



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

No. 149

Senate

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

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Pastor William L. Nash, Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church, Mangham, LA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Our eternal God, as this body assembles for session today, we thank Thee for the blessings of Heaven upon America in its 248th year of our freedom.

Our prayer on this wonderful September day is for the wisdom and anointing of Thy Spirit to descend upon each Senator. May guidance and strength for sound legislation move from each committee room to the floor of this Chamber. May these honorable servants represent the heartbeat of America. After all, they are sent by the people for the betterment of the people.

Forgive us, O God, of our failures; repair our altars. And may this Chamber of Calhoun, Webster, Long, and Goldwater become renewed with the best fruits of labor. Lead the Senators to the mountaintop of victory so that, 100 years from today, we may say: It was good to have been here.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, both parties in both Chambers continue the

work of avoiding a shutdown. House Republican leadership needs to get the CR done quickly because we still need time in the Senate to move the bill through the floor. House Republicans should work with Democrats—House and Senate Democrats—to find the best path to getting the bill passed in a bipartisan way. The House Republicans have already wasted enough time as it is.

Once the House acts, the Senate will move quickly to get the CR done. I encourage my colleagues on both sides to prioritize speedy passage of the CR. If both sides keep working together, if we stay away from poison pills and partisan spectacle, then the American people can rest assured there won't be a government shutdown. But we still have more work to do.

Of course, nothing was inevitable about the tight deadline we face now. The bipartisan CR I negotiated with Speaker JOHNSON and Leaders McCONNELL and JEFFRIES is more or less the result people expected from the beginning—a short-term CR, one that does not last 6 months, that is free of poison pills, and which honors the bipartisan funding levels we agreed to earlier this year.

But this feels like the third or fourth time this Congress that House Republicans have had to learn the same elementary lesson: In a narrowly divided government, partisan bully tactics and appealing to the extreme just does not work, plain and simple.

I know a few on the hard right say: Oh, we can demand, bang our fists on the table, and force everyone to do what we want. That ain't happening. What they want to do is so destructive to America that the overwhelming number of Democrats and a large number of Republicans don't want to do it. But nonetheless this feels like the third or fourth time in this Congress that the House Republicans have had to learn the same elementary lesson—I say particularly the House hard-right

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



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Republicans and the Freedom Caucus. In a narrowly divided government, partisan bully tactics and appealing to the extreme simply does not work.

I would have thought that would have been made clear a year ago, when Speaker McCarthy kept trying and trying and trying to appease the hard right with increasingly severe funding cuts, and it ended up being all for naught anyway. We ended up passing a bipartisan CR, and radicals turned on Speaker McCarthy.

This time around, it was Donald Trump again telling the hard right to shut the government down if we didn't agree to their poison pill provisions—never mind that a shutdown would mean costs would go up, programs like Head Start would halt, and public safety here and at the border would suffer. To Donald Trump, these are all OK because they are just apparently the cost of feeding his ego. It is bewilderingly cynical to see Donald Trump push for a shutdown, knowing the pain it would cause the country. But thankfully we are still on track to avoid that kind of mess. Of course, we still have more work to do.

I earnestly hope today brings good news in the House. We here in the Senate are ready to work to get this bill done quickly.

ABORTION

Mr. President, now on abortion, last week, a report by ProPublica told a heart-wrenching story of Amber Thurman of Georgia, who died because abortion bans in her State prevented her from getting lifesaving emergency care.

I know you are familiar with this case, Mr. President. It is the first known case of a woman dying because of new abortion laws in the wake of the MAGA Supreme Court's disastrous repeal of Roe. Doctors said her death was preventable.

This was a prime example of the government interfering in lifesaving medical decisions—exactly what is envisioned, unfortunately, in the MAGA Project 2025. Sadly, as we all know, she will not be the last.

A person's ability to receive lifesaving care, including lifesaving reproductive care, should never, never hinge on what State they live in. It should be something to which everyone in every State has a right.

Georgia's case is particularly foul because Georgia has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the country, which disproportionately affects Black Americans.

What happened in Georgia is a direct example of how abortion bans continue to exacerbate the racial disparities in maternal death. Amber's doctors didn't perform the medical procedures they knew she needed because of Georgia's law. It was the law overruling their good medical judgment. She went into septic shock, and her heart stopped. All the while, doctors did everything except the medically sound treatment she needed.

In our country right now, doctors are calling lawyers to ask permission before they treat a patient. Can you believe that? That is so wrong. But that is what our Republican colleagues, in their extreme views on women's reproductive health, have asked for.

Today, the Senate will act on legislation to help prevent tragedies like Amber's death from happening again.

First, Democrats will bring up a resolution led by Senator MURRAY that affirms the Senate's position that every person has the basic right to emergency healthcare, including abortion care.

I implore every single Senator—Democrat, Republican, and Independent—to support this resolution. It is a simple idea that emergency care should be a right for all and that doctors should never been afraid of doing their jobs while making life-and-death decisions. How on Earth could anyone have a problem with that?

Democrats will also bring up legislation by Senator BALDWIN to create a grant program that will assist with travel-related expenses for those seeking an abortion. This fund will help people overcome financial barriers like transportation, lodging, and childcare if patients need to travel out of State to get the care they need and require.

Perhaps if Amber had access to this fund and could have left Georgia, if she had the Federal resources to move quicker to get care, perhaps she would be alive today.

I thank Senators MURRAY and BALDWIN for leading these two important bills.

If passed, they may help save lives. I am proud to support them and urge everyone on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

When it comes to abortion, Donald Trump and Senate Republicans have kept pushing the same argument again and again—that abortion is best left to the States—leaving aside the fact that their end goal is a total abortion ban.

The tragedy of Amber Thurman's death shows exactly why leaving abortion to the States is such a dangerous idea in itself. It has led to a dangerously inconsistent application of justice and rights. Many of these State legislatures are dominated, frankly, by radicals who don't know or care one iota about reproductive care.

And abortion is just the start for some of those States. Some of them will want to police a woman's travel. They will want to prosecute people who help a woman receive care. They will want to jail doctors. That is already in the legislative ideas in many of these States. These are utterly delusional ideas.

My Senate Republican colleagues say abortion should be left to the States. What do they have to say about States like Georgia, where abortion laws got someone killed? Do Republicans think this is a just outcome? Do they think this is an acceptable way to legislate on people's individual freedoms—some

States saying one thing, other States saying something different?

I certainly don't think so; Democrats don't think so; and the American people don't think so. Again, all of this is an attempt for MAGA Republicans to get a national abortion ban.

I hope today, Mr. President—I hope today we can see a tiny ray of light amidst so much darkness when it comes to reproductive freedoms. I hope my colleagues on both sides support the legislation today. To say no—to say no—would be a cruel and heartless message to send to the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the Pentagon announced the deployment of additional U.S. servicemembers to the Middle East. The proximate cause, of course, is the threat of war on Israel's northern border. But ongoing Iran-backed attacks against U.S. personnel from the Red Sea to Iraq and Syria offer plenty of reminders that America's enemies lack neither the resources nor motivation to target us.

Democrats and Republicans alike should recognize that America's enduring security interests in the Middle East are not served by abandoning the region to Iran, Russia, and China. But what the Biden-Harris administration is grappling with right now is a problem of its own making. It is the combination of a weak and ineffectual response to Iran-backed aggression. It is the predictable and forewarned inadequacy of a force-planning construct that rules out serious preparation for meeting multiple threats at the same time.

I have spoken repeatedly about the naivete of abandoning a multiple-war, force-planning construct, underresourcing our military, and ignoring the growing and interconnected threats our adversaries pose to our interests.

It is worth remembering how former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan reportedly responded to a question that the greatest challenge for a statesman is "events, dear boy, events." Well, events have proven particularly challenging for the Biden-Harris administration.

At the risk of repeating myself, losing resolve to meet and defeat adversaries when they threaten us only emboldens them. Retreating from difficult challenges only invites even bigger ones. And most importantly, there

is no serious accounting of the global threats to America's interests and our allies today that concludes they can be dealt with one at a time, at our leisure.

The enemy gets a vote.

The demand for a U.S. military that can meet simultaneous challenges is acute, and we ignore it at the peril of the entire American-led international order that underpins our security and our prosperity.

Today, when President Biden addresses the U.N. General Assembly, we will no doubt hear about the grave challenge these interconnected threats pose to America and the entire world. But the President's concern will carry little weight without explicit commitments to the sort of hard power necessary to address them. The President will insist that his leadership has "produced results." That is true—just not good results. For years, by its neglect of the urgent requirements of the national defense, its anemic—defense budget requests, and its ongoing preference for micromanaging allies over confronting adversaries, the Biden-Harris administration has compounded the challenges that we face.

What the Commander in Chief is reckoning with this week is the product of nearly 4 years of failing to check Iran and to prepare adequately for great power competition—4 years of appeasement, hesitation, naive and desperate nuclear diplomacy, as well as outright retreat.

It is, indeed, too late to undo this administration's record of net cuts to defense investments. Likewise, it is too late to roll back the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Here in the Senate, after weeks of partisan show votes, it is now too late for the Senate to discharge a fundamental obligation of this body—to provide for the common defense—and debate the annual Defense authorization and appropriations bills before the election.

It is not, however, too late to stop treating Israel as an escalatory regional force in need of finger-wagging micromanagement and, instead, like a sovereign democracy encircled by the forces of the world's most active sponsor of terror. It is not too late to stop responding to proxy violence with the sort of unwavering force necessary to change Iran's calculus—and, for that matter, Russia's and China's as well.

It is not too late to show our adversaries that, in their race to undermine America's global influence and threaten its global interests, they will meet determined opposition.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, now on another matter, about halfway through President Biden's term, he leveled some rather weighty accusations at the opposition party. He said Republicans "do not respect the Constitution" and "do not believe in the rule of law." Well, that was pretty rich coming from someone who was already exploring the possibility of resurrecting one of the most

flagrant affronts to the Constitution in American history.

After less than 100 days in office, the President had formed a faux academic Commission to revisit a plan to toss out the separation of powers and pack the Supreme Court. This idea had been dead and buried since the 1930s, when it proved so inconceivable to even the most loyal New Deal Democrats that it almost tore President Roosevelt's administration apart. And just months after convening, the President's own Commission concluded that structural changes would—listen to this—risk irreparable damage to an independent judiciary. That was the President's Commission.

The Commissioners warned that "in recent years, we have seen democratic governments 'regress' or 'backslide' with respect to judicial independence. This has come about through electoral majorities using their power to restructure previously independent institutions, including courts, to favor the political agendas of those governments."

Now, this didn't entirely chasten Washington Democrats. And even though they haven't yet gone forward with a nearly 90-year-old old plan to turn the Nation's highest Court into a fief of the Presidency, the campaign to undermine judicial independence is alive and well right here in the Senate.

Vice President HARRIS, for her part, has yet to disavow her own openness to taking truly radical steps. In 2019, then-Senator HARRIS said:

We are on the verge of a crisis of confidence in the Supreme Court. We have to take this challenge head on, and everything is on the table to do that.

"Everything is on the table"—including, as she confirmed just this summer, packing the Court. The Vice President endorsed the President's call for "imposing term limits for Justices' active service." It would be difficult to draw up a more devastating blow to public confidence in the independence of a co-equal branch of government than subordinating it to the election cycles of another.

On a laundry list of issues, Vice President HARRIS's flip-flops have left voters wondering where she stands. But this particular one is no secret. The Democratic nominee for President of the United States wants to reanimate a dangerous, long-rejected attack on traditional independence, an idea the American people would do well to send back to the ash heap where it belongs.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BROADBAND

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as a Senator from a rural State and a former

chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, expanding broadband access to rural areas has long been a priority of mine. I have done a lot of work on this issue, which is precisely why I was so concerned when the infrastructure bill proposed \$42 billion for rural broadband to be funneled through the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA.

I was doubtful whether NTIA was capable of administering \$42 billion, given its previous struggles to administer a fraction of that amount of money. And, unfortunately, those concerns have turned out to be well-founded.

The Biden-Harris administration's signature broadband initiative and Vice President HARRIS's tenure as broadband czar have been nothing short of a disaster. It has been nearly 3 years since the \$42 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment, or what we call the BEAD program, was established at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide broadband access to unserved communities. Three years. And in all that time, the program has not connected a single household to the internet.

Let me say that again. It has been nearly 3 years—and to be precise, 1,044 days—since the BEAD program was established. And in all of that time—over 1,000 days—the program has not connected a single household to the internet. A logical question would be: Why? Please, tell us why?

Well, it is a story—a sad story—of government inefficiency and progressivism run amok. Instead of focusing on delivering broadband services to unserved areas, the Biden-Harris administration loaded down the BEAD program with a liberal wish list of requirements that were never envisioned by Congress and have obstructed broadband deployment: climate change mandates, prioritizing government-owned networks over private investment, biased technology mandates, prioritizing the use of union labor, attempts to impose price controls in direct violation of the law, DEI hiring priorities.

What should have been a straightforward application and approval process for building networks has become a literal morass. Why, oh why, Mr. President, should rural telecoms in South Dakota be talking about climate change mandates in building out broadband networks to serve underserved people in rural areas of the country?

As if the list of woke requirements weren't enough, it has been matched by massive inefficiency from the administration.

One State official who recently testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee in the House had this to say about the program's implementation:

States face a common issue—navigating the complex BEAD process. NTIA's functional requests are akin to building a plane while flying it without having the necessary instructions to be successful. NTIA has provided either no guidance, guidance given too late, or guidance changing midstream, all with a lack of appreciation for State operations and costs and the needs of our telecommunications providers.

Another official from another State described BEAD as—and I quote again—"the most burdensome Federal program" she has ever imagined. The most burdensome Federal program she has ever imagined. And worse yet, ever had to manage.

Given all this, I suppose it is no surprise that not only has broadband not reached even one household through the BEAD program, but construction projects haven't even begun. Current expectations for the start of construction on various BEAD projects range from sometime next year to sometime in 2026–2026. We are already at 1,044 days since this program was enacted. Not a single dollar has been allocated out of the \$42 billion.

Well, if this is what things look like with Vice President HARRIS as broadband czar, I shudder to think what things would look like if she were in charge of the entire Federal Government.

This isn't the first time I sounded the alarm on the implementation of the BEAD program and the burdensome and extra legal requirements the Biden administration—the Biden-Harris administration, I should say—has imposed. I have been joined in this by Commerce Committee Ranking Member Senator CRUZ, who shares my concerns, as well as other committee Republicans who share those concerns as well. I would like to see some of my Democratic colleagues taking a closer look at BEAD implementation and broadband implementation more generally.

As the BEAD program makes very clear, you can throw a lot—a lot—\$42 billion a lot—a lot of taxpayer money at a problem and still not get results. I would like to see the Commerce Committee conduct a lot more oversight of the programs and Agencies under its jurisdiction.

It has been more than 1,500 days since the last Federal Communications Commission oversight hearing at the Commerce Committee—the committee, the principal committee of jurisdiction over the FCC.

In fact, we haven't had a single FCC oversight hearing since Democrats took control of the Senate back in 2021. And despite the ongoing failure of the BEAD program at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, we haven't held a single hearing on NTIA yet in this Congress. While I understand that highlighting the failure of the Biden-Harris administration's signature broadband initiative is probably not high on Democrats' priority list, our obligation to the American people and our concern

for the millions of Americans without broadband access should put BEAD oversight at the top of the Commerce Committee's agenda.

Mr. President, the BEAD program's failure certainly highlights the fact that Vice President HARRIS has been no more effective as broadband czar as she has been as border czar. It also points to a larger problem—larger problems—with progressivism, like big promises, poor results, and the prioritization of liberal social fantasies over the needs of the American people. I suspect that if "Broadband Czar" HARRIS becomes President HARRIS, the BEAD program will not be the last disastrous government program we see on her watch.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mrs. BRITT pertaining to the introduction of S. 5150 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. BRITT. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

FARM BILL

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the dire state of our American farm economy and our farmers.

American farmers and producers are the backbone of our Nation's agricultural economy and food security. Despite their critical role in our lives to feed, clothe, and fuel not only the United States but the entire world, our farmers are struggling to survive, and that is an understatement.

The current state of the agricultural economy is bleak and on the verge of collapse. We have problems all over the world. We have problems in our country. There is nothing more important—nothing more important—that we should be addressing than our food supply here in this country.

Costs for farmers are rising. Commodity prices are falling. Our farmers cannot break even, much less make a profit. According to the USDA, net farm income this year is projected to decline 4.4 percent from 2023—decline. That is a disaster.

This follows a shocking—listen to this—a shocking 19.5-percent decline in 2022. Not one business in this country can survive with this kind of decline, and our farmers and our farms are no different.

This means producers' income has plummeted 23 percent in just 2 years—23 percent. These figures represent over \$40 billion in lost revenue for America's hard-working producers. This is the largest 2-year decline ever in our farm income—ever in the history of this country.

Right now, our row croppers, especially, are facing considerable financial hardship. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, row croppers had a \$27.7 billion decline in cash receipts since last year.

In Alabama, my State, our producers are yielding bumper crops of cotton, peanuts, corn, and soybeans; and yet they can't profit due to rising costs of production. Our catfish producers are in the same boat. Rising input costs and falling fish prices are threatening to put them out of business.

A multitude of factors that producers have no control over are impacting their bottom lines, and I want to talk about one of them. This miraculous, this world-saving Inflation Reduction Act that we passed a few years ago was supposed to save our economy—supposed to save a lot of workers. Do you know what it has done to our farmers? It has almost put us out of business.

The Inflation Reduction Act started a tax credit for imports and exports. Unfortunately, all the tax credits are going to people and countries and farmers from overseas, Brazil and China.

It was supposed to go to our farmers. No, it is not going to do that. For some reason, this administration has given all the tax credits to the farmers from other countries, and our farmers are struggling.

The Biden administration has control—has total control—over our farm economy, but you haven't heard a peep out of them—not one peep—about our farmers. And this is a disastrous year coming up.

And, right now, we are harvesting our crops, and they are bumper crops.

The issues plaguing American producers are directly linked to the harmful policies, as I just said, from the Biden-Harris administration. This includes the lack of domestic energy production, skyrocketing inflation, which comes from the Inflation Reduction Act, and endless—endless—environmental hurdles.

Let me say something about conservation and all the things that happen in our environment. There is nobody—and I mean nobody—on the face of the Earth that takes care and is more conscious of environmental problems than our farmers, because they make a living off our land. But we are putting so many regulations on them, we are closing our farms down and running them overseas. We are going to have a national security threat because all of our food is going to come from foreign countries.

Farmers are experiencing rising costs of labor and increase in prices for feed, fertilizer, and pesticides. And I am not going to sugarcoat it: America's agricultural producers are facing a very tough road ahead. It is something nobody—the media, this building, the building on the other end, the House of Representatives, nobody is even talking about it.

Folks, if we can't eat, if we don't have food to eat, we are done.

Many farmers fear that their farm loans this year will not be renewed. They have to have farm loans to put a crop in the ground. They fear cash flows drying up and interest rates continuing to rise create an uncertain future for farming operations.

Although Congress only has a few legislative days left to act, we must stop adding fuel to the Biden-Harris administrative fire. We have to quit adding fuel. We have to help the farmers.

We need to pass the farm bill that helps our farmers. Democrats are in control of that. They have been in control of it for the last 8 years.

A farm bill is for 5 years. Four years ago or 5 years ago, the farm bill was \$870 billion for a 5-year period. It runs in a 5-year period. So this past year, we were supposed to be working on the farm bill. I am on the Ag Committee. We go by the control of the Democratic Party. Our Democratic chairwoman has decided we won't do a farm bill this year. We are just throwing farmers underneath the bus.

They need help. You would think by looking at everything going on that my colleagues on the left would rather our food come from other countries—take over our farmland, control it, and do something else with it.

Producers need a strong safety net. We have to have a safety net for our farmers. Considering no farmers' risks are the same, we cannot take a one-size-fits-all approach. Remember, we have a farm bill that covers livestock, hogs, row croppers, forest, fish. There are a lot of things involved. Farmers across the country have fluctuating levels of risk, impacted by land and equipment costs, access to irrigation, and variable input requirements. Southern row croppers rely heavily—heavily—upon title I commodity programs in the farm bill, particularly the Price Loss Program and the Agriculture Risk Program. Yet Midwest producers heavily utilize crop insurance. Where there may be an overlap across regions among these programs, we must fix the entire farm safety net, not just parts of it.

Take the reference prices in commodity programs for example. Reference prices are how much the prices are in their commodity sales report. Our farmers are operating today on 2012 revenue prices—2012; 14 years later. The costs of production are 22 to 31 percent higher today than they were at that time, a decade ago, making current reference prices completely inadequate for our farmers.

We don't have time to waste. Our farmers are facing an uphill battle to remain in business, and we are going to find out pretty quick—the American people going to the grocery store are going to find out pretty quick what it is to be hungry if we don't wake up and smell the roses.

Even if a farm bill is passed today, producers wouldn't receive any commodity program support from this farm bill until 2026. Game, set, match,

before 2026 for our farmers in this country. That is help our farmers need now to survive, not 2 years later.

Senate Republicans stand ready to act on the solid bipartisan bill that the House Agriculture Committee passed earlier this year. Yet Senate Democrats and the Biden administration refuse—they refuse—to come to the table to find practical, bipartisan solutions to the many problems our farmers are facing today.

Let's don't worry about our farmers. Let's worry about Ukraine. Let's worry about people overseas, the 800 bases we have around the world. Let's don't worry about eating. We can do without eating. That is what this administration is saying.

This forces us to look to supplemental appropriations packages to help our producers if we are not going to do a farm bill, renew their farm loans, and help for next year's crops. If they don't get help this year, we are going to have huge problems. They won't be pocketing this money, if we come up with some money, to help the farmers get a loan; they will just be planting another crop.

Without immediate action to assist producers, our Nation's agriculture industry may never ever make it back from the damage we are doing to them today.

America has lost—listen to this—America has lost 150,000 farms and 25,000 farmers in our country over the last few years. What? Mr. President, 150,000 farms closed up. Why? They can't make a profit.

You been on a farm for 100 years, you and your family, but you get to the point where you say, you know, I am not passing something down to our kids who really want to farm, but we are not going to put them in harm's way. We are going to sell. We are going to get out of the business, and we are going to let somebody else worry about it. Let's let the Federal Government worry about it.

Well, we do such a good job here, we would do a great job raising our food.

We can't afford any more losses to our farmers. Our farmers are hurting. They are hurting real bad. But have you heard anybody talk about it? No. You are going to hear a lot of people complaining about it, and there is going to be an uproar in the next few years when prices double and triple what they are today because we are not going to have food. It is going to come from Brazil. It is going to come from China. It is going to come from Vietnam.

We are doing severe damage to the farmers across this country, and nobody cares.

I will continue to be the voice of our southern agricultural producers in the Senate and ensure that we have a seat at table on this farm bill upcoming. But as I just said a while ago, if we do a farm bill today, we are going to lose at least half of our farmers in this country this year—this year—if they don't get some help.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the crisis that we are facing today in America at our southern border.

Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS have created the worst illegal immigrant crisis in American history. KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden removed every successful policy that was in place during the Trump administration. KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden replaced them with policies that released millions upon millions of illegal immigrants into our country. The crisis, the chaos, the crime—they are all a direct result of the terrible policies by KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden.

Here are the facts: More than 10 million—10 million—illegal immigrants have flooded into our country. They have done that in just the last 4 years with KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden in the White House.

At the same time, deadly drugs like fentanyl are flowing into our communities. Each year, tens of thousands of Americans are poisoned by fentanyl that comes across our southern border.

Our communities in every State are being overrun and overwhelmed by this flood of illegal immigrants.

Let's look at the horrible scenes that are developing now in Aurora, CO, just to the south of my home State of Wyoming. This is a city where members of violent Venezuelan gangs have turned apartment complexes into hell holes. That is exactly what they have done. One residence said, "It's been a nightmare."

So how did these gangs find themselves in that situation in that location, and how did the people living in those communities find themselves in this terrorizing situation? Well, according to one report, the Harris-Biden administration, along with the city of Denver, provided the incentives. What are the incentives? Well, Denver offered illegal immigrants 2 months of subsidized rent. The source of the rent money came from Democrats March 2021 reckless tax and spending spree—\$1.9 trillion.

Stop and think about that for just a second. The same law that fueled 40-year high inflation, that caused prices to go up for families all across the country by 20 percent since Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS came into office, that same bill has now incentivized the worst border crisis in American history.

It was Vice President HARRIS who came and sat in that chair and cast the critical, tie-breaking vote right here in the Senate for that reckless spending bill. Her one single vote as Vice President, as President of this institution, the U.S. Senate, brought record-high prices and a recordbreaking border disaster.

Look, these problems spill over from the sanctuary cities like those in Colorado, and they hit neighboring States like my home State of Wyoming.

In Laramie County, WY, law enforcement officials say that the number of illegal immigrants in their jails has more than doubled. One of those jailed illegal immigrants is a suspected member of that violent Venezuelan gang that took over the apartment complex in Colorado—a gang that has been described as “MS-13 on steroids.”

Make no mistake, Vice President HARRIS is complicit in all of this border disaster.

Now—just, I think, today—Vice President HARRIS says she wants to secure the border. New language for her. Well, let me tell you, she hasn't done it yet. For the past 4 years, KAMALA HARRIS has been the second most powerful person in the world, and she was appointed by the President to be the border czar. He said she knew how. He had full confidence in her; she knew how to handle the problem. Well, as the border czar, she had the power to secure the southern border and has that power still today. Not doing it.

So let me ask again: Why hasn't it been done? Let me tell you why. Like Joe Biden, Vice President HARRIS wants to smooth the flow of illegal immigrants. Doesn't want to stop it—oh, no. Doesn't want to stop it; wants to smooth the flow. This is an extreme position and out of touch with the American people.

Like Joe Biden, KAMALA HARRIS opposes the border wall. She actually called the wall a “stupid waste of money.” That is what we hear from the Vice President of the United States. That is an extreme position compared to what the American people would like to see happen today.

KAMALA HARRIS also said that building the wall to prevent terrorists from entering the country was the “height of irresponsibility.”

“[T]he height of irresponsibility” to try to keep terrorists out of the country. Nope. Come on in, she wants.

This again—KAMALA HARRIS. San Francisco liberal. Extreme position.

Remember, terror suspects are exploiting our vulnerability. The number of terror suspects that we have caught crossing the border has risen by 3,000 percent since Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS took over the Presidency and the Vice Presidency.

This administration promises amnesty for illegal immigrants. This is an invitation. They are inviting millions upon millions of illegal immigrants into this country. This is an extreme position compared to what the American people want and expect from their elected officials.

What we are seeing across the country are KAMALA HARRIS, Democrats across the board, and sanctuary cities providing free healthcare for illegal immigrants—another extreme position of the Democrats in the White House.

They demand that our hard-earned taxpayer dollars pay for free housing,

free preloaded debit cards, and free cell phones for illegal immigrants. The American public hates this. This is their taxpayer dollars. Democrats' open border policies have cost the taxpayers plenty. The numbers are jaw-dropping—\$451 billion so far—and the number keeps going up.

Like President Biden, KAMALA HARRIS wants to stop deporting criminals who are here in this country illegally. She wants to stop it. In the past, she said illegal immigration should not be a crime. Well, once again, she is out of touch with the American people. That is an extreme position.

This is the truth: KAMALA HARRIS's policies are no different than the dangerous, disastrous, deadly policies of President Joe Biden's, who signed 49 Executive orders in his first 100 days in office.

This is the problem that our country faces today: Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS threw open the borders, and 10 million illegal immigrants have come on through.

When this administration stopped building the wall and ended “Remain in Mexico,” Vice President HARRIS was right there, cheering on Joe Biden. When Joe Biden brought back the failed policy of catch-and-release, Vice President HARRIS had his back. When Joe Biden wanted to send stimulus checks to illegal immigrants, what happened? KAMALA HARRIS came into this Chamber; sat in that chair; and cast the tie-breaking vote for this radical and reckless policy of sending stimulus checks to illegal immigrants—just giving them more and more free stuff funded by the American taxpayers.

To add insult to injury, KAMALA HARRIS has actually said, then: Well, the border is secure. Nobody believes that. I don't even think she believes it. She should know better. If she does not, that should disqualify her from being a candidate for President or for being President.

On September 22, Vice President HARRIS claimed we have a secure border. Who is she listening to? Why didn't she go and look for herself? Three days earlier, the illegal immigrant who murdered Laken Riley entered our country.

It is time to close the book on Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS and their dangerous border policies. It is time for us to get serious about securing the border and making our communities safer.

Senate Republicans have real solutions. It is to finish the wall; it is to end catch-and-release; it is to restore the “Remain in Mexico” policy—a policy that worked. Our solution also includes deporting illegal immigrants and stopping illegal immigrants from voting in our elections.

So I return to the question I asked at the beginning: If KAMALA HARRIS wants to secure the border, why hasn't she done so yet?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, here is a number for everyone to think about today: \$35.3 trillion—\$35.3 trillion. That is our Nation's debt number. As you can see, we have gotten there because of years of deficit spending.

Right now, this massive sum, which is our national debt, represents more than \$100,000 of indebtedness for every man, woman, and child in this country. While this number is almost impossible to comprehend, it poses one of the greatest threats to our Nation's stability, security, and survival.

To put this issue in perspective, our debt-to-GDP ratio is 121 percent, meaning our Nation's debt is one-fifth larger than our Nation's annual economic output. Think about that. The debt is larger than our output. By comparison, our debt-to-GDP ratio at the end of World War II was 106 percent. That was the record high before we got to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As our debt balloons, the annual cost of interest payments on the debt continues to rise, and this crowds out vital services that ought to be going to people who need them. In fact, through the first 6 months of fiscal year 2024, our country spent more taxpayer money servicing the debt than we spent on our military. We spent \$440 billion on interest payments on our debt. When faced with this reality, Tennesseans and Americans will probably wonder: Well, how did we get on this path to fiscal disaster?

Of course, \$35.3 trillion in debt didn't just appear overnight. Each year, the Federal deficit—and I have got a chart here that goes back to 2005 and shows you what the deficit was every year—which is the annual difference between government spending and taxpayer money that is collected and coming into the Federal Government, all gets tacked on to our national debt, and under the Biden-Harris administration, this deficit spending has exploded.

You can see these numbers. Last fiscal year, the Federal deficit was nearly \$1.7 trillion. It was up more than 21 percent from \$1.4 trillion in 2022. If you will recall, the Biden-Harris's Inflation Reduction Act—the Green New Deal giveaway that Vice President HARRIS sat right up there and cast the tie-breaking vote for—was supposed to somehow, miraculously, reduce the debt.

Still, so many Tennesseans say: How can you say you are going to spend more and that is going to reduce what you spend? It is void of common sense.

In fiscal year 2021, meanwhile, the Federal deficit reached more than \$2.7 trillion. Now, we know some of that overlapped with the final couple of months of the Trump administration, but the spending occurred primarily under the Biden administration and under that \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. It was the driving force of this administration's four-decade-high inflation rate.

Indeed, if you go back and you look at inflation, it was 1.4 percent the day that President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office. Today, the latest number is 20.3 percent. In fact, excluding the emergency COVID spending in 2020, deficit spending under the Biden-Harris administration is at its highest point in American history—as I said, 121 percent of GDP. Previously, after World War II, it was at 106 percent.

The only other administration that has come even close to these numbers under Biden-Harris is the Obama-Biden administration. Before congressional Republicans fought for and secured serious spending cuts, that administration ran annual deficits as high as \$1.4 trillion between fiscal years 2009 and 2012.

With the deficit soaring again, our country needs another serious course correction. Yet, under their 2025 budget proposal, the Biden-Harris administration has called for—and I want you to get this number. Their 2025 budget proposal calls for \$86 trillion in spending over the next 10 years—\$86 trillion. It would increase our national debt—that \$35.3 trillion number—it would increase it by \$18 trillion.

Now, bear in mind, this is spending they are putting on the books. They are claiming it. They are out there shouting for it. Bidenomics, it is working. But, again, we look at this and say: How can you spend more and then say you are reducing the deficit? It is void of common sense.

Instead of fiscal recklessness, our country needs fiscal responsibility. Every year, I have legislation that would slash Federal spending—and I do these bills every year—by 1 percent, 2 percent, 5 percent for discretionary spending, excluding Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs. I fully believe anybody can find a way to save one penny, two pennies, or a nickel out of what they are given to spend.

At a time when growth in government hiring is now outpacing growth in private sector hiring, Congress must also address the ballooning size of the Federal Government, which now employs nearly 2.4 million bureaucrats. It is time to start freezing salaries and freezing Federal hiring.

While there are many more steps that need to be taken to put America on a better fiscal trajectory, these moves would begin to tackle the threat that is posed to our Nation and to our freedoms because of overspending. If we don't get busy with this and find some ways to wrestle with this debt and with this out-of-control spending, it is our children and grandchildren who will suffer by having to pay that bill.

COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH

Mr. President, each year since 1961, the Country Music Association has inducted the legendary performers, songwriters, and artists of this uniquely American musical tradition into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

In many ways, this distinction is the highest honor in country music, with names like Hank Williams, Chet Atkins, Dolly Parton, and Elvis Presley among its roll of honor. Next month, three new names will join this legendary group during the Hall of Fame Medallion Ceremony: John Anderson, a force for traditionalism in country music, who achieved 20 Top Ten country singles across a five-decades-long career; James Burton, who is considered one of the greatest guitarists in all of music, performing and recording with the likes of Elvis, Merle Haggard, John Denver, and Emmylou Harris; and the late Toby Keith, an exceptional storyteller who brought joy to millions around the world through his music, especially to our men and women in uniform.

While each artist has their own distinct sound and style, they share a music tradition that reminds every American of the things that truly matter: faith, family, freedom, hope, opportunity, and patriotism.

To honor this incredible genre, this week I am introducing a resolution that would designate October 2024 as Country Music Month.

There is a reason the Grand Ole Opry—the most famous stage in country music—is known as the home of American music. Now is the perfect time for Congress to honor the contributions of country music and its legendary performers and artists to the story and the history of the United States.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL SFRAGA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have come to the floor this morning to speak about the nomination of Dr. Michael Sfraga. He is an Alaskan, and he has been nominated to be our Nation's very first Ambassador at Large for the Arctic.

We are going to have this vote very shortly, and my hope is that colleagues will see not only the imperative for an Arctic Ambassador at this moment in time but also to recognize that this nominee, Dr. Sfraga, is absolutely impeccable in terms of his qualifications for this position.

He is one who is known widely throughout Arctic circles as our Arctic expert and the expert in everything from research to policy, to national security.

We are the only Arctic Nation that lacks an Arctic Ambassador. I think colleagues are at that point in time where they recognize it is past time that we have that representation in the room when issues are as contentious as they are.

Let me just share with you a few reminders about what is happening in the Far North. We were all made aware, on July 24, when Russian and Chinese bombers flew a joint patrol for the first time off the coast of Alaska. What was unusual was not the fact that Russia and China were flying together, but it was the fact that it was the first time they had done it jointly in the Arctic.

We see the Russians regularly fly into our air defense identification zone—or ADIZ—but this was the first time to see the Chinese flying in this area with a joint mission. And we have just seen events continue to unfold throughout the summer.

Just a couple of weeks ago, September 10, Russia began a massive, weeklong, worldwide “Ocean-24” exercise with hundreds of warships, more than 100 aircraft, and nearly 100,000 troops. This exercise is the largest since the fall of the Soviet Union, but it also had Chinese participation.

Between its start and end, NORAD and the air forces stationed in Alaska detected, tracked, and intercepted four different Russian incursions into our Alaska ADIZ.

So we have come to expect incursions throughout the year, usually about six or seven. Think about that. In just 5 days, our air defenses were tested as much as they tend to be tested in any given year. So we are now way ahead on publicly reported intercepts this year, up to 10. We have got 3 months left.

There has also been an unprecedented level of naval activity off the coast. We saw the U.S. Coast Guard detect four Russian naval vessels 50 miles northwest of Point Hope. Just take it back a couple of years when Russian warships chased Alaska fishermen out of an area within our EEZ. That was back in August of 2020. Those are not isolated incidents either.

Last August, the Coast Guard detected and shadowed a Russian intelligence ship operating off of the Aleutians. This July, the Coast Guard detected and shadowed a Chinese surface action group within our EEZ and the Bering Sea.

We all remember the Chinese surveillance balloons that transited above Alaska and the Arctic last year.

And then just last night, I received notification from NORTHCOM of yet further intercepts of four Russian aircraft.

I hope that we can all agree that this is an unprecedented time for the region. Normally, we think of the Arctic as “High North, Low Tension,” but right now it is “High North,” and it is “Rising Tension.”

One thing that is missing is a Senate-confirmed diplomat who will spend his or her time focused on Arctic issues, working with our allies, engaging our adversaries, and sending these very clear messages that we will protect America's interest in the Arctic.

I had a chance to talk to Dr. Sfraga just literally hours ago. We were talking about this very intercept and what

we are seeing. He wanted to issue a statement as to his concern regarding what we are seeing with these air incursions into our ADIZ and into our EEZ off of Alaska shores.

He says as follows:

If confirmed as the U.S. Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, I commit to do everything in my power to relentlessly push back against these malign actors in this new era of authoritarian aggression and press for more military assets and infrastructure in the Arctic region to protect America's economic and security interests.

So it is clear, we need an Arctic Ambassador. And we need this individual, Dr. Mike Sfraga, to be that Arctic Ambassador.

He was nominated in February of last year. His nomination was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee in March, and today we have got an opportunity to confirm him.

I have mentioned that I think his qualifications are second to none. All you need to do is look at this gentleman's background: 30 years focused on the Arctic, a career of service in this area.

He is an accomplished geographer, a researcher, a teacher with a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska. He helped establish the University of the Arctic. He co-created, co-led the State Department's Fulbright Arctic Initiative. He established the Polar Institute at the Wilson Center, which has become the Arctic Public Square for high-level conversations about the Far North.

He chairs, currently, the US Arctic Research Commission, which advises us in Congress and the President on international research in the Arctic.

When I spoke to him—he is in Helsinki, and he is going to be attending the Helsinki Security Conference. Next week, he is going to be at the Warsaw Conference.

This man is in every conversation—every conversation—that surrounds the Arctic. He has the respect of those within the military, within the academic community, within policy. He is the person who knows the Arctic best.

And his vast experience means that he knows how to handle our adversaries like Russia and China—across the interagency process with allies and partners—and doing it through a position of strength.

Some have argued that perhaps his past interactions with regional players disqualify him from serving in this role.

He is an Alaskan. We share a maritime border with Russia. We used to have regular nonstop air service to Russia, believe it or not. That is part of a time when, obviously, relations were better and Putin hadn't decided to invade Ukraine. But it wasn't uncommon for Alaskans to visit and work and know people who live there.

He has also been criticized for attending international forums. Remember, he is not the only American or U.S. Government official in attendance at these meetings. I can't count the

number of times I have gone as the U.S. representative to these meetings, and Mike Sfraga is there in the room, leading the conversation.

Another area of criticism is that he failed to disclose fully before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when his application came forward. Keep in mind, he is at every conference on the Arctic happening out there.

I am told—I am told—that attendance on panels or conferences are not required for inclusion in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee questionnaire. When the committee came back and said: We know that there are other conferences you have attended. You have failed to disclose these. He went back, and he fully—fully—amended his disclosure to make sure that there were no omissions.

So he then, when he submitted that to the committee, realized, through looking at his airline records, that he had failed to disclose yet another conference. So he went back voluntarily to do it. He has made sure that everything that has been asked has been provided.

I tell you, the criticisms that Dr. Sfraga has faced, I think, are a great way to ensure that the United States never has an Arctic Ambassador or that we ultimately have to confirm an individual who has never even been there, who knows very little about it, and won't do anything to protect or advance our strategic interests. That would be a loss because the Arctic is no longer this isolated, distant region. It is the place of strategic importance, economic potential, and growing competition.

And the United States must be prepared to lead. We have to be sitting at the table. We have to have that representation that we have lacked—that we have lacked.

Personnel is policy, and Dr. Sfraga is ready to take this on. So I urge the Senate to see through the challenges, the attacks, I think, on Dr. Sfraga.

There is nothing in his past or in his file that is disqualifying. We know exactly what we are getting. He has been a public figure. He has shared his views on the Arctic for years, and he continues, to this day, to do just that.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting yes to confirm Dr. Sfraga.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 4 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, fellow Senators, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Michael Sfraga to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, not because I don't think we need an ambassador—we do—and not because I don't think Mr. Sfraga has the knowledge and the expertise to do this—I think he does—and not because

he is not a nice person—I have met him. He is very engaging. I think he is a nice person, generally.

The Arctic is a critically important region under threat from increasing Russian and Chinese activity. An Arctic Ambassador should help advance U.S. leadership, but this person must demonstrate experience and sound judgment, not just in science but also in matters of national security. Dr. Sfraga is not qualified in that regard as far as I am concerned. In fact, I believe he makes the situation worse.

Based on his evasiveness during his vetting by the Foreign Relations Committee, I believe Dr. Sfraga could pose a counterintelligence and foreign malign influence threat to our Nation. I don't say that lightly.

Dr. Sfraga was asked repeatedly to provide his foreign travel, his foreign contacts, and his appearances on panels to the vetting personnel, and he failed to be open and transparent. He updated his file four times—maybe a new record—each time only after being confronted with additional information he tried to conceal.

For instance, while at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Dr. Sfraga negotiated no less than 27 MOUs with Chinese academic institutions tied to China's intelligence services. Only after confronting him did Dr. Sfraga admit that he negotiated these MOUs. One in particular was with a Chinese university with ties to Chinese intelligence services, and the MOU gave the Chinese access to the university's IT systems, exposing it to substantial cyber threats.

On Russia, Dr. Sfraga failed to disclose a panel he spoke on in November 2021. Transneft, a sanctioned Russian state-owned energy firm, sponsored this conference.

He also failed to disclose articles he wrote and events he spoke at where he advocated for Arctic engagement with Russia and China, as required by the SFRC's questionnaire. There is no one questioning that engagement is necessary. I really think that he is naive, at best, as far as dealing with Russia and China. And, in his defense, the entire academic community, for that matter, shares this naivety when compared to our national security Agencies.

In May 2023, I took the unusual step of formally requesting the FBI to conduct a supplementary background check. In the 16 years that I have been here as a Senator, I have never asked the FBI for any kind of an investigation. I asked that this be supplemented. The FBI's response stated it could not conduct this investigation without White House permission, which the White House would not grant.

This means the Senate does not have a complete picture of the counterintelligence or other risks to our national security posed by Dr. Sfraga. The majority leader should never have scheduled a vote on Dr. Sfraga until a full

vetting was complete and until this body, which is a safeguard for our national security, had all the information that it needed. It doesn't.

Despite the poor due diligence on this nominee, there is still time for the Senate to do the right thing. I know it won't. I know this is essentially going to be a party-line vote. The Democrats want this person; they are going to get him.

If we truly care about advancing American and U.S. leadership in the Arctic and tackling the threats posed by our adversaries, we must do better—a lot better—than deliberately putting personnel in place that can pose a risk to national security. This appointment is such an appointment. This is not some political person going into a place where they can't do any harm. This is a person who is going to be at the crossroads of national security, dealing with people from China, for instance, every one of whom is an agent of the Chinese Communist Party, because every Chinese national is an agent of the Communist Party, and they have no ability to conduct themselves freely.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on the nomination of Michael Sfraga for Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Colorado.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1555

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 457, H.R. 1555, ripen at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, no later than Thursday, September 26, 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 550, Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Raphael G. Warnock, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Angus S. King, Jr., Michael F. Bennet, Mark Kelly, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Am-

bassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Cassidy	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Cramer	Mullin	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—36

Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Johnson	Rounds
Britt	Kennedy	Rubio
Budd	Lankford	Schmitt
Crapo	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Daines	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Grassley	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—8

Butler	Cotton	Tillis
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Vance
Coons	Sullivan	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The yeas are 56, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:19 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON SFRAGA NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Helmy	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Capito	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Cassidy	Manchin	Tillis
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Mullin	Warnock
Cramer	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—36

Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Johnson	Rounds
Britt	Kennedy	Rubio
Budd	Lankford	Schmitt
Crapo	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Daines	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Grassley	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—9

Butler	Cotton	Sanders
Cardin	Durbin	Sullivan
Coons	Hyde-Smith	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am rising right now to speak about the urgency to quickly confirm two bipartisan members to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Time is really of the essence as the term of two voting members, Judge Claria Horn Boom and Judge John Gleeson, will expire this Congress.

For decades, the Senate has come together and confirmed all Commissioners to the Sentencing Commission by a voice vote and, on one occasion, two members by unanimous consent after they had been considered by the Judiciary Committee. This used to be just something easily done. There is no reason to depart from this incredible bipartisan precedent. We must confirm these two nominees today.

Just as a reminder, Congress created the Sentencing Commission in 1984 as an independent Agency, housed in the judicial branch, to reduce sentencing disparities and to promote transparency and proportionality in sentencing. By statute, the Commission must have bipartisan representation amongst its members. It calls for our coming together. This mandate reflects the consensus-driven, evidence-based approach Congress has envisioned in making Federal criminal sentencing fairer and more balanced for the United States of America.

The Sentencing Commission plays a critical role in our Federal legal system. It establishes sentencing policies and practices for Federal courts, and it promulgates and amends the sentencing guidelines, which serve as the cornerstone for every Federal judge when deciding a criminal sentence. It is deeply imperative that the Commission maintain a full slate of voting members to continue this profound work.

Recent history has shown us what happens when the Commission is deprived of its full membership. From 2019 to 2022, the Commission lacked a voting quorum and could not update the sentencing guidelines in response to new Federal criminal statutes, including the big bipartisan work we did to get the First Step Act passed and signed by Donald Trump. Without direction on how to implement the new provisions and criminal penalties, circuit courts split over the proper interpretation of the guidelines, resulting in disparate sentences for people who are dependent solely on which circuit court they were tried in. In other words, there was no equal justice under the law. There wasn't fairness or proportionality.

So, consistent with this Commission's mandate, these nominees have to and will need to continue to function in our bipartisan way—the vision. It is up to us to work in this bipartisan way. Therefore, I ask now to confirm two bipartisan members of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Judge Claria Horn Boom and Judge Gleeson.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 602 and 603; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. That word is difficult to say, but it seems like that happened quicker than even my saying that word. With something so important as this, I was hoping for more of an understanding of why this is being blocked.

Again, perhaps one of the greatest marks of this institution, in my 10 years of experience, has been the times we have come together—multiple times—to make our justice system more just.

This seems, to me, to be obstructionist to the hopes that we can be a nation that ends this partisanship, that ends this unnecessary partisanship—excuse me—and that ends the sort of tribalism that is making this institution less operative.

We all come here from various parts of our great Nation to get things done, and there seems to be this pattern in the United States of America of our finding less comity, less togetherness.

I love what Martin Luther King said; that we are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied with a garment of destiny, in that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

When it comes to the exercise of justice in our country, it is clear, by not having a bipartisan majority sitting on this body, that we create injustice, which, ultimately, hurts our democracy and our highest ideals.

We started this day by pledging allegiance to that flag, where we said with “liberty and justice for all.” It pains me today, with the stopping of this unanimous consent, that we are not fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of that pledge.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 789.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

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 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. 789, April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

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 24, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I come to the floor today, Mr. President, to support the nomination of David Kostelancik to be U.S. Ambassador to Albania.

For over 35 years, Mr. Kostelancik has served as a career member of the Foreign Service and a qualified and exemplary candidate to represent the United States in an allied capital. He also served in Congress as the senior State Department adviser to the Helsinki Commission.

Like so many of our career Foreign Service officers, Mr. Kostelancik has dedicated his career to serving the United States at home and abroad. He served in Albania before, as well as overseas assignments in Türkiye, Russia, and Hungary, where he led our Embassy as Charge d'Affaires for nearly 2 years. Most recently, he served as Foreign Policy Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

It is clear that we have a highly qualified candidate to serve as Ambassador to Albania. But I also want to talk about why it is so critical that we confirm an ambassador to Albania and that we do it without delay.

Albania is a real success story for American foreign policy. Just 30 years ago, Albania was waking up from more than four decades of communist rule.

Today, Albania is a flourishing democracy, a fully engaged member of NATO, and an aspiring member of the European Union.

It was Albania in 2016 that answered our calls to take in vulnerable Iranian dissidents from Camp Ashraf. It was Albania back in 2021 that didn't think twice when they answered the call to accommodate Afghan refugees and SIV applicants. So what message does it send to Albania—a critical partner, a stalwart ally of the United States—that we can't confirm an ambassador for over a year?

Albania is currently the only NATO capital in which we do not have a confirmed Ambassador. As the United States confronts challenges around the world, we need our allies. We need Albania. That starts with ensuring that we have the stewards of our bilateral relationships in place. I can tell you, China and Russia have Ambassadors in Albania's capital right now. It is up to the U.S. Senate to determine whether we cede ground to our adversaries.

Mr. Kostelancik has the necessary experience. He speaks Albanian. He is eminently qualified to fill the post for which he was nominated.

For these reasons, I urge no further delays in confirming Mr. Kostelancik's nomination.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination and that the Senate vote on the nomination of David Kostelancik to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from the Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, U.S. diplomats serve a singular purpose: to advocate for and protect U.S. interests all over the world.

The Constitution makes abundantly clear that the security of the American homeland and commerce with friendly nations are fundamental core interests of the United States of America. The promotion of woke cultural imperialism is never in the core interest of the United States.

The constant crusade of career diplomats to evangelize woke ideology on behalf of the United States often works decidedly against our interests and actively undermines the reputation and leverage of our Nation.

Like many Biden-Harris nominees, Mr. Kostelancik has proven unable to set aside his personal partisanship while representing U.S. interests abroad.

His past performance as Charge d'Affaires in Hungary should disqualify him from being trusted with a diplomatic mantle again. Mr. Kostelancik

openly meddled in Hungarian politics. He attacked press freedom and engaged in blatant social activism, which the Hungarian Government viewed as undue interference in Hungary's internal politics.

Mr. Kostelancik damaged our relationship with a reliable and important ally for the sake of partisan ideological advocacy abroad, all when he was essentially a placeholder until the Trump administration could nominate an ambassador.

Now the Biden-Harris administration wants to make him the permanent man in charge of the U.S. Government's interests in Albania. The Biden-Harris administration had every opportunity to submit a new nominee for this position when Mr. Kostelancik's nomination was returned to the President at the end of last year, but rather than submit a nominee with a more favorable reputation, a less controversial background, and a demonstrated track record of focus on core U.S. interests, President Biden is doubling down and promoting Mr. Kostelancik.

Cultural imperialism continues to dominate, to distract, and destroy the reputation and effectiveness of our diplomatic corps. I will not be complacent in such efforts, and on that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I don't understand what my colleague is talking about in terms of woke ideology and cultural imperialism. That is not my understanding of how the State Department works.

The State Department and our Ambassadors are there to carry out America's foreign policy no matter who the President is, and that is what David Kostelancik did when he was in Hungary.

So I am perplexed by the arguments that are raised by my colleague from Utah. His objections are grounded in baseless rumors that are being spread by Victor Orban. They are not grounded in facts.

Here are the facts: Mr. Kostelancik received overwhelming support, bipartisan support, when he was voted out, on two occasions, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In the 35 years—35 years—of Mr. Kostelancik's service to the U.S. Government, he had never been accused of any political bias until Victor Orban decided that he didn't think he was executing America's foreign policy properly.

Mr. Kostelancik has served the American public faithfully across administrations of both parties. He has represented elected leaders' positions.

I have spoken with a number of my Republican colleagues. I wish my colleague from Utah were going to stay so I could talk to him about this, because he has gotten support from those Republicans precisely for the reasons I outlined above.

It is up to my colleagues whether they will listen to the recommendation of former administration officials and their own Republican colleagues or take heed of the baseless allegations of a foreign leader, who is ostensibly an "ally," who is making false, unproven claims of impartiality. I have looked for evidence. There is zero evidence to that effect. In fact, I have letters here from a former Governor, a Republican Governor, of New York, George Pataki. I have letters from the Albanian American Council in support of Mr. Kostelancik. What is more, a number of senior Republican officials, including the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary, who served under the Trump administration, have repudiated this claim.

So I don't know why my Republican colleague today is willing to believe a government that has shown more loyalty to Vladimir Putin and President Xi than he has to the United States, or is my colleague from Utah prepared to trust the repeated commitments made by the nominee—and senior-level Republicans—that he served in Budapest with the utmost professionalism? That is the question. Is he willing to trust that, to trust all of the people who have weighed in on behalf of Mr. Kostelancik, who, by all accounts in reading his public remarks as Charge d'Affaires, defended the Trump administration policy ably while in Budapest? That is what Ambassadors do when they are serving overseas—they defend the policies of the United States of America and whoever the President is and whoever the Secretary of State is.

Those charged with the conduct of U.S. foreign policy are proud civil servants. They believe in our institutions, and they represent the American people no matter which party is in office.

I am disappointed that what we have today is a number of people—a number of our colleagues who would rather denounce the United States and our foreign policy, who would rather oppose career Ambassadors who have been in the job for years, because they support Victor Orban, because they are spreading rumors about what people have done that have no basis in fact.

I intend to come back to the floor on a number of occasions—whenever I can—to ask for unanimous consent again because what is happening now is not in the best interest of the United States. When we refuse to confirm Ambassadors, we are hamstringing our foreign policy and we are harming U.S. national security. Right now, there are over 30 State Department nominees who are waiting for Senate confirmation, and by grinding to a halt our State Department nominees, my Republican colleagues have allowed partisan brinksmanship to pervade a critical aspect of our national security.

It is one I don't understand because I know we are in agreement that the United States is threatened by adversaries like Iran, China, Russia, and North Korea—all threats to the United

States. Yet they are willing to allow President Xi's diplomats to get placed in countries all around the world, and they are not willing to let our own diplomats get placed.

So I hope they will reconsider because what they are doing at its core is putting at risk America's national security.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2229

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to make a unanimous consent request, but out of courtesy to somebody who may object—since there is nobody here to object—I won't make the motion, but I would like to give my remarks at this point.

Today, I am going to discuss a decades-long priority of mine, and that is reforming the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Around here, it is known by the acronym FARA. This legislation is necessary to give it the teeth that it needs to be effective.

Just a little bit of history about FARA: Until maybe 6, 7 years ago—now it is being enforced a little more often by the Department of Justice, but prior to that, a law that had been on the books for decades was not really being enforced. So that means people could be hired to lobby for a foreign country before the Congress of the United States and we didn't even know who they were.

Well, the FARA act, passed decades ago, was supposed to make that public because we ought to know who is working for foreign countries as they try to influence policy in this country. And now more attention is being paid to it. It is being enforced.

But I come to the floor today, as I am going to explain to you, because we had recent court decisions that have made it even weaker than it should be—is intended to be.

Since 2015—to give you a little history of my involvement with this issue—over four Congresses, I have investigated potential FARA violations to ensure the Justice Department equally enforces FARA without regard to power, party, and privilege. In 2017, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I held a FARA oversight hearing, which contributed to the Disclosing Foreign Influence Act that year. I also introduced the bipartisan Foreign Agents Disclosure and Registration Enhancement Act in 2019, which was supported on both sides by the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee also signed off on that legislation. So then Senator COR-

NYN and I requested unanimous consent to pass that bill at that time; however, the then-ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator MENENDEZ, objected.

The Foreign Agents Disclosure and Registration Enhancement Act is one of several FARA bills that I have sought to advance.

Today, I am here to talk about the bipartisan bill entitled "Retroactive Foreign Agents Registration Act." The purpose of that legislation is to overcome the court decisions that I have already spoken about. Chairman PETERS, my Democratic co-lead, and Senators WARREN, RUBIO, and YOUNG are cosponsors of the bill that goes by the number S. 2229. The bill overturns a recent court ruling that held a person doesn't have to register as a foreign agent if their relationship with a foreign principal has stopped.

It is understood that FARA imposes a continuing obligation for persons to register as foreign agents; otherwise, once a lobbyist for a foreign country is caught not reporting, it is pretty simple for them if they don't want to be prosecuted or registered; they just have to sever their representation with that country, and they are off the hook. And, of course, that is not what Congress intended.

My bill, the Retroactive Foreign Agents Registration Act, fixes that problem, overrides the court decisions.

Remember, FARA doesn't prohibit any activity. You are free to do anything you want to. It is a disclosure statute. It simply requires lobbyists and public relations groups on K Street representing foreign interests, which might be friendly to the United States or unfriendly to the United States, in the Halls of Congress—all they have to do is disclose, just disclose. They can do anything they want to, but they have to disclose whom they are working for.

If a lobbyist doesn't want everyone to know that they are working for the communist Chinese Government, then I guess that person shouldn't be working for the communist Chinese Government.

Now, it is pretty simple what the spirit of this FARA legislation is all about. It is all about transparency. And with transparency, you are more apt to get accountability. And who shouldn't want transparency because the public's business ought to be public, and you ought to be accountable for what you are doing.

My retroactive FARA fix is supported by almost a decade of oversight, hearings, legislative vetting, and discussions with the Department of Justice. Congress must send a crystal-clear message to foreign actors that they can't hide in the shadows.

So now that we have other people on the floor who might want to speak on this, at this point I want to make this request.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the

Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2229 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the Foreign Agents Registration Act was enacted in 1938 and requires individuals working on behalf of foreign governments to disclose their relationships and activities. Violations of the law are subject to criminal and civil penalties. Generally, a person who willfully violates these regulations may face up to 5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Now, many thought leaders have written about the overcriminalization of regulations, the fact that we add criminal penalties to people with paper violations. Ed Meese has written about this extensively. Justice Neil Gorsuch has written a new book, "Over Ruled," talking about so many regulation crimes, paperwork crimes, having criminal penalties.

A 2016 inspector general audit reported that, historically, the Department of Justice's practice has been to pursue voluntary compliance rather than the prosecution of agents who failed to register under the act. More recently, though, the Department of Justice has signaled that it is shifting from treating these violations as an administrative obligation to one that is increasingly an enforcement priority.

In 2022, DOJ reported that it had charged a record number of criminal cases for this regulatory breach. In other words, what was once considered a mistake that could be rectified simply by encouraging voluntary compliance is now a weapon that can be used to silence dissent by threatening individuals with prison time.

Just 2 weeks ago, four members of the African People's Socialist Party, two of whom are 82 and 78 years old, were convicted of conspiracy to violate a law similar to FARA by acting as agents of Russia. The Department of Justice press release states that the defendants "face a maximum penalty of five years in prison."

And what had they done to potentially lose their liberty? The specific acts they were accused of included attending an international conference in Russia, publishing a Petition to the United Nations on the Crime of Genocide Against the African People in the United States of America, accepting financial support for a speaking tour to discuss reparations, and speaking in support of the Russian Government.

The African People's Socialist Party was founded in 1972. For decades, the party has criticized the United States and maintained the government owes trillions of dollars in reparations for the crime of genocide against Black Americans.

While I don't agree with any of their policy statements or any of the things they are for, I really don't wish to put them in prison.

Highlighting the disturbing nature of DOJ's prosecution of this minuscule fringe group, Patrick Eddington, of the Cato Institute, writes that the party "and its related political movement can only be described as fringe, bit players on the American political scene whose previous statements and stances already mirrored the Kremlin's line" for decades.

Eddington continues: "It makes one wonder why the FBI targeted such marginal groups with little to no impact on the broader political process, and whether an unstated goal of" these DOJ raids and imprisoning people "was to put the entire domestic political advocacy community on notice that a domestic group with foreign connections is considered fair game for FBI scrutiny even if legitimate First Amendment activity is involved."

According to an article in *The Nation* magazine, "Since its initial enactment into law, the DOJ has invoked FARA," the statute at hand, "to stigmatize and criminalize political advocacy that is contrary to the interests of the US government. Early illustrative examples include the 1951 indictment of W.E.B. Du Bois, who was prosecuted as an agent of the Soviet Union for having promoted and circulated the Stockholm Appeal, calling for a ban on nuclear weapons."

You can see how this gathers up political speech. You don't have to agree with the speech. But if the speech happens to represent the viewpoint of another country, the speech may be stifled and you may be arrested for it.

I understand the Senate will be asked to pass unanimously two bills today that would allow the DOJ to retroactively require this registration or this paperwork and another that would, effectively, write an enemies list into law.

Both give the DOJ prosecutors greater ability to selectively threaten disfavored groups by prosecuting activities that are otherwise protected by the First Amendment. Yet these bills have not been marked up by the committee of jurisdiction, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. At the very least, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which I am a member, should consider these bills before being rushed into passage.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I would like to speak to this.

This legislation was passed in 1938. You heard me say in my opening remarks that for a long period of time—until about, I think, less than 8 years ago, when we started bringing attention to this legislation not being enforced by the Department of Justice—probably only about a dozen people or

less were convicted under this legislation.

I heard what my colleague from Kentucky said about this legislation. I think you could read his remarks to indicate that a violation of freedom of speech is—we might as well repeal the lobbying act or lobbying registration act—whatever the law is—of 1946 that lobbyists have to register if they are going to lobby the Congress of the United States.

It doesn't have anything to do with freedom of speech. What it has to do with is transparency, so we know who is spending money to influence the laws in this country. That has nothing to do with freedom of speech. You can say anything you want to. It is just about transparency and accountability that comes with transparency. I think it is very important.

I don't find a lot of fault with what Senator RAND has said about regulatory criminalization and too much federalization, but this is a law that has been on the books since 1938 and, really, hasn't been enforced until very recently here. I think when you enforce the law, you get respect for the law. And there ought to be respect for a simple little law that says nothing more than: We just want to know who you are; who you are working for; and, particularly, if it is a foreign country, we ought to have a record of who is being hired to influence public policy in the United States as a result of your work. It could be a national security concern. It could be a business concern. It doesn't matter what that concern is. You can do anything you want to lobby Congress, but we ought to know who you are.

I have great respect for Senator PAUL. Of course, as you just found out, I happen to disagree with him on his decision not to let this bill move forward.

I know a thing or two about government abuse and weaponization. My investigative staff has been surveilled by the Justice Department, as an example. You find out that from whistleblowers. You don't find out that because there is transparency of what they are doing.

I and my investigative staff have been subject to briefings from the Justice Department that were targeted to interfere in my investigative work. I have seen government weaponization firsthand.

That data point shouldn't be a basis to object to this bill. The due diligence has been done—the oversight, the hearing, the negotiations. This bill is bicameral. This bill is bipartisan. There is no legitimate basis for this bill to not be law.

I thank my colleagues, including the objector, for their giving attention to it even if we couldn't agree on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 828

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to offer a simple resolu-

tion, one that reaffirms the basic principle that when you go to the ER, the emergency room, they should be allowed to treat you. When your life is in danger, doctors should be able to do their job. When you need emergency care, including an abortion, no politician should stop you from getting it.

This seems incredibly simple to me. It should not be controversial, especially if everyone who talks about protecting the life of the mother seriously means it. After all, that is what emergency care is for: saving the life of the mother. And yet, when the Biden-Harris administration tried to make clear that these women should get care, many Republicans actually opposed them.

I really want to emphasize, we are talking about women whose water breaks dangerously early or who are experiencing uncontrollable hemorrhaging or sepsis or pre-eclampsia. And still, Republicans actually filed a brief in court saying, essentially, no, we don't think doctors should be required to provide abortion care when a patient's life is at stake.

Their brief rejected that idea—that basic medical reality—of abortion as a stabilizing care. That is really shocking to me, and it should be shocking to everyone.

After a brief like that, I am not going to let any of my Republican colleagues off the hook just for saying they care about the life of the mother—not if they don't lift a finger to actually protect women and to actually make clear that emergency care can include abortion.

We need to send a very clear message on this. The Senate needs to speak with one voice and tell the American people: Yes, we want to make sure your doctor can save your life. Your doctor can save your life.

Before my Republican colleagues get up to object, let me be clear. You will not get by pretending a resolution like this isn't necessary, not when we are hearing now firsthand from doctors racked with guilt for decisions that Republican politicians made for them; not when they are hearing firsthand from women who have bled, suffered, and nearly died because their care was delayed; and, certainly, not when Texas saw maternal deaths now skyrocket because of its strict abortion ban. The data in Texas paints a clear, brutal picture of the reality. These abortion bans are killing women.

Republicans are also not going to get by trying to shift the blame and argue emergency care is already protected because the whole point of this resolution is to say emergency care is protected. If you oppose the Senate actually saying that, don't you see how this could be part of the problem? Don't you see how that could be very dangerous for women?

I can't emphasize this enough. If you don't see and you don't understand—listen. Women are speaking out. Doctors are speaking out. They are terrified; they are heartbroken; and they

are angry. And they are watching right now to see if we can just pass this simple resolution and do the very bare minimum of saying, with one voice, women have a right to get an abortion when their life is at stake—when their life is at stake.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 828 on the right to emergency healthcare, including abortion care; that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. This resolution itself and the wording that it has in this resolution says it is the sense of the Senate that every person has the basic right to emergency healthcare, including abortion care.

Let me be very, very specific on this. We had a hearing today in the Finance Committee where this same subject was addressed. We had ob-gyns from both perspectives on this, those who perform abortions and those who have a moral objection to it. We had a very good argument to be able to lay some facts out to be able to walk through this, with two sets of attorneys there to be able to walk through the law.

Here is what became very clear during that conversation this morning in that open hearing. There is no State in America in which a woman faces persecution or prosecution for having an abortion. No State criminalizes miscarriage. No State criminalizes removing an ectopic pregnancy. No States prohibits lifesaving care for the mother. No State requires a woman to be actively dying in order for her doctor to care for her.

We heard story after story about doctors being concerned that they may face this because they are hearing political rhetoric—political rhetoric like Vice President HARRIS in a speech that she said recently—where she said women were being arrested and facing prosecution for experiencing miscarriages. That is not true.

So all of this rhetoric that is being put out there is making doctors afraid, but it was very clear from the conversation in law that none of those things are actually true. Every physician prior to the Dobbs decision—when there were limitations on abortion across the country and post-Dobbs decision, when every single State is making those decisions—allowed physicians in an ER to be able to make lifesaving decisions for the mother and the child. Every doctor has already the ability to be able to make that decision to be able to protect the life of the mother. They have the protections to be able to do that.

So this is a false claim that somehow what happened in the Dobbs decision

and what is happening in the States is limiting that. It is actually the political rhetoric that is making people afraid.

What also came out during the hearing this morning was the very real risk of chemical abortions. We have recently had tragic situations where women used the chemical abortion pills that they are being told are as safe as Tylenol, and that it has life-threatening and in some cases, recently, life-taking consequences. Chemical abortion pills are not Tylenol, yet they are being sold as that.

And what we are seeing is more and more cases of the diminishing of “this is no big deal to be able to end this pregnancy” when they haven’t seen a doctor because the Biden administration is now saying you don’t have to see a physician. So the woman doesn’t know if she has an ectopic pregnancy or not. If she takes the chemical abortion pill while she has an ectopic pregnancy, she is at risk. But the Biden administration is saying: You don’t have to see a doctor. They can just mail it to you. It is just as safe as Tylenol when it is not.

We are also not being tested for their blood type to be able to make sure it doesn’t affect future pregnancies during this chemical abortion. And they are not also determining by sonogram how far along the mom is in this process because there are limitations to this where it becomes more and more dangerous.

All those things are restrictions that used to be there, that the Biden administration has taken away to say: No, we want more people to have access to chemical abortions. But it is making it more dangerous for women. And we have seen this recently.

So we want to engage in a conversation about how can we actually put some of those basic humane doctor-requested restrictions in there to make sure we are protecting the lives of all those women. That is a better conversation for us to be able to have. To say: What is it the FDA actually said was appropriate in the past, and what can we do to be able to protect the lives of women?

So, yes, I object to this resolution based on the wording and what we are doing. But, yes, we should be able to continue to have this conversation because there is a real concern that more and more doctors are afraid to do basic healthcare in an ER because more and more people are laying rhetoric out there that they are going to be arrested, and that is not true.

There has not been a single physician in the country that has been arrested based on actually performing lifesaving care for mom in any ER room in the country.

With that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I disagree with the Senator from Okla-

homa, and let me be perfectly clear about what is happening. Here in America, in the 21st century, pregnant women are suffering and dying, not because doctors don’t know how to save them, but because doctors don’t know if Republicans will let them.

There are skyrocketing maternal death rates in States like Texas, and as I spoke out on the floor last week, there are at least two women dead in Georgia today because of Republican abortion bans. Those kids are now growing up without a mother. That is the harsh reality.

Republicans can’t ignore that. Donald Trump can’t shout over it. The American people will not ever forget it. And every day we are going to continue to hold those people who are opposed to this accountable for the cruelty of these abortion bans.

The fact is that the resolution that I offered simply says that doctors can provide emergency care for the life of a mother. I don’t understand where the disagreement is, and I hope that we can pass this and give doctors and women the confidence that, in the United States of America, when you are pregnant and having a severe emergency medical situation, you will be treated. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2152

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support a woman’s right to control her own body. Across the country, women have been stripped of the freedom to make their own decisions—decisions about their families, their health, and their futures. Judges and politicians have inserted themselves into exam rooms, telling doctors they cannot treat their patients, sometimes even if that treatment would save her life.

In my home State of Wisconsin, women lived for 15 months under a criminal abortion ban that was passed in 1849, a law on the books from 1 year after our statehood and 70 years before a woman won the right to vote. And while there were no women in the room when the statute was crafted, 2 years ago, Wisconsin women woke up to find their healthcare decisions would be dictated by a law that predates the Civil War. They woke up to find out that they now had fewer rights than their mothers and their grandmothers. That day began 15 months of confusion and chaos and heartbreak for families across Wisconsin.

We heard stories of women bleeding out from miscarriages, developing life-threatening infections, or being forced to carry unviable pregnancies until they could find an appointment out of State. For countless women, that meant driving hours, paying for lodging and childcare, and taking time off work just to make their own decisions about their own body.

Patients from every one of Wisconsin’s 72 counties traveled to Illinois just to access healthcare, some traveling over 500 miles. Prior to the Dobbs

decision, only one in six Wisconsin abortion patients received out-of-State care. During our criminal abortion ban, that number skyrocketed to 9 out of 10 patients seeking care out of State.

Those families were being forced to drive, on average, 103 minutes to exercise their right to control their own bodies and get the care they needed, nearly double the time that they drove to access care before Roe fell.

And I am talking here about women who could afford the more than \$1,000 in costs to access that care. We must also be aware of those who could not. For example, patients traveling from out of State had to fork up an average of \$330 just for lodging.

In 2023 alone, Illinois and Minnesota providers saw over 6,000 patients from Wisconsin. You heard me right. Six thousand Wisconsin women were forced to travel sometimes hundreds of miles just to access healthcare. And even though Wisconsin has restored access to abortion in three counties, Planned Parenthood of Illinois is still seeing three times as many patients from Wisconsin compared to before the Dobbs decision came down. The reality is that abortion care is still only available in 3 of our 72 counties.

Exercising this fundamental freedom is out of reach for far too many in America. Twenty-two States across the country have abortion bans, and that means one in three women of reproductive age live in a State where they cannot get the healthcare they need because politicians are telling them that they know better.

Well, women and families deserve better. That is why last year I introduced the Reproductive Health Travel Fund Act to give millions of women without access to care in their home States a lifeline. This bill would ease the tremendous financial burden Republican abortion bans have placed squarely on women who are trying to access critical care. Women are spending hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars to pay for travel, lodging, meals, and childcare just to make their own healthcare decisions.

These past 2 years we have heard shocking stories of women, often desperate for help, having nowhere to turn. Last week, we even heard the story of a woman who died because she was denied abortion care until it was too late.

If my colleagues insist that this issue is a decision for the States and not for women, then I hope that they can at least recognize the tremendous hardship their patchwork of laws has created.

The rights you have as an American should not depend upon what State you live in. If we cannot restore Roe this Congress, we should, at the very least, extend a lifeline to the millions of women who are unable to access care in their own communities.

So as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,

and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2152, the Reproductive Health Travel Fund Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, if my Democrat colleagues were honest, they would call this bill what it really is: the "Elective Abortion Travel Slush Fund for All Act." This bill authorizes 350 million taxpayer dollars for radical abortion groups to facilitate elective abortions.

And this money isn't limited to Americans. It would also give taxpayer money to noncitizens—illegal aliens—who are seeking abortions. This bill would use Federal funds to cover the cost of flights, food, hotels, and other expenses for any individual in the United States seeking abortion, paid for by the American taxpayers. It would even cover lost wages for those traveling to get abortion.

Fifty million dollars of taxpayer money in this bill would go directly to groups like Planned Parenthood to pay for advertising, website development, increasing staff, and building maintenance and construction, all of which will go to encouraging—if not coercing—women to get abortions, not to seek alternatives.

Now, there is a major inconvenient fact that Senate Democrats are ignoring: The Hyde amendment is clear, no taxpayer funds may be used for abortion. My colleagues will say: Well, no, this money isn't paying for abortions. But let's be clear. This taxpayer money is being used for one purpose: to take the lives of unborn children.

While the actual abortion procedures aren't covered by this bill, it covers every other cost associated with ensuring abortions happen.

Democrats know the Hyde amendment prevents and prohibits Federal dollars funding abortions. It has been the law of the land for 48 years. It was democratically agreed to then, and it still stands today. Still, today, 60 percent of voters agree with the Hyde amendment—on both sides of the aisle—that taxpayer dollars should not be used for abortions. I am sure that percentage is even higher for illegals getting taxpayer money for abortions.

But Democrats really don't care. Despite what they say, they will override American voters if democracy gets in the way of their latest leftwing pet project.

Democrats know States have democratically decided what their laws on abortions are. Now they are trying to override the will of the people and the will of the States by using the Federal Government and millions of taxpayer dollars to achieve their goal. This is

not only counter to the spirit of the Hyde amendment, it is contrary to the principles of federalism and the will of the American people.

As I pointed out for months last year with a similar illegal abortion policy Secretary Lloyd Austin implemented at the Department of Defense, no Agency—no Agency—is above the law. I called out the VA for implementing another illegal abortion policy.

This bill is just another page—another page—out of the Democrats' same extreme abortion playbook. This bill is a flimsy attempt to go around the law of the land.

Gone are the days of the Democrats saying abortions should be safe, legal, and rare. Democrats today want dangerous, illegal, and limitless abortions at any cost—any cost—to the American taxpayers.

So for that reason, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I am disappointed with the objection and will agree with the Senator on one point, which is that this bill does not fund abortion.

The Senator referred to democratically passed laws relating to this subject, and I just wanted to remind him once more what I said in my opening statement: In Wisconsin, women lived for 15 months under a criminal abortion ban that was passed in 1849—70 years before women had the right to vote, before the Civil War. Obviously women had no input in that democratically enacted law.

But this bill simply breaks down a barrier that Americans are facing to access sometimes lifesaving care, a financial barrier, I might add, that Republicans put up when they inserted themselves into our exam rooms and into women's personal decisions.

I hope my Republican colleagues understand that women take notice when you vote down bills that protect and defend their basic freedoms. They see who is fighting for their right to control their bodies, health, families, and future.

I am proud to be standing here today on their behalf. This issue is not going away. We are going to keep fighting day in and day out because women want their rights and freedoms back.

Some of my colleagues are claiming that this is merely a messaging bill. Well, send Americans the message that you support their decisions to make their own healthcare choices and pass this bill into law.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

ENHANCED PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, last week, in both the House and the Senate, legislation was introduced to

increase the Secret Service protection for Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. We all know why this legislation is needed. In the span of just 65 days, President Trump, our former President and the Republican nominee to be the next President of the United States, has been the target of two assassination attempts.

In Butler, PA, President Trump was shot in the head but miraculously was spared from death. Unfortunately, Fire Chief Corey Comperatore was killed by the assassin's bullets, and others were gravely injured by his gunfire. Then it happened again in my home State of Florida.

It is thanks to the incredible work of President Trump's Secret Service detail that another would-be assassin was unable to take a shot at the President while he was golfing with friends. We know that day could have ended much differently. We thank God that these attempts have not been successful. But each of these events has reminded the Nation of the dangers surrounding President Trump and the need to make sure he, his family, and those around him are safe. That is why I introduced the Protect Our Presidents Act here in the Senate and Representatives MIKE LAWLER and RITCHIE TORRES introduced the Enhanced Presidential Security Act in the House.

The safety and security of those seeking to lead our Nation should never be in jeopardy and should be applied regardless of party. That is why these bills ensure all Presidential nominees, both now and in the future, are provided the enhanced protection they clearly require and deserve.

On Friday, the House passed Representatives LAWLER and TORRES's bill in a unanimous vote of 405 to 0. This unanimous vote shows that when commonsense and desperately needed legislation come before Congress, we can act quickly to do what the American people expect of us.

I am proud to lead this effort in the Senate, and I am on the floor today to request the immediate passage of the Enhanced Presidential Security Act so we can send this good and necessary bill to President Biden's desk so it may become law.

Our action today goes beyond the simple language of this bill to increase the Secret Service protection for our party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. Passing the Enhanced Presidential Security Act today, with the unanimous consent of the Senate, sends an important message to the American public and the world that we will not ignore these threats, which are truly an attack on our democratic process and have rightly shocked the world.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 9106, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELMY). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9106) 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me make it clear that I share Senator SCOTT's concern—deep concern—that the recent attacks on former President Trump's life have made it clear that there are security gaps in his protection. What happened in Butler and Palm Beach was unacceptable, and it cannot be allowed to happen again.

That is why this week, Congress is coming together, poised to pass a continuing resolution that I hope the Senator will support that will give the Secret Service \$231 million in additional funding to provide the Agency with the authority to spend money at a faster rate so that they can meet their mission, and their mission is "zero fail."

I am the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, which is charged with funding the Secret Service. I am proud of the quick work that we have done to identify the funds that can be spent between now and the election and between now and the inauguration to make sure that any gaps are closed.

The reason that I rise on this particular bill, though, is because I don't want to promise the American public more than this bill actually delivers.

This bill says that the Secret Service shall use "the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates." Now, that may sound meaningful, but in reality, my sense is that that is current law.

Right now, when the Secret Service makes a determination on the provision of protection, it is assessing the protectee's life, their work, their travel patterns, the potential threats, and the risk of harm to that person. The standard that the Secret Service uses is to provide whatever protection level is necessary to meet that "zero fail" mission to protect the person under their charge. With a team of experts, the Secret Service determines the level and the type of protection that is needed. That is the process, and those are the existing standards.

Let's be clear. Commanders in Chief—Presidents of the United States—do have certain unique requirements regarding their protection. For instance, the Department of Defense is supplying a traveling Commander in Chief with certain capabilities, chiefly amongst them the ability to stay in contact with our nuclear triad and

communication assets necessary for the President to be in seamless communication with the Department of Defense and military command should a crisis arise. That is a unique set of capabilities that a Commander in Chief has, and it goes into the assessment that the Secret Service makes as to the level of protection that the Commander in Chief needs.

They are using the same standard—do whatever is necessary in order to protect the life of the protectee—but Commanders in Chief, because they are Commanders in Chief, have a different constellation of assets that surround them that mean that the standard gets applied accordingly.

So I am not actually going to object. I am not sure that this bill changes anything about the way the Secret Service approaches their mission. They are going to continue to do whatever is necessary in order to protect the detailee, to protect the individual under their mandate. I think the much more substantive thing we are going to do this week is to get them the resources they need. My hope is that all of my Republican colleagues who have been talking about the importance of Secret Service protection are willing to support this increase in funding that the continuing resolution will include.

I will end by expressing my additional hope that we will seek to have a more holistic conversation here about how to protect former President Trump, how to protect President Biden, and how to protect Vice President HARRIS.

I am ready to move forward with this bill. I don't think it does anything to meaningfully change the way that the Secret Service approaches their job. I am ready to move forward on additional assets.

But we also continue to choose to give weapons of mass destruction to assassins. Other nations around the world don't choose to hand weapons with such accurate long-range capabilities, such powerful destructive force, to these assassins whose brains are breaking.

We also have a constellation of actors in this country who are engaged in a web of conspiracy theories. There is a justification of political violence that exists in this country today—apologies for those people who tried to kill us, attacked us on January 6—that leads many others to contemplate that they will also be let off the hook for their acts of political violence.

So I take the protection of former President Trump and Vice President HARRIS and everyone under Secret Service protection very seriously.

Let's move ahead with this bill. I don't think it actually solves the problem. Let's pass the additional money so that they have everything they need—the Secret Service—in order to get the job done. Then let's sit down and have a broader conversation about why we have seen this spike in political violence and what other ways Republicans and Democrats can come together.

Only by having that comprehensive conversation about funding, about the lethal means of assassination, about the celebration of political violence that happens in this country will we really do the job that is necessary and help the Secret Service reach their "zero fail" mission.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, H.R. 9106, the Enhanced Presidential Security Act, passed the House of Representatives last week and is currently pending in the Senate. As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over the U.S. Secret Service, I would like to offer a few thoughts on this legislation, which I support.

The bill requires the Director of the Secret Service to follow the same standards for determining agent staffing levels for the President, Vice President, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates. The bill also directs the Secret Service to conduct an internal review of its protection authorities and submit to Congress a report that includes recommendations for improvements.

Since the first assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump, the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Homeland and Government Affairs Committee have received a classified briefing and held a joint hearing where we heard testimony from the Secret Service and the FBI. We have worked on a bipartisan basis to get to the bottom of how the Secret Service failed to protect former President Trump on July 13.

Following the awful events of July 13 in Butler, PA, the Secret Service elevated the posture of its protectees and bolstered protective details to ensure the highest levels of safety and security.

Specifically, former President Trump is receiving additional personnel and protective assets at levels comparable to that of the President of the United States.

Additionally, the Secret Service has dedicated available protective assets typically reserved for the President to the Vice President and both Vice Presidential candidates.

H.R. 9106 serves to capture in statute these efforts undertaken by the Secret Service and Department of Homeland Security to dedicate critical resources and personnel to mitigate the inherent risk in the protection of the President, Vice President, and other major Presidential candidates who seek our Nation's highest office in this heightened threat environment.

I am concerned that the bill does not address the recruitment and retention challenges that have been perennial problems for the Agency. With the Secret Service now providing the same protections to candidates that it does for the sitting President, the strains on available agents will become even more apparent. Congress must continue working to address these issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding?

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 9106) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues for their support of this commonsense legislation, which has now passed with unanimous, bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

I will continue working with my colleagues to ensure nominees for President and Vice President are never in jeopardy and are provided the enhanced protection they clearly require and deserve.

This bill will now go to President Biden's desk, and I hope he acts quickly to sign it into law.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, welcome to the Senate. You look good up there.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, sir.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is seemingly doing everything they can to prevent our veterans and seniors from receiving quality long-term care. That is their mission, but they seem to be doing everything they can to prevent it.

Instead of working to ensure quality care for our veterans and seniors, the Agency seems hyperfocused on what appears to be a warpath—a warpath to push long-term care facilities to their limit. Rather than listening to the substantial feedback from facilities and managers, healthcare leaders, and Members of Congress, the Agency insists on implementing these overbearing, unrealistic rules and procedures to flex its bureaucratic muscle, as if to just show us how big their muscles are.

The actions of CMS are far beyond misguided, and the result is the intentional—it seems to me—disregard for the actual safety and care of the seniors and veterans they are charged to care for.

In North Dakota, our facilities are really feeling the squeeze, and the issue is really twofold. First and most importantly for my State, the minimum staffing rule—the minimum staffing rule. In an attempt to ensure adequate staffing levels, CMS went over the top.

In May, CMS issued this minimum staffing rule which requires long-term care facilities to implement new staffing requirements. Now, these are institutions that are already woefully understaffed because of a lack of a workforce.

Most burdensome is the new requirement to have a registered nurse—a registered nurse—on-site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, rather than the previous 8 hours a day, 7 days a week. Less than a quarter of North Dakota's facilities meet this requirement, and among rural facilities only 14 percent will meet that mandate.

And we should make no mistake, this is an unfunded, one-size-fits-all mandate coming from the bureaucratic bullies at CMS. In fact, by CMS's own lowball estimates, this regulation—it is almost hard for me to say this number. By their low-ball estimates, this regulation will cost facilities over \$40 billion to comply. Why would you want to impose \$40 billion more of unproductive costs on our facilities that are there to care for our seniors and our veterans?

To meet these elevated staffing levels, our facilities really have no good options, if they have any options at all. At existing staff levels, North Dakota facilities would need to reduce the average number of residents served per day by about 74 people to satisfy this mandate. Let me say that again: To meet this mandate, North Dakota facilities would have to reduce—reduce—the people they care for by 74.

They are being required to hire more staff from a supply of registered nurses that simply does not exist. I don't know why they would be surprised by this. We have a nursing shortage. Hello, CMS. Wake up. Listen to one or two people, and you will know we have a nursing shortage in this country, and it is particularly challenging in rural America.

Now, if they don't get that, if they don't find the nurses, of course, they do have the option of reducing the number of seniors they serve, as I mentioned earlier, or just closing their doors entirely. That doesn't seem to meet the stated goal of CMS.

It is also clear that this rule will disproportionately harm our small, rural States like North Dakota, as I said, and certainly our rural facilities. These are the same facilities already struggling to stay open. In my State, we have had six facilities close since 2021, indicating the already challenging operating environment, and I fear this misguided rule will supercharge this trend and deprive rural individuals—remember, these are people, CMS; rural individuals, people—the opportunity to receive care in their home communities, near the people they love and know the best: their families and their friends, their loved ones.

Mr. President, this math just doesn't add up. How does CMS not understand that this mandate is impossible to meet? Or maybe they do. I fear that

they maybe actually do understand that. CMS's intransigence seems to imply that it doesn't care.

Every State will feel the negative impact of this rule, but rural States like mine will be hurt the most.

I have sent letters advising CMS to hold off on this one-size-fits-all rule as far back as January of last year, and I have questioned CMS officials at hearings about the mandate's impact on already stressed staffing challenges.

And opposition to this rule has been bipartisan. It has been across the aisle and across the Capitol. In one example, Senator KING and I sent a second letter last October before introducing a bill together in March to require the Veterans' Affairs to study the CMS rule's impact on our war heroes, our veterans. Again, in June, we made the same request in a letter.

I also cosponsored a bipartisan Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval in June to overturn the rule CMS is so unwilling to modify.

In addition, litigation is ongoing in two Federal districts, both of which argue the Agency exceeded its statutory authority and the rule should be set aside. It is not uncommon for Agencies lately to overstep their legal boundaries.

Our concerns have simply, to this point, fallen on deaf ears at CMS.

The minimum staffing rule is part of a broader pattern of CMS's bureaucratic crackdowns on facilities for no reason other than it can.

And that is what bothers me so much about bureaucratic bullies is they are bullies because they can be, without materially improving the health and safety of long-care residents. Again, that is their goal—supposedly, that is their goal.

This brings me to the second part of the issue impacting our long-term care facilities. They are called civil monetary penalties or, in bureaucratic speak, CMPs. They are punitive monetary actions that CMS can take against long-term care facilities in situations where CMS determines they do not substantially comply with Medicare or Medicaid participation requirements, the requirements that the bullies create out of thin air. These penalties are heavily used to punish facilities beyond a simple correction. The goal should be to help them comply, not to punish them.

During a survey visit of a facility—just for instance—an inspector can issue citations for a range of violations. The inspector has the ability to issue citations based on perceived severity, ranging from no actual harm up to immediate jeopardy, which indicates an issue or situation that puts a resident's health or safety at imminent risk—again, as determined by CMS.

The problem only begins with the initial citation, however. CMS can still issue additional citations following the survey or the visit, sometimes many months later. I will try to explain this as simply as I can so you get the sense

of just how awful this is. The Agency continues to expand its ability to issue these citations and related penalties to exert even more control over the facilities. And there is where the real issue is: control over you.

The irony here is that for every dollar spent on a penalty is one less dollar invested in staff, the facility itself, equipment, anything that might enhance the care for the senior or the veteran.

Our seniors and veterans certainly deserve to live in safe, regulated facilities. But this is not about letting facilities off the hook when infractions occur; rather, this is about the avalanche of penalties facilities face after a single infraction and the consequences of excess fines.

But it gets worse. CMS has updated its ability—remember, every time I reference what CMS is doing with regulations or updating, that is them arbitrarily, individually, unilaterally making up lies. For your benefit? I don't think so. So they updated their ability to impose these penalties for up to three survey cycles. What does that mean? Most of these survey cycles—these are the visits, again, by a regulator. Most of them include inspections on average of every 12 months. To simplify the math, what this means is paper-pushing bullies in Washington could issue another penalty from the comfort of their desks on top of the original penalty imposed at the time of the survey. They don't even have to leave their desk. In fact, I suspect many of them never have, except the ones that now work from home—that work from home. This could be months or years later and without ever having to set foot in a facility or in a State other than the District of Columbia and the surrounding counties.

So what is the purpose of these additional delayed penalties? Who thinks this would be a good idea? Well, it is certainly not about taking immediate action to enhance the care or to help them comply and help the safety of residents or addressing noncompliance during the visit itself. No.

To make matters worse, for certain citations—now, get this. When I read this, I had to check on it and check on it to make sure this is true. For certain citations, facilities are financially incentivized not to challenge the findings. Let me say that again because it is almost too hard to believe.

For certain citations, facilities are financially incentivized not to challenge the findings. Isn't that rich? In fact, CMS offers a 35-percent extortion discount to facilities if they waive their right to a hearing and just simply accept the penalties from the bureaucratic bully that was imposed. This, of course, only further empowers the bully and allows the initial citations to stand undisputed. It is unconscionable. I can't even believe it is legal; and maybe it is not.

I hesitate to even share this, but I feel I have to. I have had facility man-

agers in my home State plead with me not to use their specific example for fear of retaliation from the bureaucracy, the very people who are supposed to be helping provide safe, reliable care for our veterans and our seniors.

The recently finalized skilled nursing facility rule introduced yet another way to punish facilities with the addition of—get this—per instance per day civil monetary penalties. Only a bureaucrat could love a title like that. This is what's called an instance multiplier of fines—an instance multiplier of fines—based on the number of residents impacted or the number of times the conduct is repeated. It is another flawed approach as citations already account for this. When the initial citation is issued, it accounts for scope. It accounts for how insulated the incident is or pattern, how widespread the pattern may be. All of that is calculated into the initial citation.

But if that is not good enough, they can always go back and say: You know what? Let's multiply instances and see if we can't punish them a little bit more so maybe they could close down.

If these rules and penalties were really about better care for residents, CMS should yield to reason. However, the actions of the bureaucrats at CMS prove they are out of touch—simply out of touch—with operational challenges actually facing these facilities and the people that the facilities serve. If they, in fact, want to achieve the stated goal of improving quality, well, these decisions do just the opposite. In fact, what they do is they reduce choice and access and, ultimately, they lead to facilities closing.

I don't think that is the goal. It is not the stated goal. Maybe it is somebody's goal, but it is not the stated goal. I hope those with the ability to do something about it enter reality one of these days and listen to our warnings. They are real. These are real people living in real places.

And, yes, they might be in red States—I am sorry, some of them are. A lot of these rural places are. But that is not your job to worry about the politics.

I have little faith that they are going to do the right thing and reverse course, but I pray they will.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to again call on my colleagues across the aisle to take action to put in place commonsense guardrails to address the risk that artificial intelligence poses to our elections.

There are some incredible innovations that we are seeing and will see as a result of AI, and our country is in the lead. I want those innovations to be good, and I want us to lead the world as we have for so long, but if we don't put some commonsense rules in place, such as the bill Senator THUNE and I have, to create a regulatory framework for

nondefense applications or some of the other bipartisan bills that have come out of the Commerce Committee, I think that we are going to lose the positive for the negative. So I am trying to look at some commonsense rules, and one of the most obvious ways that we can put some rules in place is when it comes to democracy, which, to me, is kind of a hair-on-fire moment.

Like any emerging technology, as we know, AI brings both opportunity and uncertainty. As columnist David Brooks has said, the people in AI seem to be experiencing radically different brain states all at once.

He said:

I've found it incredibly hard to write about AI because it is literally unknowable whether this technology is leading us to heaven or hell.

So we want it to lead us to heaven, and we want to get those new cures for medical diseases, and I have seen the work done right in my own State at Mayo.

But one of the things that we must do—and Senator SCHUMER and Senators HEINRICH and ROUNDS and YOUNG have been leading the way—is to find a group of bills that we could actually pass, and perhaps we could do this at the end of the year. The ones that I would like to see today—which I know cannot happen as we work on the budget but at least by the end of the year—is to do something when it comes to democracy and the kind of videos and fake robocalls and things that we are seeing that could be a dangerous—and have already been a dangerous—threat to our democracy.

Maybe the first time this kind of hit the national conscience was something that wasn't actually created by AI. It was actually the voice. It turned out to be the voice of a magician who pretended that he was President Biden; and in the New Hampshire primary, he called people and said that they should not vote. That case, fortunately, has been taken up in New Hampshire by the prosecutors and is being investigated and prosecuted.

These are the kinds of things, when in the hands of AI, are going to get very dangerous because we are not going to know whether or not it is Donald Trump or KAMALA HARRIS. We are not going to know if it is really them or if it is a fake. We are already seeing videos and voices and things, so I am asking my colleagues to join with me to do what people have already done in so many States, including in red States.

Texas—Texas—has a ban on deepfakes. Minnesota has a ban on deepfakes. States like Mississippi and Utah have put in labeling requirements so that at least you know if something is being created by AI; so when an innocent citizen looks at the video or looks at the ad, they see that at the bottom.

And not everything is the same. If you use AI to, say, change your hair

color or do something to make someone look better, that doesn't come under at least the bills that we have for Federal elections that we are proposing. But if you actually are trying to mislead voters about whether or not it is actually the person, that would come under the bill that Senators HAWLEY and COLLINS and I—yes, that is right—that Senators HAWLEY and COLLINS and COONS and I and a number of others have introduced that would simply say: Once you do something like that, then you have to take it down.

We have a number of platforms, including open AI and Microsoft and others, that are supporting this bill. This is not some kind of radical idea. We haven't had any serious pushback for this particular bill because we were so careful in drafting it. We understood that we couldn't include, say, satire. When you have a satire, a joke thing that comes out, the Constitution says you can't really ban that, right? That's speech.

But for those kinds of products, we think you should at least say on it—which is allowed; this is what all these States have done—"produced by AI." That is the bill that Senator MURKOWSKI and I have—the Republican across our aisle, my friend from Alaska. So these are both bipartisan bills, and I am urging my colleagues to look at them.

Election day is now less than 45 days away. We have voters already casting their ballots, and absentee ballots have been mailed out. Truly, this is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. This is an American issue. People should be able to know that, when they see a candidate, it is the candidate.

We have a number of bills, as I said, that are before us, and I want people to know—and my colleague from Georgia, the Acting President pro tempore, is well aware—of how people can try to mess with elections. His words would probably be more straightforward than any words I will say today when it comes to trying to stop people from voting or feeding them with information. Sometimes it just comes down to some people don't want some people to vote. That is what that radio ad was about—radio; I am sorry—that call that was made in New Hampshire was all about: trying to get people not to vote or to think things are so bad that they don't want to vote for the person.

But there is something even more insidious going on, and that is that we have heard from our intelligence Agencies that foreign adversaries, like Iran, China, and Russia, are trying to interfere with our democracy.

Just this month, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a public report confirming this. In May, the Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines, testified about an increase in foreign influence efforts and how AI can make it easier to amplify deceptive content. By the way, this has happened before in our elections, and it

has happened around the world. It is not necessarily, in some cases, directed at the right or the left. The foreign interest just decides: Well, what do I want to mess around? Sometimes, as in the past, Russia just wants to mess around—mess around with the right or with the left—just to create chaos.

FBI Director Christopher Wray echoed this concern when he said that the U.S. will face more adversaries moving at a faster pace enabled by new technology. And the Department of Justice took action 3 weeks ago to disrupt Russian Government-backed efforts to interfere in our election, which includes the use of AI to spread disinformation online.

We have seen this technology being used to generate viral misleading content to spread disinformation and deceive voters about candidates from both parties.

In July, as I note, there was just recently the deepfake of Vice President HARRIS's voice saying things she never would say about President Biden. According to reports, it was seen more than 130 million times in just 4 days. Now, you know, maybe if you were to watch the whole thing, you would know that it is not her. Not everyone does that, right? You look at snippets on the internet; you look at part of it. Again, I had people say "wow" to me. I know that seems strange for people who are in the Beltway, and they watch everything, but if you just watch something for a few seconds, you may not know whether or not it is actually the candidate or not. That is why, in this case—because it was arguably satire—you would at least have a label through the whole thing, and that would be a requirement if we pass the bill Senator MURKOWSKI and I have.

Earlier this month, Taylor Swift talked about how AI was being used to make it look like she endorsed a candidate that she didn't even endorse. As the election approaches, now is when disinformation can have its biggest impact and when we could possibly see the worst of the worst.

So whether you are Democrat or Republican, no one wants to see fake ads or robocalls when you cannot even tell if it is the candidate you love or the candidate you don't like. That is why, as I note, 19 States across the country—red, blue, and purple—have passed laws in this area.

On the Federal level, the bill I have with Senator COLLINS and Senator HAWLEY is sitting there. We got it through the Rules Committee. But unfortunately our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have blocked this bill from being considered in the past when I asked unanimous consent for it.

I note it is a bipartisan bill. It is supported by 40 national security experts and current and former government officials, including former Secretaries of Defense Chuck Hagel and Leon Panetta and Secretaries of State from both parties. It is supported by former Federal Election Commission Chairman Trevor

Potter, who was appointed by a Republican President. I mentioned OpenAI, Microsoft, IBM, and Salesforce supporting the bill. It has a bipartisan companion bill led by Representatives DEREK KILMER of Washington and TONY GONZALES, a Republican from Texas.

We must get this done.

At this point, we are going to have to now rely on the platform—some of whom have policies in place—to take down these fake ads and these fake videos. Many of them have committed to do so. But those are not all the platforms, and we are much better off if we have standard legislation across the country that doesn't preempt the State laws for their own work but actually sets a standard for Federal elections—President, Senate, and Congress.

So I hope this isn't as bad as I think it is going to be through October, but I think we are already seeing signs that it is. That is not democracy. We cannot have a functioning democracy if our people can't tell if it is their candidate or not. It is going to make things much, much worse.

We can't stand on the sidelines. Let's work together for the sake of our democracy to put in place commonsense rules of the road on AI to uphold trust and faith in our election. I stand ready to work with our colleagues in any way to get this done.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 9747

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H.R. 9747 from the House, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that there be up to 2 hours for debate, equally divided, and with no amendments or motions in order to the bill; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on the passage of the bill, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, there is very good news tonight. I have just locked in an agreement to pass the government funding bill tomorrow, without amendment, and avoid an unnecessary government shutdown.

American families can rest assured now that their lives won't be needlessly upended due to an unnecessary

government shutdown. This agreement ensures that the Senate will take up the CR after the House passes it tomorrow, which is well before the September 30 deadline.

The CR will give Congress more time to continue working on the appropriations process to fund the government before the end of the year.

As I have said all year, the only way to get things done is with bipartisan support—bipartisan support.

Now, I appreciate the work of all the leaders to move forward with this CR. This is how things should be done—without brinksmanship, without delay. I hope—I truly hope—we will continue to see the same bipartisanship in the Senate when we return and we work to fund the government.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 741, 794 through 814 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Ronald P. Clark

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Christopher A. Nash

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Matthew A. Leard

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Dean A. Preston

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jeth B. Rey

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Simmering

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10502:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Randall Reed

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Gavin A. Lawrence

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Alvin Holsey

IN THE SPACE FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Devin R. Pepper

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jennifer M. Short

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. John M. Cushing

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jonathan C. Taylor

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Xavier T. Brunson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Richard E. Angle

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Gary A. Ropers

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Theresa K. Cogswell

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Lance A. Okamura

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Scott W. Hiipakka

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Paul L. Kuettner

Col. Sandra K. Martin

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S
DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1594 AIR FORCE nomination of Jason W. Cromar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2024.

PN1595 AIR FORCE nomination of Allison S. Hardwick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 9, 2024.

PN1660 AIR FORCE nominations (71) beginning BRENT A. ALVES, and ending ERICA R. WEITGENANT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 30, 2024.

PN1667 AIR FORCE nominations (58) beginning CHRISTIAN E. BANASKY, and ending ANITA M. YATES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 30, 2024.

PN1843 AIR FORCE nomination of John C. Reed, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 20, 2024.

PN1927 AIR FORCE nominations (29) beginning JOSEPH J. BUCKINGHAM, and ending BENJAMIN DONALD ZATORSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2024.

PN2020 AIR FORCE nomination of Chelsey D. McMasters, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2074 AIR FORCE nomination of Jared M. Zentz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2075 AIR FORCE nomination of Steven M. Hyer, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2076 AIR FORCE nominations (107) beginning PATRICIA WARD ADAMS, and ending AARON JOSEPH ZAMORA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2133 AIR FORCE nominations (22) beginning ALISON LEE BEACH, and ending AARON ALLEN WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

PN2134 AIR FORCE nominations (7) beginning JASON R. BARKER, and ending JONATHAN T. RUNNELS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

PN2136 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning GABRIEL R. DINOFRIO, and ending JACK VILARDI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

PN2138 AIR FORCE nominations (66) beginning WESLEY R. ADAMS, and ending DIAMOND D. ZEPHIR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

PN2139 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning J.B. ACHESON, and ending MARA LIZBETH WLADYKA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

PN2140 AIR FORCE nominations (163) beginning BRANDI RAE AIKEN, and ending ERICA M. ZUNIGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

PN2141 AIR FORCE nominations (55) beginning JORDAN JOHN ARCTURUS, and ending ALEXANDER WILLIAM WOLF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

PN2142 AIR FORCE nominations (135) beginning JONATHAN D. ALE, and ending MASON ZHANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

IN THE ARMY

PN1711 ARMY nomination of Barbara A. Berninger, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2024.

PN1715 ARMY nominations (15) beginning DANIELLE N. GONZALEZ, and ending CHRISTOPHER A. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2024.

PN1716 ARMY nominations (105) beginning JOHN R. ABELLA, and ending 0002564985, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2024.

PN1717 ARMY nominations (156) beginning RONALD P. ALCALA, and ending 0003565984, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2024.

PN1718 ARMY nominations (186) beginning NATHAN T. ADKINS, and ending 0002318081, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2024.

PN2021 ARMY nominations (36) beginning ERIK C. ALFSEN, and ending JOSHUA J. ZIEGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31,

PN2022 ARMY nominations (63) beginning SIDNEY B. AARON, and ending 0002755788, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2023 ARMY nominations (2) beginning NATHANIEL H. BABB, and ending JEREMY A. HAUGH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2024 ARMY nomination of Alice S. Blizman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2025 ARMY nominations (62) beginning NATHAN M. ARNOLD, and ending ROLAND J. WILLIBY, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2026 ARMY nominations (8) beginning ROGER A. BEAULIEU, and ending SCOTT A. ZECHMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2027 ARMY nominations (40) beginning BRYAN E. APPLGATE, and ending CHRISTINA C. ZAIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2057 ARMY nomination of Wesley S. Shute, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2077 ARMY nomination of Wallace E. Miller, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2078 ARMY nomination of Lori S. Kuyt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2079 ARMY nomination of Chelsea D. Statler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2080 ARMY nomination of Michael D. Lane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2081 ARMY nominations (120) beginning TRISHA M. ADAMS, and ending CHELSEA E. ZYBURT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2082 ARMY nominations (214) beginning ERIN L. ACREE, and ending 0003582191, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2083 ARMY nominations (92) beginning JACOB M. ALEXANDER, and ending 0003527579, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2084 ARMY nomination of Richard M. Standage, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2085 ARMY nominations (3) beginning GREGORY M. LARSON, and ending JULIAN A. RUIZBETANCUR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2086 ARMY nominations (7) beginning KARIM A. BRANFORD, and ending ERIC D. SHARP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2087 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey D. Kyle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2088 ARMY nominations (11) beginning STEPHEN C. BABCOCK, and ending JORGE VELEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2089 ARMY nomination of Eurana A. Rodriguez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2090 ARMY nomination of Christopher K. Kim, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2091 ARMY nomination of Maxine C. Coleman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2129 ARMY nominations (20) beginning TORRI M. ALLEN, and ending SORA YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN2092 MARINE CORPS nomination Christopher B. Ryan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2094-1 MARINE CORPS nominations (155) beginning RICO ACOSTA, and ending GREGORY J. YOUNGBERG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2144 MARINE CORPS nominations (413) beginning ALEXANDER N. ABATE, and ending JOSEPH A. ZUKOWSKI, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

IN THE NAVY

PN2028 NAVY nomination of Matthew R. Hartung, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2029 NAVY nomination of Jeffery C. Johnson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2030 NAVY nomination of Chet M. Korensky, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2024.

PN2058 NAVY nomination of Robert J. Coats, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2059 NAVY nominations (45) beginning CHRISTOPHER H. ANSCHUETZ, and ending LIN L. ZHENG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2060 NAVY nominations (33) beginning ANDREW J. BROD, and ending MARK J. WON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2061 NAVY nomination of Christopher S. Walton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2062 NAVY nominations (47) beginning RAMON ACOSTA, and ending SEN F. YU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2063 NAVY nominations (80) beginning CANDIS A. ALFORD, and ending NICHOLAS S. ZIMMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2064 NAVY nominations (131) beginning RICHELLE C. ALAGABAN, and ending MATTHEW E. WITTMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2065 NAVY nominations (54) beginning CLINTON M. BARKER, and ending AMY C. ZAJAC, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2066 NAVY nominations (162) beginning DIANNE J. ABEL, and ending WEI Y. WU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2067 NAVY nominations (68) beginning DAVID P. ANGUIANO, and ending SEAN T.

YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2068 NAVY nominations (252) beginning GREGORY A. ADAMS, and ending MICHAEL D. T. YUE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2069 NAVY nominations (70) beginning MARK A. A. ABADILLA, and ending STACEY L. YON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2070 NAVY nominations (31) beginning BENJAMIN D. ADAMS, and ending JOHN C. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2071 NAVY nominations (69) beginning BILLY L. AGUIRRE, and ending JEFFREY D. VORWALD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2072 NAVY nominations (39) beginning ANTHONY S. B. ALEXANDER, and ending ALLISON D. WEINBERG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2073 NAVY nominations (161) beginning JACOB A. ADAMS, and ending REILLY L. ZENK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 2024.

PN2095 NAVY nomination of Matthew A. Mravlja, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2096 NAVY nomination of Brian K. Blaschke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2097 NAVY nominations (2) beginning TODD A. HASENSTEIN, and ending MICHAEL R. KUKENBERGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2098 NAVY nomination of Daniel J. Whitsett, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2099 NAVY nominations (21) beginning LORAN A. ABRAM, and ending JOSE A. VALADEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2100 NAVY nominations (10) beginning CHELSEA D. CANNADAY, and ending KRISTINA M. WIEDEMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2101 NAVY nominations (17) beginning SARAH A. L. BARNUM, and ending MARIA F. WALSH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2102 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JORDANKANE U. ACEDERA, and ending ZECHARIAH CLARK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2103 NAVY nominations (7) beginning JOHN A. BEACH, and ending JULIAN G. TURNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2104 NAVY nominations (54) beginning RONNIE E. BAISDEN, II, and ending BRIAN D. YOUNGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2105 NAVY nominations (40) beginning STEVE A. ADRIAZOLA, and ending CHAD E. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2106 NAVY nomination of Jason M. Flood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2107 NAVY nomination of Patrick M. Chapman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2108 NAVY nomination of Alex G. Dulude, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2109 NAVY nomination of Alexandria N. Membreno, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2110 NAVY nomination of Zachary A. Collver, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2111 NAVY nomination of Michael J. Krzyzaniak, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2112 NAVY nominations (71) beginning KELLY M. ABRAMSON, and ending CAMERON P. WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2113 NAVY nominations (59) beginning JOSHUA G. AMMANN, and ending JUSTIN L. ZWALD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2114 NAVY nominations (73) beginning MARY M. BENKE, and ending JAMES H. WOMACK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2115 NAVY nominations (23) beginning JOHNREGI D. AMPARO, and ending JOSEPH P. YOTT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2116 NAVY nominations (36) beginning MARIO A. ARIASDAVISON, and ending GARY A. WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2117 NAVY nominations (35) beginning MITCHELL T. ALLEN, and ending CHARLES M. WHITTENTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2118 NAVY nominations (1224) beginning HAKIM ABDUL, and ending WILLIAM H. ZUPKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2119 NAVY nominations (35) beginning ROMEO B. AKA, and ending SHANNON N. WILLINGS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2120 NAVY nominations (53) beginning CALEB H. ACHOR, and ending MYLES F. WORTHAM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2121 NAVY nominations (50) beginning RYAN D. ALBANO, and ending NETETIA K. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2122 NAVY nominations (57) beginning YONATAN G. ABEDE, and ending EMILY C. WOLFF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2123 NAVY nomination of Joshua R. Lamb, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2145 NAVY nomination of Lee J. Chasco, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2024.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN2124 SPACE FORCE nominations (53) beginning CHRISTOPHER GENE ADAMS, and ending MATTHEW L. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2125 SPACE FORCE nominations (71) beginning FELIX AARON ABEYTA, and ending BENJAMIN R. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2126 SPACE FORCE nominations (74) beginning DAVID C. ANDERSON, and ending LUCIA R. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2127 SPACE FORCE nominations (94) beginning ANASTACIO OH ARREOLA, and ending JORGE E. ZAMORA QUILES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

PN2128 SPACE FORCE nominations (116) beginning STUART C. ARCHER, and ending ROBERT DANIEL YOUSSEF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 10, 2024.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 251, confirmation of the nomination of Michael Sfraga to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAN ALLHANDS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing Madison County Commissioner, District No. 1, Dan Allhands for his lifelong contributions to the citizens of Madison County.

Dan took the oath of office for county commissioner in 2017 and is retiring this year. His district includes the towns of Alder, Sheridan, and Virginia City—the historic Montana town that became the second territorial capital in 1864, as well as one of the most prominent cities in the Rocky Mountains at that time.

Dan's service as an elected commissioner has capped off decades of service to the Ruby Valley and its residents. He was a member of the Alder Fire Department for 12 years, including fire chief for 3 years, during which a new

firehall was constructed. During his tenure on the Sheridan School Board, the local elementary school was built. He was a rancher for 43 years and raised on his family's ranch in Sheridan. He praises his wife Jody and their four sons for continuing to support him and the folks in their hometown.

Whether it is representing local ranchers, collaborative groups, or the residents in the county's two local nursing care centers, Dan Allhands always embraced a variety of challenges in order to make sure Madison County will be ready for a successful future.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Dan Allhands for his passion to serve and his lifelong commitment in making Madison County a better place to live and work. "Montana Proud!"

RECOGNIZING DUSTED CHARM

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

In 2017, Becca Wiggins' world was turned upside down when her daughter Maisy was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy type 1. She left her job to care for Maisy and began to sell various graphic t-shirt styles out of her basement. Before she knew it, Becca was seeing a profit that she knew meant there was a demand for her products. Becca expanded her business, and in 2018, she and her family opened Dusted Charm. The business is located on the historic 100-block of West Broadway, where the team transformed an old clothing shop into Dusted Charm's warehouse and showroom. They now offer a wide range of women's clothing and home decor, including signs, candles, and pillows. In 2020, Becca and her team launched a Dusted Charm app that allowed them to expand nationally. With their newfound success, this summer Becca opened a second store, Shop The Outskirts, on Main Street in Underwood, IA.

Dusted Charm was inspired by the gravel roads and street signs that Becca and her family passed on their drives to Maisy's treatments in Chicago. Becca's mother Tracy and sisters Rachel and Sara are part owners of the business, handling various aspects of it. The family has dedicated their time to make this business truly a family-owned and operated business that centers around giving back to the community that supported them through Maisy's health crisis.

Dusted Charm is deeply involved with the Council Bluffs community. Becca, inspired by the support her family received after Maisy's diagnosis, co-founded Maisy and Marley's Purpose, a nonprofit organization that aims to bridge financial gaps for families dur-

ing a critical medical diagnosis, a time of loss, or equipment needs. Maisy and Marley's Purpose raises funds for various projects, such as mortgage payments, constructing an inclusive playground, and acquiring service dogs. To further give back to the community, 8 months out of the year, Dusted Charm organizes "Give Back" days where they donate 25 percent of all sales to a designated charity. The focus of each charity is different, ranging from local sports teams to the Women's Fund of Southwest Iowa. In 2022, Dusted Charm was honored with the Omaha Metropolitan Area Tourism Award as the best retail business in Pottawattamie County.

Dusted Charm has quickly become a staple in Pottawattamie County due to its community outreach and desire to give back. I want to congratulate this family and the team at Dusted Charm for their commitment to the communities of southwest Iowa. I look forward to witnessing their continued growth and positive impact in Iowa.

RECOGNIZING MICHELIN NORTH AMERICA

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michelin North America on its 50th anniversary of operating in South Carolina and 35 years of being headquartered in Greenville, SC.

Michelin produced its first tire in South Carolina in 1975 and now employs 10,000 people across 15 facilities throughout the State. As a global leader in producing tires, Michelin has significantly contributed to the community and the region, generating an economic impact of \$266 billion. Michelin has provided steady employment for many of the most talented workers in our State, providing thousands of jobs and, in many cases, lifelong careers.

Again, congratulations to Michelin and its employees on celebrating 50 years in the great State of South Carolina.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARHAWK AIR MUSEUM

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 35th anniversary of the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa, ID. This remarkable institution is a global attraction for history enthusiasts and airplane lovers of all ages.

The museum's roots trace back to 1986, when John and Sue Paul moved to Idaho from California, bringing with them a PT-19 WWII trainer, a P-40E, and their passion for restoring World War II airplanes. They worked out of a hangar at the Caldwell airport, bringing planes back to life and flying them as they could. The community quickly fell in love with these historic aircraft, often gathering to watch them soar through the Treasure Valley skies. Inspired by the planes' history, residents began contributing their own WWII

memorabilia to the Pauls' hangar, hoping to create a meaningful tribute to U.S. history. The community's enthusiasm culminated in the official establishment of the Warhawk Air Museum in 1989.

As the collection of war memorabilia expanded, John and Sue outgrew the original hangar. Looking to construct a larger facility, they found a unique way to help fund the endeavor: Hollywood. Because of the authenticity on display at the Warhawk, the museum's Curtiss P-40N "Warhawk" and Curtiss P-40E "Kittyhawk" were featured in the 2001 movie "Pearl Harbor." Proceeds enabled the Pauls to construct a new facility in Nampa, which opened its doors in 2001. Motivated by their success and larger facility, John and Sue sought to expand their collection to honor veterans from all eras. With additional proceeds from the use of their Curtiss P-40E "Kittyhawk" in the 2008 film "Valkyrie," the museum expanded again, creating a space to honor those who served in Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War-era. The public can see both of these P-40 aircraft on display every year at the museum's annual Warbird Roundup, which brings historic planes from around the country to Idaho for an airshow that takes spectators back in time.

Beyond preserving physical artifacts, the Warhawk Air Museum is committed to safeguarding the stories of our veterans. Collaborating with the Library of Congress, their dedicated staff and approximately 80 volunteers work with veterans to share their experiences, ensuring firsthand accounts of their service and sacrifice are recorded for future generations. To date, more than 1,300 veterans' stories have been preserved by the Warhawk's Veterans History Project.

The Warhawk Air Museum serves not only as an educational resource for Idahoans, but also as the host of the largest monthly gathering of veterans in the State. Each month, the Kilroy Coffee Klatch brings together over 250 veterans, providing an opportunity for them to connect with others who may have served in the same branch of the military or conflict. This monthly event features a variety of speakers, many of whom are volunteers at the museum or regular attendees of the Coffee Klatch, covering a plethora of topics, such as serving in WWII or as a Dustoff helicopter pilot in Vietnam. Each month brings a new speaker and a new perspective on what it means to serve our great country.

Under the leadership of executive director Carson Spear, the Warhawk Air Museum continues its mission "to educate visitors about the cost of freedom and honor those who paid its price." The museum is developing a new hangar to honor those who served and sacrificed in the Global War on Terror. Once complete, the Warhawk will be one of the few museums in the country with an exhibit dedicated to this conflict.

I am proud to have the Warhawk Air Museum in the great State of Idaho. It exemplifies the values that Idahoans hold dear, and I look forward to witnessing the continued impact this institution will have in our State and Nation.●

RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE ELECTRIC SERVICES INC.

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Innovative Electric Services, Inc., as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for October 2024.

Innovative Electric Services, founded by Kelly and Mindy Watkins, opened in 2018 in Clearwater County. A family-owned and operated business, the Watkins were motivated to frame their company after personal experience with the lack of trade services available in rural areas. Their exceptional work ethic and integrity, coupled with their efforts to reach rural areas, have contributed to their success. Within a year, they were able to expand their team and move to a larger location. Kelly and Mindy credit their continued success to their exceptional team of 10 employees and the Watkins' three sons Kade, Ryan, and Jase, who are invaluable to the business. Their youngest son is carrying on the family legacy as he begins his second year as an electrical apprentice.

Innovative Electric Services puts a high premium on engaging with local businesses and community circles. They are robust supporters of local sports, education, and 4-H programs. In addition to donations, they generously give materials and labor to community projects, including sporting facilities for the Orofino High School.

Congratulations to the Watkins and all of the employees at Innovative Electric Services on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for October 2024. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING TED DREWES, JR.

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life of Ted Drewes, Jr., of St. Louis, MO, who passed away on August 28, 2024.

For decades, Ted Drewes, Jr., was the face of the iconic frozen custard business established by his father and namesake. Ted took the family business to new heights, serving concretes, sundaes, and shakes to St. Louis locals and visitors at his stores on South Grand and Chippewa. For decades, Ted Drewes has sold approximately 150,000 gallons of custard per year. Under his

leadership, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard became an iconic St. Louis institution. He expanded the Chippewa location on Route 66 to accommodate more customers, and he started selling Christmas trees during winter in the parking lot.

The name Ted Drewes is known across our country for delicious ice cream. For St. Louisans, however, it is much more than just an ice cream stand. Ted Drewes built a business where memories are made. Often, the lines of customers run down the block. Whether the lines are filled with Cardinals fans getting a treat on their way home from a game or young people wearing suits and dresses after a school dance, the crowds that flock to his business are a testament to the one-of-a-kind gathering place he created.

Ted Drewes is a St. Louis institution as much as the Cardinals or the Gateway Arch. After a long and fulfilling life, Ted leaves behind a loving family and generations of satisfied customers. His signature phrase—"It really is good, guys . . . and gals!"—as well as the great man who served generations of customers will be remembered in St. Louis for many years to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE EQUALITY HEALTH CENTER

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to honor the Equality Health Center, EHC, in Concord, NH, on its 50th anniversary. EHC is a nonprofit healthcare facility that has provided comprehensive sexual and reproductive care to people throughout New England for five decades. In addition to providing health care services, EHC is committed to advocacy, education, and outreach for their community. I join a grateful community in saluting EHC's staff for their client-centered, inclusive, accessible, and empowering services.

The inspiring story of the Equality Health Center begins in 1973 after the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. Although the ruling affirmed a woman's right to make her own reproductive healthcare decisions, these services were often inaccessible and expensive, especially in New Hampshire. A group of feminists began meeting in Concord to address this inequity and started to envision a nonprofit clinic for safe, accessible, and affordable services. A year later in October of 1974, New Hampshire Women's Health Services opened its doors. In the decades since, the hard-working team at EHC has broadened its mission to include providing a wide range of sexual and reproductive care, as well as expanding the number of clients it serves to include the LGBTQ+ community. To reflect its commitment to inclusive services, New Hampshire Women's Health Services proudly changed its name in 2016 to Equality Health Center.

EHC is a nationally recognized expert in abortion services and contraceptive care. It offers services that include

birth control and family planning, gender affirming and non-binary care, HIV testing and PrEP, STI testing and treatment, miscarriage management, behavioral health, and annual exams. It has received numerous awards from the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, the National Women's Health Network, and NARAL-NH. EHC is dedicated to building a world where all people have the autonomy to make educated choices regarding their healthcare. It provides exceptional care to clients with an emphasis on equality, inclusivity, and self-determination. It is also committed to training future healthcare professionals to provide quality and compassionate care.

EHC is engrained within the Concord community and utilizes longstanding local partnerships to accomplish shared goals of reproductive freedom and social justice. For example, EHC has educated hundreds of individuals about reproductive and sexual health through its speaker services at schools and community events.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in congratulating the Equality Health Center on five decades of service and wishing them the best in their future endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today, September 24, 2024, she had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 4351. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control programs.

At 12:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 133. An act to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134. An act to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 670. An act to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program.

S. 679. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective.

S. 794. An act to require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism.

S. 1549. An act to provide the Congressional Budget Office with necessary authorities to expedite the sharing of data from executive branch agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2228. An act to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, and for other purposes.

S. 2685. An act to make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available, and for other purposes.

S. 3639. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2075 West Stadium Boulevard in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the "Robert Hayden Post Office".

S. 3640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 South Main Street in Mount Clemens, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson Post Office".

S. 3764. An act to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026.

S. 3851. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michigan, as the "Sojourner Truth Post Office".

S. 4698. An act to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1735. An act to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling, including data-driven and computational thinking, problem, project, and performance-based learning and assessment, interdisciplinary exploration, and career connections, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2706. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

H.R. 3433. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3884. An act to amend title XI of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program providing for sickle cell disease and other heritable blood disorders research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment.

H.R. 5526. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for covered outpatient drugs furnished under the Medicare program, and to provide coverage of external infusion pumps and non-self-administrable home infusion drugs under such program.

H.R. 5867. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the "Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building".

H.R. 6125. An act to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, and other purposes.

H.R. 6219. An act to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program to identify, evaluate, acquire, and disseminate commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery in order to satisfy the scientific, operational, and educational requirements of the Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6231. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the De-

partment of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6633. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the "Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 6829. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7189. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a national congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7630. An act to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7685. An act to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7764. An act to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7832. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8108. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to add a Medicaid State plan requirement with respect to the determination of residency of certain individuals serving in the Armed Forces.

H.R. 8958. An act to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9459. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enable secure and trustworthy technology through other transaction contracting authority, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Martha Hughes Cannon.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2228. An act to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today, September 24, 2024, she had signed the following enrolled bills, which were

previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

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

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

S. 2825. A bill 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. A bill 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1735. An act to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education through mathematical and statistical modeling, including data-driven and computational thinking, problem, project, and performance-based learning and assessment, interdisciplinary exploration, and career connections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2706. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3433. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3884. An act to amend title XI of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program providing for sickle cell disease and other heritable blood disorders research, surveillance, prevention, and treatment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5526. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for covered outpatient drugs furnished under the Medicare program and to provide coverage of external infusion pumps and non-self-administrable home infusion drugs under such program; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5867. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Live Oaks Boulevard in Casselberry, Florida, as the "Colonel Joseph William Kittinger II Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6125. An act to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6219. An act to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program to identify, evaluate, acquire, and disseminate commercial Earth remote sensing data and imagery in order to satisfy the scientific, operational, and educational requirements of the Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6231. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6633. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the "Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6829. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 7685. An act to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7764. An act to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 7832. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies to enhance, or address capability gaps in, border security operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 8108. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to add a Medicaid State plan requirement with respect to the determination of residency of certain individuals serving in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 8958. An act to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 7630. An act to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 24, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States 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. 2228. An act to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Author-

ization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to clarify the scope of a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to certain projects relating to the production of semiconductors, 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. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control programs.

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-5963. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5964. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Misclassification of Drugs, Program Administration and Program Integrity Updates Under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program" (RIN0938-AU28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5965. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Under Section 110 of the SECURE 2.0 Act with Respect to Matching Contributions Made on Account of Qualified Student Loan Payments" (Notice 2024-63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5966. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consistent Basis Between Estate and Person Acquiring Property from Decedent" (RIN1545-BM97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5967. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, a semi-annual report relative to telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba during the period from January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5968. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Vacancies Reform Act, changes that occurred as of August 19, 2024, and additional report on departure of Ambassadors"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5969. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine under

drawdowns previously directed under section 506(a)(1) of the FAA, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5970. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Passports: Form DS-3053 Statement of Consent" (RIN1400-AF71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5971. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-050); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5972. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Sweden in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-064); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5973. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Italy in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-038); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5974. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed agreement amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Australia in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-057); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5975. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Sweden in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-058); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5976. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Ukraine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-059); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5977. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to various countries in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-065); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5978. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Exec-

utive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report on other U.S. contributions to the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5979. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transitioning Gang-Involved Youth to Higher Education Program" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5980. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Resource Centers Program and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program" (RIN1840-AD94) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5981. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Postsecondary Student Success Grant" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5982. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Final Report to Congress on the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Grant Program"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5983. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Prematurity and Expansion and Education for Mothers Who Deliver Infants Early Reauthorization Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5984. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a petition which was filed on behalf of workers at the Metals and Controls Corp. in Attleboro, Massachusetts, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5985. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Grant Policy Office, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Education Department General Administration Regulations and Related Regulatory Provisions" (RIN1875-AA14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5986. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements Related to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act" (RIN0938-AU93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5987. A communication from the Acting Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office of Inspector General's budget request for fiscal year 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5988. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5989. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3607-EM in the State of Georgia having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5990. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the nineteenth report to Congress on crime victims' rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5991. A joint communication from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Joint Report"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5992. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Cape Girardeau, Missouri" (MB Docket No. 24-176) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5993. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the San Luis Rey Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AD03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5994. A communication from the Chief for Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Incorporation by Reference; North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria; Hazardous Materials Safety Permits" (RIN2126-AC65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5995. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Boise, Idaho" (MB Docket No. 24-152) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5996. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Augusta, Georgia" (MB Docket No. 24-153) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5997. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report on Disability-Related Air Travel Complaints Received During Calendar Year 2022"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5998. A communication from the Chief of Program Management, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spectrum Rules and Policies for the Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Report and Order" (FCC 24-91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5999. A communication from the Chief of Performance and Program Management, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Establishing a 5G Fund for Rural America" ((GN Docket No. 20-32) (FCC 24-89)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6000. A communication from the Chief of Revenue and Receivables, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Review of the Commission's Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for FY 2024; Assessment and Collection of Space and Earth Station Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2024, Second Report and Order" ((FCC 24-93) (MD Docket Nos. 24-86 and 24-85)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 1634. A bill to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-231).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1776. A bill to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-232).

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3606. A bill to reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

*William Isaac White, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2028.

Navy nomination of Capt. Christopher A. Nash, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Air Force nomination of Col. Matthew A. Leard, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Dean A. Preston, to be Major General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Jeth B. Rey, to be Lieutenant General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Michael J. Simmering, to be Major General.

*Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus, to be General.

*Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Randall Reed, to be General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Gavin A. Lawrence, to be Lieutenant General.

*Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Alvin Holsey, to be Admiral.

Space Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Devin R. Pepper, to be Major General.

*Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Jennifer M. Short, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. John M. Cushing, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Jonathan C. Taylor, to be Brigadier General.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Xavier T. Brunson, to be General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Richard E. Angle, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Gary A. Ropers, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Theresa K. Cogswell, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Lance A. Okamura, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Scott W. Hiipakka, to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Col. Paul L. Kuettner and ending with Col. Sandra K. Martin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Allan M. Pepin, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. REED, Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of Jason W. Cromar, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Allison S. Hardwick, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brent A. Alves and ending with Erica R. Weitgenant, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Christian E. Banasky and ending with Anita M. Yates, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Air Force nomination of John C. Reed, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Joseph J. Buckingham and ending with Benjamin Donald Zatorski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 9, 2024.

Air Force nomination of Chelsey D. McMasters, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Jared M. Zentz, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Steven M. Hyer, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Patricia Ward Adams and ending with Aaron Joseph Zamora, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Allison Lee Beach and ending with Aaron Allen Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jason R. Barker and ending with Jonathan T. Runnels, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Gabriel R. Dinofrio and ending with Jack Vilardi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Wesley R. Adams and ending with Diamond D. Zephir, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with J. B. Acheson and ending with Mara Lizbeth Wladyka, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brandi Rae Aiken and ending with Erica M. Zuniga, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jordan John Arcturus and ending with Alexander William Wolf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jonathan D. Ale and ending with Mason Zhang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Army nomination of Barbara A. Berninger, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Danielle N. Gonzalez and ending with Christopher A. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with John R. Abella and ending with 0002564985, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Ronald P. Alcalá and ending with 0003565984, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Nathan T. Adkins and ending with 0002318081, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Erik C. Alfsen and ending with Joshua J. Ziegler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Sidney B. Aaron and ending with 0002755788, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Nathaniel H. Babb and ending with Jeremy A. Haugh, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2024.

Army nomination of Alice S. Blizman, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Nathan M. Arnold and ending with Roland J. Williby, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Roger A. Beaulieu and ending with Scott A. Zechman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Bryan E. Applegate and ending with Christina C. Zais, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 31, 2024.

Army nomination of Wesley S. Shute, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Wallace E. Miller III, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Lori S. Kuyt, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Chelsea D. Statler, to be Major.

Army nomination of Michael D. Lane, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Trisha M. Adams and ending with Chelsea E. Zyburt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Erin L. Acree and ending with 0003582191, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Jacob M. Alexander and ending with 0003527579, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Army nomination of Richard M. Standage, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Gregory M. Larson and ending with Julian A. Ruizbetancur, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Karim A. Branford and ending with Eric D. Sharp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Army nomination of Jeffrey D. Kyle, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Stephen C. Babcock and ending with Jorge Velez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Army nomination of Eurana A. Rodriguez, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Christopher K. Kim, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Maxine C. Coleman, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Torri M. Allen and ending with Sora Yang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Marine Corps nomination of Christopher B. Ryan, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Rico Acosta and ending with Gregory J. Youngberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024. (minus 2 nominees: Thomas W. Carey; Joe A. Whitefield, Jr.)

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Alexander N. Abate and ending with Joseph A. Zukowski, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 18, 2024.

Navy nomination of Matthew R. Hartung, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Jeffery C. Johnson, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Chet M. Korensky, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Robert J. Coats, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher H. Anschuetz and ending with Lin L. Zheng, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Andrew J. Brod and ending with Mark J. Won, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nomination of Christopher S. Walton, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Ramon Acosta and ending with Sen F. Yu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Candis A. Alford and ending with Nicholas S. Zimmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Richelle C. Alagaban and ending with Matthew E. Wittmann, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Clinton M. Barker and ending with Amy C. Zajac, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Dianne J. Abel and ending with Wei Y. Wu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with David P. Anguiano and ending with Sean T. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Gregory A. Adams and ending with Michael D. T. Yue, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Mark A. A. Abadilla and ending with Stacey L. Yon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Benjamin D. Adams and ending with John C. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Billy L. Aguirre and ending with Jeffrey D. Vorwald, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Anthony S. B. Alexander and ending with Allison D. Weinberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Jacob A. Adams and ending with Reilly L. Zenk, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2024.

Navy nomination of Matthew A. Mravlja, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Brian K. Blaschke, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Todd A. Hasenstein and ending with Michael R. Kukenberger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nomination of Daniel J. Whitsett II, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Loran A. Abram and ending with Jose A. Valadez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Chelsea D. Cannaday and ending with Kristina M. Wiedemann, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Sarah A. L. Barnum and ending with Maria F. Walsh, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Jordankane U. Acedera and ending with

Zechariah Clark, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with John A. Beach and ending with Julian G. Turner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Ronnie E. Baisden II and ending with Brian D. Younger, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Steve A. Adriaola and ending with Chad E. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nomination of Jason M. Flood, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Patrick M. Chapman, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Alex G. Dulude, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Alexandria N. Membreno, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Zachary A. Collver, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Michael J. Krzyzaniak, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Kelly M. Abramson and ending with Cameron P. Woods, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Joshua G. Ammann and ending with Justin L. Zwald, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Mary M. Benke and ending with James H. Womack, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Johnregi D. Amparo and ending with Joseph P. Yott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Mario A. Ariasdavison and ending with Gary A. Woods, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Mitchell T. Allen and ending with Charles M. Whittenton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Hakim Abdul and ending with William H. Zupke, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Romeo B. Aka and ending with Shannon N. Willings, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Caleb H. Achor and ending with Myles F. Wortham, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Ryan D. Albano and ending with Netetia K. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Yonatan G. Abebe and ending with Emily C. Wolff, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Navy nomination of Joshua R. Lamb, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Lee J. Chasco, to be Commander.

