long-neglected working class—long neglected by the Democratic Party; long neglected by the Republican Party—not only is it time to pay attention to those needs, if you are interested in preserving democracy, you might want to do that as well.

So the thrust of my message today is that the time is long overdue for this Congress, this Senate, to have a serious discussion on the serious issues facing the working families of this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:30 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 11 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 30, 2024:

STACEY D. NEUMANN, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE.