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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we hide beneath the shadow of Your wings until the danger passes. We cry to You because we have so often received help from Your throne. Thank You for Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

Lord, continue to provide for all the needs of our lawmakers, giving them strength for struggles and success, for shadows and sunshine, for valleys and mountain summits. Awaken in them such a fresh appreciation for this great land that they will be prepared to pay the high price for freedom.

Today, give us all a love for right so that we may be instruments for Your glory.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 23, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday afternoon, we announced that congressional leaders reached a bipartisan agreement to avoid a government shutdown on September 30. This agreement will keep the government open at current funding levels until December 20. This agreement, thankfully, is free of any partisan poison pills and was negotiated in good faith.

I thank the Speaker for working with my team to put this package together over the weekend. Our teams were up early and stayed late into the evening to get it done.

I also wish to thank the House Democratic leader, the Senate Republican leader, and all the appropriators, particularly Senators MURRAY and COLLINS, for helping us get to this point.

The matter is now straightforward. We now have less than a week to pass a funding bill through the House, through the Senate, and onto the President's desk. Both sides will have to act celeritously and with continued bipartisan good faith to meet the funding deadline. Any delay or last-minute poison pill can still push us into a shutdown. I hope and I trust that this will not happen.

Of course, as we proceed, it is important to remember that negotiations didn't have to wait until the last minute. This agreement could have very easily been reached weeks ago, but Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans chose to listen to Donald Trump's partisan demands instead of working with us from the start to reach a bicameral, bipartisan agreement.

Remember, Donald Trump has spent the entire month urging House Republicans to shut the government down if his poison pills weren't passed. That is outlandishly cynical. Donald Trump knows perfectly well that a shutdown would mean chaos, pain, and needless heartache for the American people, but, as usual, he just doesn't seem to care.

It is astounding that anyone seeking the Presidency would think a shutdown is a good thing, but that is who Donald Trump is at his core—cynical and ill-intentioned. He should have learned his lesson years ago when he told Speaker PELOSI and I to shut down the government and said: 'I'll take the blame.' Well, that didn't work out too well for him, did it?

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



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I am glad his efforts in this instance are on track to fail. We aren't out of the woods yet, but now that we have reached a bipartisan agreement, I hope we are on track to avoid a shutdown. I believe we will avoid that shutdown. With a few more days of bipartisanship and speed and good faith, we can get the job done—certainly before the deadline of a government shutdown.

ABORTION

Now, Madam President, on reproductive rights and Project 2025, over the weekend, former President Donald Trump said at an event that, if he becomes President, women “will no longer be thinking about abortion.”

He uttered these words in the middle of another one of his incomprehensible rants, where he lamented about the state of women's healthcare. He lamented that “women have been through a lot” and claimed that things will somehow get better if he returns to office.

At the risk of stating the obvious, Donald Trump has zero credibility when it comes to women's healthcare, and it is both ridiculous and insulting for Donald Trump to suggest women won't have to worry about abortion if he returns to the White House. Of course, they will.

Not 1 week ago, a report was published detailing the tragic story of a woman from Georgia who died because her State's abortion bans prevented her from receiving lifesaving care. The story is equal parts heartbreaking and enraging when you read how this woman was denied proper care because she happened to live in the “wrong State.” Worst of all, there are undoubtedly more stories like hers out there.

And, make no mistake, these abortion bans are now a reality largely because of one person—Donald Trump. More than any single individual, Donald Trump is the reason women worry so much about abortion and reproductive health today. After all, it was Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans who appointed three ultra-conservative Justices to the Supreme Court, with the explicit goal of overturning Roe. It was Donald Trump who, again and again, bragged about ending protections under Roe. Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are also the ones who cleared the path for draconian bans at the State level, and as much as they now try to deny it, Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are the ones clamoring for the chance to pass a national abortion ban.

Don't take it from me. Senator VANCE, whom Donald Trump chose as his running mate, said, 2 years ago, he would “certainly like abortion to be illegal nationally.” He “certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally.” These were the words of Donald Trump's running mate. Statements like these give women plenty of reason to worry about Donald Trump returning to the White House.

Look, when people have their rights taken away, they don't simply stop thinking about the issue.

Former President Trump, that is not how it works. You can't fool people like you are trying to do. When people's rights are taken away, they start worrying about which rights will crumble next.

They wonder: Now that Republicans overturned Roe, what is next? Will women's pregnancies be monitored? Will drugs like mifepristone get banned? Will States start banning IVF?

Now, none of this is theoretical. Many of these ideas are laid out in President Trump's Project 2025, and in a shocker to nobody, an overwhelming majority of Americans thinks the ideas of Project 2025 are toxic. Just yesterday, an NBC poll found that only 4 percent—4 percent—of Americans viewed Project 2025 favorably, and half—more than half—of Americans said they had strongly unfavorable views.

The bottom line is this: Donald Trump and the hard right are the reason reproductive care is at its weakest point in modern history, but as project 2025 makes clear, the MAGA right is just getting started even though most Americans overwhelmingly reject their radical agenda.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, in May 2000, Israeli forces withdrew from southern Lebanon, but while the occupation ended, Hezbollah's appetite for waging war on Israel only grew, and its further deadly attacks on Israel invited the 2006 conflict.

But the history of Israel's fight to defend its northern border and innocent civilians against Hezbollah terrorists bears eerie parallels to the stories of the brutal violence Hamas has perpetrated from Gaza. Israel withdrew there in August 2005, and by 2007, Iran-backed terrorists had bent the enclave to its all-consuming mission, which is war on Israel.

But the most glaring through-lines in Israel's north and south are not the relentless bloodlust of terrorists. They are the predictable delusion of Israel's “friends” and the shameful cowardice of international authorities that claim to stand for peace.

Take, for starters, how the Biden-Harris administration chose to welcome the U.N. General Assembly by signaling its openness—openness—to resuming funding for UNRWA and how it apparently still clings to the fiction that an organization so thoroughly corrupted by Hamas that nearly a dozen of its staff directly—directly—

participated in the October attacks is somehow reformable.

But while the civilized world gathers in one place, the General Assembly might productively spend its time contemplating other pressing questions, for example: Why hasn't the U.N. Security Council managed to enforce resolutions 1559 and 1701 in Lebanon? These resolutions were passed to end and prevent further conflict between Israel and Lebanon by removing the threat Hezbollah posed on Israel's border and to end the threat Hezbollah posed to the State of Lebanon itself.

And why has the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon allowed Hezbollah to build up massive stockpiles on Israel's border, in clear—clear—preparation for war?

Why has the U.N. looked the other way as Hezbollah has expanded its corrosive influence over the institutions of Lebanon's Government?

But setting aside the failures of the so-called international community, this past weekend once again cast a spotlight on America's known naivete toward the glaring facts of Iran-backed war on our friend Israel.

In an interview that might rightly attract scrutiny for its host's obfuscation of the facts on Israel's responses to Hezbollah terrorism, the White House National Security Communications Advisor said out loud what the Biden-Harris administration has been saying by its actual actions for nearly a year:

We've been working since the beginning of the conflict, October 8 . . . to try to prevent an escalation.

So think about that. The only way to claim credit for working to “prevent an escalation” is by pretending like Hezbollah's October 8 attacks—or Hamas's October 7 massacre—weren't actually escalations themselves.

Unfortunately, the administration official also seemed to suggest a moral equivalence—a moral equivalence—between Israel and Hezbollah. He suggested that “military action, by either side” would not be “in either side's best interest” and implied that an Israeli response would itself be escalation—once again, second-guessing Israel's interests, micromanaging their defensive efforts. Blaming Israel for escalation when it is clear—absolutely clear—Hamas and Hezbollah have been the instigators of this conflict. It is a tired playbook.

The administration is telling the world that what America wants is a return to October 6, as if the status quo was either sustainable or peaceful. This, of course, is pure fantasy. Hamas broke a cease-fire on October 7.

Or consider Hezbollah's history as the centerpiece of Iran's “ring of fire” around Israel: Just since the 2006 conflict, Hezbollah terrorists have imported tens of thousands of rockets to target Israel, deployed forces directly to Israel's border, and constructed tunnels that would allow them to emulate Hamas's October 7 invasion.

Recent estimates suggest the terrorists possess up to 200,000 rockets, missiles, drones, and precision-guided munitions, along with 25,000 active-duty militants—all of it pointed south at Israel, and all of it, as Hezbollah's leader has boasted, is from Iran.

Or consider Lebanon itself. Hezbollah is a cancer on the Lebanese State. It wields its power as a sectarian terror squad and leads a long trail of blood through its highest ranks of civilian government and civil society. Sunnis, Christians, Druze, and fellow Shiites—none are immune from Hezbollah's wrath.

Then, again, National Public Radio refers to Hezbollah as a "political" group. Perhaps the administration's officials' confusion is a symbol of their media diet or more likely the foundations of their foreign policy are fundamentally flawed.

Remember the declaration by the President's National Security Advisor early last fall that the Middle East was "quieter than it had been in decades." The absurdity of that boast in light of October 7 is striking enough, but even when it was written, it betrayed the administration's naivete toward glaring and abiding threats to Israel and America's national security interests in the region.

Iran's agents in Syria and Iraq had already fired hundreds of rockets at American forces on this administration's watch. Since last October, these attacks have only metastasized, including into the Red Sea. So was this an acceptable status quo? Was Hezbollah's steady preparation for war? Was Hamas's expropriation of humanitarian assistance in order to build terror tunnels?

The United States ought to stand with our friend Israel as it faces these terrorists down. The goal should not be simply to avoid escalating or to return to the status quo ante but to help Israel defend itself against terrorists bent—bent—on Israel's destruction.

We have a stake in ensuring Israel emerges from this conflict stronger and these terrorist organizations and their Iranian patron weaker. These same terrorists want to expel the United States from the region. We are the Great Satan, in their own parlance. Instead, by their misplaced obsession with escalation, the administration and Washington Democrats are actually making Israel's job harder.

If the President and Vice President want to see an end to the war in Gaza and prevent greater hostilities in Lebanon, then it is time to switch the focus of their diplomatic pressure.

Every time the administration officials try to tie Israel's hand in public comments and every time a U.S. Senator threatens to hold critical security assistance hostage, Hamas, Hezbollah, and their patrons in Tehran are emboldened.

If our colleagues want peace, it is time to show support for a nation founded on peace and resolve toward

terrorists whose reason for existence is chaos and violence.

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we are 1 week away from the deadline to fund the government.

It is an embarrassment that we return again and again to this precipice, realizing full well the disaster that shutting down the government creates for our Nation. Yet the House of Representatives goes through these contortions every time, ultimately, giving in to common sense and funding the government, at least temporarily.

I was relieved to hear last night that there is a bipartisan funding agreement reached finally after days of negotiations, one that maintains current funding through December 20 and avoids a government shutdown a month before the election.

Wouldn't it be great if the Senate and the House were to announce some dramatic, positive legislative measure on a bipartisan basis other than keeping the lights on in the Federal Government? That seems to be all they can achieve in the House of Representatives.

Thankfully, the agreement includes necessary provisions related to extending veterans' benefits, including one that enables the only joint DOD-VA facility in the country—one you know well—Lovell, located in North Chicago in our home State, to continue providing healthcare to servicemembers and veterans alike.

Imagine we were just hours away from the possibility of suspending basic lifesaving services at the Lovell institute for our veterans.

I am pleased this bipartisan negotiation led to an agreement free of poison pills and partisan cuts, but it should have been done a long time ago.

Unfortunately, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle think funding the government is a partisan bargaining chip and not one of the most essential tasks in Congress.

Just last week, the House rejected Speaker JOHNSON's partisan government funding plan that would have pushed our job to fund the government until next March in 2025. A half-year delay was being proposed by the Republicans in the House.

It is no surprise that this unserious funding plan did not pass. Not only did the Democrats vote against it, but 14 Members of the Speaker's own party opposed it. He forced the vote anyway, wasting precious time on a proposal that even his own caucus questioned.

Now time is of the essence. If both sides and both Chambers continue to work in good faith, we can fund the government through December 20 with actions this week, before the September 30 deadline, but it will take cooperation from both Chambers. I hope we can find it.

DREAM ACT

Madam President, on another topic, it has been more than 20 years—20

years—since I introduced a bill known as the DREAM Act.

This legislation would provide a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants known as Dreamers, who were brought to our country as children. The DREAM Act would allow these young people to remain in the only home they have ever known, the United States of America.

In 2010, I sent a letter, joined by then-Senator Richard Lugar, a Republican from Indiana, asking President Obama to stop the deportation of Dreamers.

Twelve years ago, President Obama responded by announcing the DACA Program, which has protected more than 830,000 Dreamers from being deported.

These young people grew up alongside our kids with the same hopes and the same dreams. They came to their classroom each day and pledged allegiance to the same flag. These young people grew up and wanted to serve our country as doctors and teachers and engineers, first responders, and so many more valuable contributions to America. They contribute to our Nation virtually every single day. Yet they live in fear of their lives being uprooted because of congressional inaction and ongoing litigation.

The best way to understand this issue is to hear their stories. That is why, today, I would like to introduce you to the 144th and 145th Dreamers, whose stories I have shared on the floor of the Senate.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, these stories should give us even more appreciation for the contributions that immigrants make to our Nation.

Here are Giovanni and Michael Pimentel. They were born in Mexico and brought to the United States when they were 6 years old. They were raised in Greenville, TX. They had to quickly learn English and found an extra need to "prove themselves" in this new country. They were 6 years old.

They graduated from high school in the top 10 percent of their class and went on to Texas A&M University. Michael graduated from college with a triple major in chemistry, mathematics, and biology. Giovanni graduated with degrees in public health and political science.

Michael went on to earn his master's degree from Stanford University, and he is now pursuing his doctorate in pharmacology. Michael has observed disparities in the care of loved ones undergoing chemotherapy. As a result, he aims to specialize in oncology medication to improve outcomes for cancer patients, regardless of where they are from or what language they speak.

Meanwhile, Giovanni attended Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and graduated with honors. He became a licensed attorney in California in November 2022 and began working in unemployment law. He sat for the Texas bar in July, and his goal is to support the Texas Legislature as a legislative counsel.

To Michael, DACA means hope—hope that the United States will one day accept Dreamers and allow them to remain here without the threat of deportation. To Giovanni, DACA signifies promise—a promise to Dreamers that if they work hard and contribute to America, they will be granted protection and a pathway to citizenship.

It is long past time that we uphold our end of the bargain. Michael and Giovanni are not only role models; they are living representations of the American dream. It is time for us in Congress to protect these Dreamers.

Unfortunately, since President Obama established DACA, Republicans have waged a relentless, unending campaign to overturn this stopgap solution and to deport Dreamers like Michael and Giovanni back to countries they do not even remember.

This war against immigrants is mindless. We need to be safe for sure, but how can we ignore what immigrants have meant to this country? Last week, I went for a routine hospital procedure here in Washington. It was noteworthy that the doctor I had was from Syria, a young woman from Syria, the anesthesiologist was from Germany, and my nurse was from Ethiopia. Do you think I would bemoan these immigrants and want them to return to their country? I thank all three of them for coming to America and making this a stronger and better country and giving quality, professional medical service. It happens day in and day out.

I want to urge my colleagues not to ignore these Dreamers and their lives, which are at stake every single day. They need to live in America without fear of deportation. It is time for Congress to get to work on a bipartisan basis to pass the Dream Act. It was the right thing to do 20 years ago; it is the right thing to do today. These young Dreamers prove my case every single day of their lives.

I thank Members of the Senate who have supported me. We need more in the future.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 4698

AMENDMENT NO. 3293

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the passage of S. 4698, action on the Peters amendment No. 3292 be vitiated and amendment No. 3293 be considered and agreed to, and the remainder of the order be in status quo.

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

The amendment (No. 3292) in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3293) 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 “DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding “and” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;” and

(B) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

“(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

“(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

“(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.”; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “2024” and inserting “2026”.

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

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

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as my colleagues know, I get a lot of information about wrongdoing in government from whistleblowers. A sig-

nificant part of my investigative activity is driven by whistleblower disclosures. To make that very effective, I have directed my investigative staff to cultivate those whistleblower relationships.

Whistleblowers share information with me that the government likes to hide from Congress and, indirectly, then hiding it from the American people.

Today, I am going to discuss a very concerning problem within the U.S. Postal Service. Based on whistleblower disclosures to my office, I have been alerted that the post office hired a registered sex offender as a letter carrier.

The employment was confirmed in writing by that same Postal Service. Based on whistleblower allegations, this employee disclosed his status as a registered sex offender on his job application.

If accurate, did the Postal Service then even bother to read his application before he was hired? After the Postal Service figured out what they had done, my office has been told via whistleblower disclosures that they put the employee on paid leave.

So I began digging deeper to figure out the extent of this problem at the Postal Service. Since then, the Postal Service has obstructed every effort that I have made to get the information that Congress is entitled to.

Wouldn't the American public like to know how many letter carriers are registered sex offenders? Where are they working? Do they travel near schools, homes, and where children are often seen?

Now, the Postal Service apparently disagrees. The Postal Service was asked by my staff for a list of letter carriers who are registered offenders.

Now, as you might expect, the Postal Service refused. So I and my staff asked for a list of letter carriers on the payroll. The Postal Service later said:

Current employees' names, titles, and duty stations are generally considered to be public information and releasable.

But then the Postal Service refused to provide the information because my staff might cross-reference the names on the public registries. Specifically, the Postal Service said this:

They have a personal privacy interest in protecting the fact that their names appear on a sex offender registry.

The Postal Service also said that it is refusing to provide this information because I “intend to use the provided list to infer what employees appear on the public sex offender registries.”

Now, it is time to get this straight for everybody. The names of Postal Service employees are publicly releasable, as admitted by the Postal Service to me in writing. These offender registries are public, which was also admitted in writing to me by the Postal Service. But the Postal Service says a privacy interest prohibits them from providing the names of all Postal Service letter carriers because my staff might cross-reference them on a public list? What a disgrace.

Further, the Postal Service had the audacity to ask my staff this garbage request, and I am quoting from the Postal Service:

We ask that you agree not to publicly release the names of any employees that you believe appear on a sex offender registry as a condition precedent to the release of a list of letter carriers to you.

Now, that kind of appears to be a shakedown, doesn't it?

In support of its obstruction, the Postal Service cited a 2020 Freedom of Information Act court case, *White Coat Waste Project v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*. The Postal Service claimed that this case allowed them to withhold the information.

Now, there are two problems with that. First, this isn't a FOIA request that I am making. It is a congressional request under the constitutional power of checks and balances of the government to make sure that the executive branch of government faithfully executes the laws. Congress isn't subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Second, in the case, the court held that the government had to produce requested names of government employees, in part, because it "will ensure that the public stays informed about what their government is up to."

Like you often hear me say, transparency brings accountability in our government.

My staff then later asked the Postal Service the following, related to employee names:

So, what's public is being treated as non-public because there's a chance some letter carriers are sex offenders?

The Postal Service's employee answered:

Yes, because you can't put that together without both lists.

The Postal Service conduct is without any legitimate basis. Postmaster General DeJoy and the Postal Service Board need to fix this mess and fix it immediately. When it comes to this matter, our community deserves much better than what they are getting from the Postal Service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as most people know, the majority leader is the only one who can schedule action on legislation on the floor of the U.S. Senate. None of the 99 other Senators can make that happen, which means that the lack of productivity on some very important matters by the U.S. Senate lies squarely at the feet of the majority leader.

And I have to say that our lack of productivity here in the U.S. Senate verges on what can only be described as malpractice. I say that as a recovering lawyer who used to defend cases of alleged malpractice.

But we have wasted valuable floor time on partisan nominees and political show votes and not advanced the fundamental causes that are so basic to governing—things like funding the government, things like passing our annual Defense authorization bill—something we have done more than 60 years in a row. And, unfortunately, it looks like we are headed toward another short-term continuing resolution and a delay on both of these essential tasks, which will damage our military when global conflicts are more tense than at any time in recent memory. And that is not hyperbole.

Earlier this year, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees created something called the Commission on National Defense Strategy. This is a bipartisan group of top national security and defense experts to assess the world's strategic threats to the safety and security of the United States and to analyze any shortcomings in America's preparation.

Well, the Commission's report that came out last week was nothing short of stunning, and I would like to highlight some of its findings. They described China as the most serious and longest term threat to the safety and security and peace in the Indo-Pacific.

Militarily, the People's Republic of China, governed by the Chinese Communist Party, are expanding their forces from air to cyber, to space, and they now have the world's largest navy at nearly 400 warships. And their capacity to build more ships is estimated to be about 230 times greater than ours.

China now possesses missiles and continues to enhance their capabilities, which would put any of our aircraft carriers in the Indo-Pacific at grave risk in the event of a conflict. And as the report states, they may very well use these significant advantages to invade Taiwan by 2027 and attempt to defeat American or other allied attempts to defend Taiwan and its sovereignty.

Turning to Europe, Ukraine continues to defend itself against Russia's unprovoked aggression, which began, really, back in 2014, when they invaded Crimea, but was escalated approximately 2 years ago when they intended to essentially take the entire country.

As the defense strategy report indicates, America's continued support of Ukraine against this invasion by Vladimir Putin's Russia isn't just essential to Ukraine's survival; it is paramount to sending the message to the world that aggressors that seek to invade smaller nations simply cannot win. That is what we call deterrence.

In essence, global security is interconnected, and what happens in the European theater can impact our security in the Pacific theater and around the world.

Of course, in the Middle East, our close ally Israel is defending its very existence, following a brutal and unprovoked attack by the terrorist group Hamas, which is backed by its sponsor Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of international terrorism.

Iran and its proxies—namely Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis—are more emboldened than they have ever been as they continue wreaking havoc across the region.

More broadly, the Commission's report cautioned against the growing alignment of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. This isn't exactly breaking news, but to see some of the best military leaders in our country put their concerns in writing about this axis of autocracies and their statement that it may lead to coordinated opposition to U.S. interests globally should wake all of us up.

They also called attention to America's deficiencies in terms of our preparation. The military experts point out that our equipment is old, our technology is outdated, our industrial base has shortcomings, our force readiness is not what it should be, and the Department of Defense is too slow to respond because of bureaucratic redtape and the failure of leadership.

Let me repeat. These are among the most admired and talented military minds in the country who are saying these things. This assessment should wake up every American but especially Members of Congress, because it is up to us to respond and to respond appropriately.

And the question is: What are we going to do about it?

My dad was a B-17 pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II and flew 26 bombing missions over Nazi Germany, until he was shot down and captured as a POW. My dad, like so many of the "greatest generation," came back to the United States; they went to school on the GI bill of rights and helped rebuild our country and helped rebuild the rest of the war-torn world. But I know they believed that we would not have any large military conflicts between great powers—again, perhaps that would be the last. But as Bob Gates, the former Secretary of Defense, has reminded us, he said that our holiday from history is over. In other words, war intends to be more the rule than the exception. And the only thing that prevents wars from breaking out in military conflicts is the strength of American power and our willingness to take a leadership role.

Ronald Reagan was exactly right when he talked about peace through strength. So we need to be ready and we need to be prepared and we need to be engaged in order to deter these would-be aggressors around the world.

Exactly how are we going to be prepared? Well, Congress's role is to make sure that we pass the authorities necessary in the Defense authorization bill to enable our warfighters to be prepared and to get the training and

equipment they need in order to deter the next war.

And then there are, of course, passing the appropriations bills that make sure that their pay and their training and their families are taken care of.

Now, the Defense authorization bill that the majority leader has deferred until after the election does really important things, like making sure our defense industrial base is ready to produce the weapons and the materiel that are needed not only by the United States but by our allies around the world.

It also is focused on reforming our acquisition and procurement processes to ensure that our Armed Forces can meet the challenges of this evolving and dangerous threat environment.

September 30 is the end of the fiscal year—otherwise known as the deadline to fund the government for the next 12 months, as well as to provide our military with the authorities and resources it needs to face the security challenges that I have touched on.

The end of the fiscal year, September 30, does not sneak up on us. We know where that date is on the map, and we know that it is our job to be prepared to meet that timeline. Yet the majority leader has failed to put on the floor the sorts of opportunities we need in order to fund the government and to equip our military. And it is simply inexcusable. It isn't for lack of trying by the relevant committees on both sides of the aisle.

Senator MURRAY, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a Democrat, and Senator COLLINS, the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, a Republican, have made serious progress on the appropriations process.

As of July, the Appropriations Committee has approved 11 of the 12 annual funding bills in a bipartisan fashion. On the Defense authorization bill, Chair REED, a Democrat, and Ranking Member WICKER, a Republican, have worked tirelessly to advance the Defense authorization bill out of the Armed Services Committee, which they did more than 2 months ago. But the majority leader has done nothing—nothing—to move these bills on time across the Senate floor.

Again, there is none of the other 99 of us who can do anything about that. That is solely his authority and his responsibility. But he has done nothing, until here we are just days before the deadline.

This is a completely avoidable crisis. I heard the majority whip—the Senator from Illinois—say that it is embarrassing that we find ourselves in this situation. Well, the embarrassment is as a result of the majority leader's failure to even move these bills across the floor. He likes to point across the Capitol to the House—and, yes, the House has its own challenges, but we wouldn't be looking at short-term continuing resolutions in another phony narrative of a government shutdown if the ma-

jority leader and the U.S. Senate had simply done our job and done it on time.

And our military commanders will tell you that short-term continuing resolutions are no way to operate. Every one of these short-term bills, which looks like we are heading toward a December 20 deadline for the next short-term continuing funding bill, has provisions that said there should be no new starts. And, of course, with only a 3-month funding stream, it is almost impossible to plan.

A national defense authorization bill passed in the lameduck doesn't give the military the certainty it needs so that decisions can be made that address our short- and long-term needs.

Postponed defense authorization legislation makes our military less capable, jeopardizing our readiness and leaving citizens at home and abroad more vulnerable to our adversaries who are on the march.

If I can paint a brief picture of the State of the majority leader's Senate, we have less than 5 days before the end of the month—that is why we are hearing all this unnecessary drama and narrative about a potential government shutdown—and we have not considered a single appropriations bill in the Senate, which we could have done starting months ago.

We have wars in the Middle East and in Europe and rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific and beyond that could reach a fever pitch at a moment's notice. And we have defense leaders from every facet of our military saying that the way the Senate is currently operating when it comes to funding the military and providing for the authorities that they need in order to do their job in the defense authorization bill, the Senate's failure to act on a timely basis is making their jobs harder and Americans less safe.

When you add all these factors together, the picture of leadership here in the U.S. Senate is truly pitiful. It is difficult to describe how frustrating and alarming it is when the Senate's leadership fails to act on such basic matters as keeping the lights on and funding the government, or making sure that our military is ready to stop and prevent the next potential military conflict.

It is even more difficult to convey the national security implications that come with the short-term continuing resolutions; although, the Commission's report is the best attempt I have seen recently.

Now, I appreciate the challenges that Speaker JOHNSON has across the Capitol to help Congress avert a shutdown. And I understand they are going to try to pass a 3-month continuing resolution that will take us to December 20, at which time we will play this movie over again, because all we are doing is kicking the can down the road 3 months and failing to do our job on time or the way it should be done.

But let's not forget we could have avoided all of this if the Senate major-

ity leader had scheduled votes on individual government funding bills months ago, as he could have. These are bipartisan bills. So he owns it. And you might say he designed it.

This delay is by design by the majority leader. There is no other reasonable explanation. He does it because he believes this enhances his power to negotiate a final package of spending bills at the end of the year. But the threats to our national security are real, and the embarrassment that the majority whip expressed early is real. But it could all be avoided if he would simply have let the Senate do its job on a timely basis. That is embarrassing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask that the scheduled vote commence immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON JENKINS NOMINATION

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

(Mr. HELMY assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 249 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Crapo	Kelly
Barrasso	Daines	Kennedy
Bennet	Duckworth	King
Blumenthal	Durbin	Klobuchar
Booker	Fischer	Lummis
Britt	Gillibrand	Markey
Budd	Graham	McConnell
Butler	Grassley	Merkley
Cantwell	Hassan	Moran
Capito	Heinrich	Murkowski
Carper	Helmy	Murray
Casey	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Collins	Hirono	Padilla
Cornyn	Hoeven	Peters
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Reed
Cramer	Kaine	Ricketts

Romney	Smith	Warnock
Rosen	Stabenow	Warren
Rounds	Tester	Welch
Sanders	Thune	Whitehouse
Schatz	Tillis	Wicker
Schumer	Van Hollen	Wyden
Shaheen	Warner	Young

NAYS—17

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Lankford	Schmitt
Braun	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Mullin	Tuberville
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—14

Brown	Fetterman	Risch
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Sinema
Cassidy	Lujan	Sullivan
Coons	Manchin	Vance
Cotton	Murphy	

The nomination was agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 787.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 787, Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Lujan, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, September 23, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I rise to offer remarks on behalf of my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself in recognition of the 140th anniversary of the U.S. Naval War College, which was established on October 6, 1884, in Newport, RI. For the past 14 decades, it has played a critical role in shaping the leadership of our Armed Forces. While the Naval War College's mission has grown over the years, it remains a place of cutting-edge scholarship, helping to strengthen maritime security cooperation, support combat readiness, and develop the future of the Navy.

The Naval War College is a center for research and academic excellence. It provides an advanced course of study for both military officers and civilians and has served as the home of some of our military's most important strategic developments. Students and faculty work closely with the Navy Warfare Development Command and the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group in analyzing national security issues and developing innovative solutions. In addition, the Naval War College has pioneered war-gaming to support combat readiness since its founding and continues to evolve with the modern world offering over 50 events per year to include scenarios beyond the maritime domain such as space, cyber, and humanitarian disaster relief.

The oldest institution of its kind, the Naval War College has played an important role in the education and professional development of some of our country's most accomplished and impactful military officers and civilian leaders. Since the Naval War College's founding in 1884 by Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, more than 50,000 students have earned advanced degrees. Most have gone on to have impressive military careers, leading U.S. servicemembers around the globe and serving at the highest echelons of military and civilian leadership. Esteemed graduates include the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, the current Secretary of the Navy;

General Randy George, the Chief of Staff of the Army; former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and many others from every branch of our Armed Forces.

Throughout its 140-year history, the Naval War College has been a forward-looking institution and has consistently worked to break the mold of traditional military strategy and thinking. As the Naval War College celebrates this impressive milestone, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I know that the faculty, staff, and students will continue this tradition of excellence and innovation.

We are proud of the talented men and women who have made the Naval War College the strong and well-respected institution it is today. Along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to congratulate the entire Naval War College community on this important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO KEN HAMILTON

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of Ken Hamilton and his retirement from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

On October 31, 2024, the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will celebrate Ken Hamilton's retirement after 41 years of service. Throughout his career, Ken has been a strong and effective advocate for the State's agriculture industry.

Ken was born and raised in rural Big Horn County, WY. His dedication to agriculture was sparked from a young age. Ken learned the trade by working on the family ranch, raising sheep and cattle, and trying his hand at irrigated farming practices.

Ken graduated from Manderson-Hyattville High School and earned an associate of arts in pre-law at Northwest College in Powell. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wyoming in 1982.

Ken attended the American Farm Bureau Federation work exchange program in Australia during his senior year at UW. While there, he worked for Checkers Pastoral Company and the Colligan Creek Pastoral Company.

Following his return to the States, Ken began his career at the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation as a research and field assistant. He gained valuable skills that soon prompted a promotion to director of field services and then administrative assistant. In 2004, he became the executive vice president.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation advocates for farmers and ranchers by protecting private property rights, drafting grassroots policies, strengthening agriculture, and developing educational practices for leadership and advocacy. Ken's life and time at Farm Bureau have been truly dedicated to these principles.

In addition to his work at the Farm Bureau, Ken dedicated his time to various organizations to further conservation efforts and agricultural production. He served on the 2006 Wyoming

Brand Task Force, the State of Wyoming Coal Bed Methane Working Group, the Western Region Air Partnership Dust Forum, the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, the Legal Information and Networking Committee, and the American Farm Bureau's general council advisory and the legal information and networking committees.

Ken also served as the Wyoming Capitol Club president, the Wyoming Society of Association Executives president, the Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company secretary, and the Wyoming Farm Bureau general manager.

In response to his unwavering dedication to Wyoming agriculture, Ken was honored in 2015 as one of UW's Outstanding Alumni. In 2023 Ken received a Longevity Award from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

Joining in this momentous celebration is Ken's wife Kathy and his son Ian Hamilton.

It is with great honor that I recognize and celebrate Ken Hamilton. He embodies the Cowboy Code to the fullest. His incredible contributions and positive strides within the agriculture industry are remarkable. He represents the best of Wyoming agriculture. Congratulations to Ken Hamilton on his retirement from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 19, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 9468. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the enrolled bill was subsequently signed on September 19, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3724. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit recognized accrediting agencies and associations from requiring, encouraging, or coercing institutions of higher education to meet any political litmus test or violate any right protected by the Constitution as a condition of accreditation.

H.R. 4790. An act to amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality

of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5717. An act to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens.

H.R. 9106. An act to direct the Director of the United States Secret Service to apply the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 136. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles".

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 265. An act to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1648. An act to facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, and for other purposes.

S. 2825. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2861. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 4351. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control programs.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3724. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit recognized accrediting agencies and associations from requiring, encouraging, or coercing institutions of higher education to meet any political litmus test or violate any right protected by the Constitution as a condition of accreditation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4790. An act to amend the Federal securities laws with respect to the materiality of disclosure requirements, to establish the Public Company Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5717. An act to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.J. Res. 136. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-5938. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting draft legislation to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a preservation program to provide financial incentives and other assistance to properties financed under Section 514 or Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5939. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13894 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Syria; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5940. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5941. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AJ79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5942. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Consumer Protections for Home Sales Financed Under Contracts for Deed" (12 CFR Part 1026) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5943. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting, Procedures and Penalties Regulations" (31 CFR Part 501) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5944. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating Provisions Related to Blocking and Other Actions Related to Specific Property or Interests in Property" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5945. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Apache Trout From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BG94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5946. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1022 Rev 3, Supplement 2, Event Report Guidelines” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5947. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 5.62 Rev 3, ‘Physical Security Event Notifications, Reports, and Records’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5948. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Interagency Water Workforce Working Group Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5949. A communication from the Executive Director of the Build America Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998 Financial Performance” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5950. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs Interim Staff Guidance, DUWP-ISG-02, Radiological Survey and Dose Modeling of the Subsurface to Support License Termination Final (Supplement to NUREG-1757, Volume 2, Rev. 2)” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5951. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Technical Corrections for Seven Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Six Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants” (RIN1018-BG02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5952. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Nevada; Washoe County Health District” (FRL No. 11263-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5953. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Revisions; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 11685-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5954. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Permitting Provisions Revisions” (FRL No. 11971-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19,

2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5955. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period” (FRL No. 12105-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5956. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Source Performance Standards for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry and Group I and II Polymers and Resins Industry; Correction” ((RIN2060-AW29) (FRL No. 9327.1-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5957. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Attainment Plan for the Indiana Nonattainment Area for the 2010 1-hour Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 11529-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5958. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; ID; Revisions to Air Quality Regulations” (FRL No. 11575-02-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5959. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Source-Specific Air Quality Implementation Plan; New York; Sylvamo Ticonderoga Mill” (FRL No. 11904-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5960. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Sulfur Dioxide” (FRL No. 11913-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5961. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Nitrogen Oxides SIP Call Alternative Monitoring and Dometar Paper Company, LLC” (FRL No. 12065-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5962. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 12071-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-176. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Ohio expressing support for consumer choice in the automotive marketplace and against government-preferred vehicle technology mandates that will harm Ohio’s consumers by prematurely requiring the transition of the automotive fleet from internal combustion powered vehicles to all-electric vehicles; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 155

Whereas, All Ohio residents deserve access to affordable, practical, and technologically neutral options for transportation in the new and used motor vehicle marketplace; and

Whereas, An overwhelming majority of Ohioans have chosen to purchase vehicles equipped with an internal combustion engine; and

Whereas, The median household income of Ohioans from 2017–2021 was \$61,938 as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau; and

Whereas, The average cost of a new all-electric vehicle is more than \$58,000, making the mandated purchase of these vehicles unaffordable and, thus, unattainable for the majority of Ohioans; and

Whereas, 198,000 Ohioans are employed in the automotive sector, which contributes over \$12.1 billion in labor income to the state’s economy; and

Whereas, The CEO of Ford stated that manufacturing electric vehicles requires approximately 40% less labor than internal combustion engine powered automobiles. Therefore, thousands of family-sustaining union jobs are at risk; and

Whereas, PJM, the regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia has warned that 40 GW of existing electric generation are at risk of retirement by 2030; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Geological Survey’s assessment of critical minerals, the United States depends on countries that have poor environmental records and antagonistic relations, like China, for many of the minerals necessary for deployment of all-electric vehicles; and

Whereas, Federal and state regulators have failed to adequately consider the cost impact to vulnerable communities, the displacement of American jobs, the capacity of our electric infrastructure, and our ability to bring supply chains governed by hostile actors to America when encouraging vehicle mandates; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio reaffirm the State of Ohio’s commitment to consumer choice in the automotive marketplace by neither mandating nor prohibiting the purchase of specific vehicle technologies; and be it further

Resolved, That we respectfully urge the Biden Administration to ensure all regulations being promulgated by the U.S. EPA regarding light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles protect American families and workers by being both economically practicable and technologically feasible, which means preventing direct or indirect electric vehicle mandates; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Ohio Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, the Secretary of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 4367, a bill to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-227).

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

S. 3067. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct an evaluation and submit to Congress a report on ways to reduce the complexity of the cost effectiveness requirements for hazard mitigation assistance, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-228).

S. 3558. A bill to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-229).

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment with a preamble:

S. Res. 837. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee (Rept. No. 118-230).

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 Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 5134. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to expand eligibility for individual and public assistance to certain areas and to include cumulative damage from multiple natural catastrophes in the definition of major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 5135. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase penalties for unauthorized disclosure of taxpayer information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5136. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 5137. A bill to identify property located in the territory of certain foreign trade partners that is owned or controlled by United

States persons, necessary to access a port, harbor, or marine terminal, and has been nationalized or expropriated, and to prohibit certain actions by vessels that have landed at such ports, harbors, or marine terminals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 5138. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 5139. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to address emerging growth companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5140. A bill to extend by 5 years the term of the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 5141. A bill to provide for health coverage with no cost-sharing for additional breast screenings for certain individuals at greater risk for breast cancer; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HELMY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5142. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the national program for traumatic brain injury surveillance and registries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 836. A resolution recognizing Hispanic Restaurant Week and the contributions of Hispanic restaurant owners and employees to the restaurant industry; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. Res. 837. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms.

HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SUL-LIVAN):

S. Res. 838. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 17, 2024, as "National Warrior Call Day" and recognizing the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. Res. 839. A resolution designating September 2024 as "National Student Parent Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 840. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as "Telehealth Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. GRAMHAM):

S. Res. 841. A resolution designating September 2024 as "National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 842. A resolution designating the week beginning October 20, 2024, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 843. A resolution designating October 2024 as "National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 844. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 1028

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1907

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1907, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to enhance penalties for theft of a firearm from a Federal firearms licensee.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 4129

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4129, a bill to contribute funds and artifacts to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota.

S. 4243

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4243, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

S. 4280

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

S. 4400

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4400, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term "small entity" for purposes of the securities laws, and for other purposes.

S. 4436

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4436, a bill to improve the safety of infant formula through test-

ing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements, and for other purposes.

S. 4528

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4528, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor in recognition of his significance to the nation as an athlete, trailblazer, role model, and equal rights advocate.

S. 4778

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4778, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the exclusion for certain employer payments of student loans under educational assistance programs permanent.

S. 4826

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4826, a bill to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for employment by the Internal Revenue Service.

S. 4900

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4900, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, and for other purposes.

S. 4917

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4917, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 4932

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4932, a bill to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to provide for a research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes.

S. 4967

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4967, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to reauthorize and update the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4988

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4988, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals who fought for or with the United States against the armed forces

of Imperial Japan in the Pacific theater and the impacted Sashinax people on Attu, whose lives, culture, and community were irrevocably changed from December 8, 1941, to August 15, 1945.

S. 5045

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5045, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify a provision relating to criminal penalties for damaging or destroying pipeline facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 5113

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5113, a bill to delay the application of a certain rule for members of the Armed Forces and diplomats stationed in a foreign country and for individuals with service animals, and for other purposes.

S. 5122

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5122, a bill to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

S. 5124

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5124, a bill to require the United States Secret Service to provide protection to major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and their spouses at the same level of protection provided to the President, and for other purposes.

S. 5132

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5132, a bill to promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 103

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 103, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Safeguarding and Securing the Open Internet; Restoring Internet Freedom".

S. RES. 822

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 822, a resolution designating September 2024 as "National Voting Rights Month".

S. RES. 832

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 832, a resolution supporting the designation of September 19, 2024, as “National Stillbirth Prevention Day”, recognizing tens of thousands of families in the United States that have endured a stillbirth, and seizing the opportunity to keep other families from experiencing the same tragedy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 836—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC RESTAURANT WEEK AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANIC RESTAURANT OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES TO THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 836

Whereas Hispanic Restaurant Week is celebrated from September 22, 2024, through October 3, 2024, during the national celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2024, through October 15, 2024;

Whereas, in 2020, the Bureau of the Census estimated that 41,817 owners of accommodation and food service businesses were Hispanic;

Whereas the restaurant industry plays a significant role in the economy of the United States as the second-largest private sector employer in the United States;

Whereas 25.9 percent of workers in the restaurant industry are Hispanic;

Whereas, according to a 2023 State of Latino Entrepreneurship report, published by the Stanford Graduate School of Business, during the last decade, Hispanic entrepreneurs have started small businesses, including restaurants, at a higher rate than any other demographic;

Whereas, of the nearly 5,000,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States, the restaurant industry has the second highest number of Hispanic owners;

Whereas 8 in 10 restaurant owners started their restaurant industry careers in entry-level positions;

Whereas 63 percent of adults in the United States have worked in the restaurant industry, making it “the Nation’s training ground”; and

Whereas the restaurant industry employs more minority managers than any other industry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates Hispanic Restaurant Week; and

(2) acknowledges—

(A) the contributions of Hispanic owners and staff of the restaurant industry to the United States economy; and

(B) the fact that the restaurant industry provides restaurant owners, chefs, dishwashers, and other staff the opportunity to work hard, persevere, support their families, and live the American Dream.

SENATE RESOLUTION 837—AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO CERTIFY THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE REFUSAL OF DR. RALPH DE LA TORRE TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Mr. SANDERS submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 837

Whereas the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate (referred to in this preamble as the “Committee”) is currently conducting a duly authorized investigation into the bankruptcy of Steward Health Care Systems LLC;

Whereas, on July 25, 2024, the Committee issued a duly authorized subpoena to Dr. Ralph de la Torre, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Steward Health Care Systems LLC, directing him to testify before the Committee on September 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.;

Whereas, on September 4, 2024, counsel for Dr. de la Torre submitted to the Committee objections to the compelled testimony under the subpoena issued by the Committee and indicated Dr. de la Torre’s intent to decline to comply with the subpoena;

Whereas, having considered the legal objections that had been submitted by counsel for Dr. de la Torre, the Committee overruled those objections in their entirety on September 5, 2024, and ordered and directed that Dr. de la Torre comply with the subpoena issued by the Committee to testify at 10:00 a.m. on September 12, 2024; and

Whereas Dr. de la Torre has refused to comply with the subpoena by the Committee as ordered and directed by the Committee: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That pursuant to sections 102 and 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 192, 194), the President of the Senate shall certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, detailing the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Steward Health Care Systems LLC, to appear and testify before the Committee, to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, to the end that Dr. de la Torre be proceeded against in the manner and form provided by law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 838—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 17, 2024, AS “NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING WARRIORS IN THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT STRUCTURES NECESSARY TO TRANSITION FROM THE BATTLEFIELD, ESPECIALLY PEER-TO-PEER CONNECTION

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOKER,

Mr. CRUZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 838

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces and veterans whose connection to one another is key to supporting the members of the Armed Forces and veterans in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the number of suicides of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty was 492 in 2022;

Whereas, in 2022, the total count of Armed Forces suicide deaths went down, but the overall rate of Armed Forces suicide deaths per 100,000 went up by 3 percent;

Whereas, in 2021, there were 6,392 veteran suicide deaths, and the unadjusted rate of suicide in 2021 among veterans was 33.9 per 100,000;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2021 was nearly 72 percent higher than the rate of suicide in non-veteran adults;

Whereas a greater number of veterans have died by suicide in the 10 years preceding the adoption of this resolution than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas many of the veterans who die by suicide have had no known contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas a myriad of factors leads to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can present as or exacerbate mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 17, 2024, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of November 17, 2024, as “National Warrior Call Day”; and

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States, especially members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and veterans, to call a warrior, have an honest conversation, and connect them with support, understanding that making a warrior call could save a life; and

(3) implores all individuals in the United States to recommit themselves to engaging with members of the Armed Forces and veterans through “National Warrior Call Day” and other constructive efforts that result in solutions and treatment for the invisible scars that can afflict veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

SENATE RESOLUTION 839—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL STUDENT PARENT MONTH”

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 839

Whereas student parents are individuals who have children and who attend postsecondary educational institutions;

Whereas student parents make up roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the postsecondary student population, totaling nearly 4,000,000 individuals;

Whereas 70 percent of student parents are women, and 62 percent of student mothers are single parents;

Whereas 54 percent of single mothers who are enrolled at an institution of higher education work 20 hours or more per week and 43 percent work 30 hours or more per week, which requires those individuals to balance school, work, and caring for their dependents;

Whereas 51 percent of student parents are students of color, particularly female students of color, with mothers representing—

(1) 40 percent of Black postsecondary students;

(2) 36 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native postsecondary students;

(3) 35 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander postsecondary students; and

(4) 26 percent of Hispanic postsecondary students;

Whereas 47 percent of student parents are military-connected students;

Whereas approximately 813 surviving military spouses are using education benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for surviving dependents;

Whereas 84 percent of military spouses have some college education or credential and, on average, make 25 percent less than their civilian counterparts;

Whereas 42 percent of student parents attend community colleges and 30 percent attend public or private nonprofit 4-year institutions of higher education;

Whereas the cohort of single mothers currently enrolled in higher education will save approximately \$19,900,000,000 in public assistance spending;

Whereas 44 percent of student parents report food insecurity, and 60 percent report housing insecurity;

Whereas $\frac{3}{4}$ of student parents live at or near the poverty line and 52 percent of student parents are Federal Pell Grant recipients;

Whereas, on average, student parents have higher grade point averages than their non-parenting peers, but student parents are 10 times less likely to complete a bachelor's degree within 5 years than students without children;

Whereas a low-income student parent who earns a degree or credential boosts the income of that individual and the earning potential of the children of that individual when those children become adults; and

Whereas student parents are uniquely motivated to excel in their courses of study but often face challenges, including lack of affordable child care and balancing work responsibilities while attending postsecondary educational institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the contributions and achievements of student parents in seeking and completing a postsecondary education; and

(2) designates September 2024 as “National Student Parent Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 840—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, AS “TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 840

Whereas telehealth allows a health care practitioner to furnish health care services to a patient or a practitioner at a different physical location than the health care practitioner;

Whereas telehealth played a significant role in supporting access to quality health care services for millions of patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency and continues to be important beyond the end of the public health emergency;

Whereas Medicare beneficiaries used 88 times more telehealth services during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic than they did in the prior year;

Whereas 25 percent of Medicare beneficiaries received at least 1 telehealth service in 2023;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries who received a telehealth service were satisfied with their experience;

Whereas, in 2023, telehealth was a routine health care modality with 13 percent of Medicare beneficiaries using telehealth in the last quarter of the calendar year;

Whereas telehealth is a common care modality for Medicare beneficiaries to receive behavioral health services, with half of common psychotherapy services furnished under the original Medicare fee-for-service program delivered by telehealth in 2022;

Whereas Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics use telehealth to deliver services to rural and underserved populations;

Whereas, following the unprecedented use of telehealth services in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, telehealth now represents a critical component of health care delivery;

Whereas legislative efforts to increase telehealth access have received bipartisan support in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas the United States has an opportunity to help improve access to health services for all individuals, including members of rural and underserved communities; and

Whereas “Telehealth Awareness Week” unites the efforts of patients, caregivers, health care providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to advance the role of telehealth in health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as “Telehealth Awareness Week”;

(2) recognizes the impact of telehealth in delivering health care services for patients across the United States; and

(3) urges that steps should be taken to—

(A) raise awareness about the benefits of telehealth;

(B) highlight resources for health care providers and patients regarding telehealth;

(C) collect and analyze data on the impacts of telehealth; and

(D) promote continued access to telehealth for all communities and across settings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 841—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. GRAHAM)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 841

Whereas each year more than 14,500 children under the age of 19 in the United States are diagnosed with cancer;

Whereas every year more than 1,500 children in the United States lose their lives to cancer;

Whereas childhood cancer is the leading cause of death from disease after infancy and one of the leading causes of death overall for children in the United States;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for children with cancer in the United States has increased from 58 percent in the mid-1970s to 85 percent in 2024, representing a significant improvement from previous decades;

Whereas 60 to 90 percent of children in the United States who survive cancer will develop at least one chronic health condition, and some survivors may face a late effect from treatment that can be severe or life-threatening; and

Whereas childhood cancer occurs frequently and spares no racial or ethnic group, socioeconomic class, or geographic region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2024 as “National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) requests that the Federal Government, States, localities, and nonprofit organizations observe the month with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing public knowledge of the risks of childhood cancer;

(3) encourages survivors of childhood cancer to continue to receive ongoing monitoring and care throughout their adult lives;

(4) recognizes the human toll of childhood cancer and pledges to make the prevention of and cure for childhood cancer a public health priority;

(5) reminds the people of the United States of the bravery of children who are diagnosed with cancer; and

(6) commends and honors the courage of such children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 842—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 20, 2024, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 842

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including from schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young individuals are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that individuals do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, institutions and individuals that influence youth must make conscientious efforts to help young individuals develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young individuals to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young individuals in the United States, to adopt the elements of character, which are intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of “National Character Counts Week”, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 20, 2024, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe National Character Counts Week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 843—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 843

Whereas in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401), a specific learning disability—

(1) is defined as a disorder in 1 or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations;

(2) includes conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia; and

(3) does not include a learning problem that is primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of intellectual disabilities, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage;

Whereas a specific learning disability is the most prevalent disability of students who are served by parts A through D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), impacting 34 percent of all students who received special education services;

Whereas, for academic year 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress reports that—

(1) more than 95 percent of 4th and 8th grade students with a specific learning disability were not proficient in reading; and

(2) more than 93 percent of 4th and 8th grade students with a specific learning disability were not proficient in math;

Whereas the math and reading scores reported by the National Assessment of Educational Progress for academic year 2022 indicate that Black and Hispanic students with a specific learning disability experience greater opportunity gaps than White and Asian students;

Whereas research shows that students with specific learning disabilities can achieve success commensurate with their peers, if given appropriate instruction and support;

Whereas developmentally appropriate universal screening should begin as early as possible to assess which students demonstrate the most pervasive risk factors for specific learning disabilities; and

Whereas research rooted in the science of reading establishes an evidence base of effective instructional methods for developing reading skills for students with or at risk for specific learning disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2024 as “National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month”; and

(2) calls on State and local education agencies to continue to meet the needs of students with specific learning disabilities through a free and appropriate public education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 844—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 844

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exon-

eration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the week of September 15, 2024, to September 21, 2024, is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) contact and invite local media outlets to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the week of September 15, 2024, to September 21, 2024, to be “National Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3293. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3293. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding “and” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;”;

(B) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

“(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

“(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

“(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.”; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “2024” and inserting “2026”.

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

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

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following law clerks and fellows to the Senate Judiciary Committee be granted floor privileges until September 28, 2024: Simone Montgomery, Isha Sharma, Kenneth Mok, and Charles Alldredge.

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

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. 838, S. Res. 839, S. Res. 840, S. Res. 841, S. Res. 842, S. Res. 843, S. Res. 844.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Sfraga nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the Sfraga nomination ripen at 12 noon; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture has been invoked on the Sfraga nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 457, H.R. 1555, ripen upon the disposition of the Sfraga nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday'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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 23, 2024:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

ROSE E. JENKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.