Space Force nominations beginning with Christopher Gene Adams and ending with Matthew L. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Space Force nominations beginning with Felix Aaron Abeyta and ending with Benjamin R. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Space Force nominations beginning with David C. Anderson and ending with Lucia R. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Space Force nominations beginning with Anastacio Oh Arreola and ending with Jorge E. Zamora Quiles, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

Space Force nominations beginning with Stuart C. Archer and ending with Robert Daniel Youssef, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 10, 2024.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 5143. A bill to establish military training and competency records; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 5144. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for investors in start-up businesses, to provide a credit for wages paid by start-up businesses to their first employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5145. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of foreign feedstocks for purposes of the clean fuel production credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 5146. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to schools of medicine or osteopathic medicine at historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions for the purpose of increasing enrollment of medical students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 5147. A bill to make members of the Chinese Communist Party and their family members ineligible for F or J visas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5148. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain family caregivers to contribute to a Roth IRA; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 5149. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow additional catch-up contributions for certain family caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 5150. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Surgeon General, to implement a mental health warning label on social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 5151. A bill to modernize voter registration, promote access to voting for individuals with disabilities, protect the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 5152. A bill to establish protections for individual rights with respect to computational algorithms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 5153. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to modify the definition of hemp, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 5154. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify payment rules for manual wheelchairs under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 5155. A bill to reauthorize the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 5156. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 5157. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to study new technologies and opportunities for recycling spent nuclear fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 5158. A bill to amend Public Law 86-272 to expand the prohibition of State taxation relating to certain solicitation of orders; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5159. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require any cost estimate for a bill or joint resolution prepared by the Congressional Budget Office to include the cost to each United States citizen for carrying out such measure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 5160. A bill to expand the sharing of information with respect to suspected violations of intellectual property rights in trade; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 5161. A bill to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination under any program or activity receiving Fed-

eral financial assistance on the ground of religion, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for rigorous enforcement of prohibitions against discrimination by institutions of higher education on the basis of antisemitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5162. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support college students to meet satisfactory academic progress; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5163. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an income tax credit for eldercare expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 845. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 23, 2024, to September 29, 2024, as "Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. REED, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 846. A resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of the eradication of wild poliovirus from the Americas; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 847. A resolution honoring Wade Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy, murdered as a victim of a hate crime for his Palestinian-Muslim identity, in the State of Illinois; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. Res. 848. A resolution designating the week of September 23 through September 27, 2024, as "National Hazing Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 849. A resolution calling on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize the significant educational implications of dyslexia that must be addressed, and designating October 2024 as "National Dyslexia Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 850. A resolution designating October 2024 as "National Country Music Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. Res. 851. A resolution designating November 2, 2024, as “National Bison Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 852. A resolution designating October 20, 2024, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 853. A resolution expressing support for recognizing September 20 as National Service Dog Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 854. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Kelley; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 855. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Cudo; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 131

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 131, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers’ compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes.

S. 217

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 547, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a co-

sponsor 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. 652

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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. 1024

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1171, a bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prevent Members of Congress and their spouses and dependent children from trading stocks and owning stocks, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 1230

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1230, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick “Roddie” Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 1513

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1513, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to seek to enter into negotiations with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to rename its office the “Taiwan Representative Office”, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 2181

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2181, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the sunset on entitlement to memorial headstones and markers for commemoration of veterans and certain individuals and to repeal the sunset on authority to bury remains of certain spouses and children in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

S. 2549

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2549, a bill to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the “Henry Parham VA Clinic”.

S. 2647

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2647, a bill to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

S. 3126

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3126, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish or replace a headstone, marker, or medallion for the grave of an eligible Medal of Honor recipient regardless of the recipient’s dates of service in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 3154

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3154, a bill to improve the effectiveness of tribal child support enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3546

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3546, a bill to require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers, and for other purposes.

S. 3722

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CRUZ) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3722, a bill to require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.

S. 3968

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

S. 3976

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3976, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the deduction for personal casualty losses as in effect prior to the enactment of Public Law 115-97 (commonly referred to as the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act").

S. 4142

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4142, a bill to increase the penalty for prohibited possession of a phone in a correctional facility.

S. 4235

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4235, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize grants to support for law enforcement officers and families, and for other purposes.

S. 4292

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

S. 4297

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4297, a bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act.

S. 4378

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4378, a bill to require on-time delivery of periodicals to unlock additional rate authority, and for other purposes.

S. 4381

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4381, a bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contracep-

tion, and information related to contraception.

S. 4528

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) 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. 4539

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4539, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

S. 4687

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4687, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4689

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4689, a bill to remove aliens who fail to comply with a release order, to enroll all aliens on the ICE non-detained docket in the Alternatives to Detention program with continuous GPS monitoring, and for other purposes.

S. 4917

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KANE) 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. 4959

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4959, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies from implementing environmental justice standards when issuing rules, and for other purposes.

S. 4988

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors 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. 5008

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 5008, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 5108

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5108, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide relief for borrowers of Federal Direct PLUS loans made on behalf of students.

S. 5110

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5110, a bill to clarify the country of origin of certain articles imported into the United States for purposes of certain trade enforcement actions.

S. 5113

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) 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. 5117

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5117, a bill to call for the immediate extradition or return to the United States of convicted felon Joanne Chesimard, William "Guillermo" Morales, and all other fugitives who are receiving safe haven in Cuba to escape prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses committed in the United States.

S. 5131

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 5131, a bill to advance a competitive strategy against the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 5133

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5133, a bill to establish a tracker for Senate-confirmed executive branch positions.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5148. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain family caregivers to contribute to a Roth IRA; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 5149. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow additional catch-up contributions for certain family caregivers; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce two bills: the Improving Retirement Security for Family Caregiver Act and the Catching Up Family Caregivers Act. These bills, which I am introducing today with my colleague from Virginia, Senator WARNER, would enable family caregivers to better save for retirement.

Family caregivers play an essential role in American society: caring for this Nation's children and elderly. While providing many vital services for their loved ones, these caregivers often suffer economically. According to a new study from the Edward Jones Grassroots Taskforce, 64 percent of women say their caregiving duties have negatively impacted their ability to save toward their long-term financial goals. In fact, an average 26-year-old female making \$60,000 a year leaving the workforce for 5 years to raise her children will lose close to \$1 million over her lifetime due to lost retirement assets and wage growth. Those taking care of an aging parent often face similar experiences. While it is difficult to put a dollar amount to the value of the devotion, time, and services that these caregivers provide, the Alzheimer's Association has estimated that in 2023, family caregivers provided \$350 billion in uncompensated long-term care.

For this reason, the American retirement system needs to change to benefit family caregivers. Our legislation would enable family caregivers to contribute to their retirement funds without significant income. Currently, contributions are capped to Roth IRAs at \$7,000 or yearly income, whichever is less; therefore a family caregiver earning less than \$7,000 annually is severely limited in their ability to contribute to a retirement account. The Improving Retirement Security for Family Caregiver Act, would eliminate the income cap for family caregivers, enabling them to contribute to a Roth IRA through other savings accounts up to \$7,000 annually.

In addition, our current retirement system allows those over the age of 50 to contribute more money to their retirement than the statutory limit, the idea being that those in their fifties have more discretionary income than they did when they were younger to put towards retirement. Using the same logic, the Catching Up Family Caregivers Act would give family caregivers extra years of maximum catch-up contributions for every year they were sidelined from the workforce to be a family caregiver. These com-

plementary bills would allow family caregivers to invest more in their retirement funds now and later.

These complementary bills would allow family caregivers to invest more in their retirement funds now and later. They have earned to support of important stakeholder organizations that represent family caregivers, including the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement. In letters that support these bills, they write, "Nearly half of all caregivers who provide help to older adults do so for someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Alzheimer's takes a devastating toll on caregivers." I am grateful for the support of these groups who know how important these retirement reforms will be to the financial security of caregivers who sacrifice for their loved ones. I urge my colleagues to support our legislation.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bills be printed in the RECORD:

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

S. 5148

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Retirement Security for Family Caregivers Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ROTH IRA CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CERTAIN FAMILY CAREGIVERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 408A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) SPECIAL RULE FOR ROTH IRA CONTRIBUTIONS OF QUALIFIED FAMILY CAREGIVERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who is a qualified family caregiver as of the close of the taxable year, in applying section 219 for purposes of paragraph (2), the limitation of paragraph (1) of section 219(b) shall be equal to the dollar amount in effect under section 219(b)(1)(A) for the taxable year.

"(B) QUALIFIED FAMILY CAREGIVER.—For purposes of this paragraph—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified family caregiver' means an individual who, during the taxable year—

"(I) has completed 500 or more hours as a family caregiver, and

"(II) has completed fewer than 500 hours of paid employment (including self-employment).

"(ii) FAMILY CAREGIVER.—The term 'family caregiver' means an unpaid family member, a foster parent, or another unpaid adult, who is unemployed or severely underemployed (as determined by the Secretary) and who provides in-home care, monitoring, management, supervision, or treatment of—

"(I) a child, or

"(II) an adult with a special need (as defined in section 2901 of the Public Health Service Act), including an elderly adult who requires care or supervision due to an age-related condition.

"(iii) HOURS.—An individual shall be treated as serving as a family caregiver during the hours in which the individual is engaged in caregiving tasks including assistance with bathing or grooming, dressing, laundry, food shopping or preparation, housekeeping, managing medications, transportation, and mobility assistance.

"(C) COORDINATION WITH SPOUSAL IRA.—In the case of an individual to whom section 219(c)(1) applies for the taxable year, subparagraph (A) shall be applied notwithstanding such section."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

S. 5149

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Catching Up Family Caregivers Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CERTAIN FAMILY CAREGIVERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 414(v)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "who would" and inserting "who—

"(i) would",

(2) by adding "or" at the end, and

(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(ii) is a qualified family caregiver as of the end of the taxable year."

(b) QUALIFIED FAMILY CAREGIVER.—Paragraph (6) of section 414(v) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) QUALIFIED FAMILY CAREGIVER.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified family caregiver' means an individual who has completed 500 or more hours as a family caregiver during any 1 taxable year.

"(ii) LIMITATION.—An individual shall be treated as a qualified family caregiver for not more than a total of, consecutively or nonconsecutively, the greater of—

"(I) 1 taxable year for each taxable year during which such individual completed 500 or more hours as a family caregiver, or

"(II) 5 taxable years.

"(iii) HOURS.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the hours during which an individual was a family caregiver shall be determined by [to be supplied].

"(iv) FAMILY CAREGIVER.—The term 'family caregiver' means an unpaid family member, a foster parent, or another unpaid adult, who is unemployed or severely underemployed (as determined by the Secretary) and who provides in-home care, monitoring, management, supervision, or treatment of—

"(I) a child, or

"(II) an adult with a special need (as defined in section 2901 of the Public Health Service Act), including an elderly adult who requires care or supervision due to an age-related condition."

(c) IRA CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTIONS.—Clause (i) of section 219(b)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "who has attained the age of 50 before the close of the taxable year, the deductible amount" and inserting "who—

"(I) has attained the age of 50 before the close of the taxable year, or

"(II) is a qualified family caregiver (as defined in section 414(v)(6)(D)) as of the close of the taxable year, the deductible amount."

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 5150. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Surgeon General, to implement a mental health warning label on social

media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. BRITT. Madam President, it is always an honor to represent my great State, to stand and speak in front of my colleagues and before the American people. But today is particularly special for me as my parents are here in the Gallery, and I rise today with great concerns for our country as a parent myself.

As a mom of two, I know firsthand the struggles that parents face with raising their children. You add doing that in this digital age, and obstacles and challenges become that much more great.

Our country is in the throes of a mental health crisis. And don't just take my word for it. Just look at the data. Twenty percent of Americans between the ages of 12 and 17 experienced at least one major depressive episode in 2021. When looking at just girls, that number then increases to 29 percent.

This crisis—and crisis doesn't even really feel strong enough when we are talking about rates this high—is alarming, and recent developments show us that. But before that, let's rewind.

Between the years of 2011 and 2019, depression rates amongst our teenagers more than doubled. The number of adolescents who reported experiencing a major depressive episode shot up 60 percent from 2007 to 2019.

Emergency room visits by children and teens for anxiety, mood disorders, and self-harm increased sharply during this time as well, and suicide rates among our children, between the ages of 10 and then all the way to 24, which had been stable the previous decade, jumped by almost 60 percent.

When we talk about suicide, the numbers show an incredible heartbreak of what is actually occurring. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 44. In 2021, 25 percent of teenage girls made a plan to die by suicide.

The next year, in 2022, one-third of high school girls said that they seriously considered taking their own life, and then 9 percent of our high school population actually attempted death by suicide. That is 9 out of every 100 high schoolers. This is not OK.

Meanwhile, factors that contribute positively to mental health are on the decline. Data from surveys conducted by groups like the CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System and the National Institute on Drug Abuse show that teens and tweens today get less sleep, less exercise, and have less in-person contact than their peers before them.

So in an age where we brag about being more "connected" than ever, we have actually never been further apart. And while we should always be wary of blaming just one culprit, there is one thing that stands out among the rest, and that is social media usage.

Nearly 100 percent of teenagers have access to smartphones. I am looking at

our incredible group of pages down in front, and my guess is, if I polled this group, we would see that that stat is probably true. Half, though, of American teenagers say that they are online constantly.

I wish that the Gallery could see that I am actually getting some shaking heads up here.

This is about the same percentage of teens who reported feeling addicted to their smartphones in 2016.

Fifty-four percent of American teenagers admit that it would be really hard to give up their social media, and 35 percent of American teenagers say that they are on YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook—I am sure I am missing a few, right?—almost constantly.

TikTok, in particular, has presented some really serious concerns. So for those of you who may not be aware, just this spring, several American lawmakers received death threats from users saying they would kill us if we voted for the TikTok divestment bill.

My office got one of those messages; so did Senator TILLIS from North Carolina. I wouldn't be surprised, if we polled all 100 Senators, if there weren't messages like this on many, many more machines. And the truth is, it wasn't just about killing us. These messages also said that, if we did this, they would kill themselves and/or harm others.

That came just after TikTok urged its users to call American lawmakers and stop them from voting for that bill. So, clearly, social media has a deep hold on our country's children and teens.

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy wrote a few months ago that adolescents who spend more than 3 hours a day on social media double their risk of symptoms of anxiety and depression than those who do not.

But guess what the data shows. Our teenagers aren't on social media for 3 hours a day, on average. They are on social media around 5 hours a day.

Many kids acknowledge that social media is bad for them, and many parents acknowledge that, too. But the situation is clearly getting more devastating. It seems to just be getting worse.

Our kids are suffering, with many not realizing that the root cause is due to the addictive quality of social media, and they actually seem to feel powerless on how to end that.

Earlier this summer, the Surgeon General called for the creation of a warning label on social media, and 42 out of 50 State attorneys general, including Alabama's own Steve Marshall and Pennsylvania's Michelle Henry, backed this proposal.

Senator FETTERMAN and I are on the same page about this. There should be a warning label on social media, and that is why today we have introduced the Stop the Scroll Act. Our bill would require a social media platform to have a warning label to be placed on it to

ensure that users know about the potential adverse effects of these apps and they must acknowledge that before proceeding to use them.

While Senator FETTERMAN and I agree on the importance of these labels, we also recognize that we are not the experts here. Our bill would not determine what the label would say. Rather, we would leave that up to the Surgeon General.

The only requirement that this bill would create is that the warning label include a way to quickly access mental health resources—which, in our mind, would look like a link to 9-8-8, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, or other resources—putting them quickly at the fingertips of those who need them most.

Now, warning labels won't prevent the American people from using the app, just like warnings on tobacco or alcohol don't stop someone from purchasing them. The warning is a caution so that consumers have their eyes opened to the potential dangers ahead. It empowers them to make informed decisions.

It is similar to when a doctor tells a patient they need to limit their sugar intake, right? The doctor isn't going to force you to stop eating sugar, but the warning from the doctor will likely make the patient think twice. In that situation, the doctor will usually provide advice on how to reduce sugar in your diet.

That is what the warning does. It makes sure consumers' eyes are open. It ensures that they acknowledge it before moving forward, and it provides direction to access resources if that user needs help.

The Stop the Scroll Act isn't a cure. It is a caution that will hopefully help promote healthier social media usage, while providing those in crisis with the resources they need to get help.

It is an important step forward in creating a safer digital age for all Americans.

So I am grateful for the leadership of my colleague from Pennsylvania Senator FETTERMAN in introducing this important legislation alongside me today. I want to thank Senator FETTERMAN and Surgeon General Murthy for their efforts to address the dangers of social media.

I am committed to continuing to work in a bipartisan fashion to help our kids have the kind of childhood that we were blessed to enjoy and to ensure that they have access to the American dream, rather than the social media nightmares that so many families are dealing with today.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 845—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, TO SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS “ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 845

Whereas the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program was originally authorized on September 27, 2007, by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-84; 121 Stat. 784);

Whereas 2024 marks the 17th anniversary of the establishment of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions by Congress;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions are degree-granting postsecondary institutions that have an undergraduate enrollment of not less than 10 percent Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students;

Whereas the purpose of the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program is to improve the availability and quality of postsecondary education programs to serve Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students;

Whereas, since 2007, over 270 colleges and universities have been eligible as Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions throughout the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas there are 207 funded and eligible Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions operating in the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas, as of the 2023–2024 academic year, 69 Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions are or have been funded in the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions are of critical importance, as they enroll, support, and graduate large proportions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander college students, the majority of whom are overwhelmingly from families with low incomes and are first-generation college students;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions comprise only 6.9 percent of all institutions of higher education, yet enroll 46 percent of all Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander undergraduate students in the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions employ many of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander faculty, staff, and administrators in the United States;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions award 52 percent of the associate's degrees and 45 percent of the bachelor's degrees attained by all Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander college students in the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific;

Whereas over ½ of the funded Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions maintain an Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander enrollment of over 20 percent;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions play a vital role in preserving the diverse culture, experiences, heritage, and history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders;

Whereas Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions create culturally relevant academic and co-curricular programs, research, and services, which increase retention, transfer, and graduation rates while also enhancing the overall educational experiences of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions in their work to provide quality educational opportunities to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander and other students who attend their institutions;

(2) encourages institutions of higher education that are eligible Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions to obtain funding and establish programs to serve the unique needs of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students, families, and communities;

(3) recognizes the 17th anniversary of the establishment of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions and expresses support for the designation of “Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week”; and

(4) calls on the people of the United States, including the United States territories in the Pacific, and interested groups to observe “Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week” with appropriate activities, ceremonies, and programs to demonstrate support for Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 846—COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERADICATION OF WILD POLIOVIRUS FROM THE AMERICAS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. REED, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 846

Whereas nearly 60,000 children in the United States were reported to have polio in

1952 alone, with more than 20,000 cases of paralysis;

Whereas, thanks to vaccination, polio was eliminated from the United States in 1979;

Whereas the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a unique public-private partnership that includes the Federal Government, Rotary International, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (commonly known as “UNICEF”), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and GAVI, was established in 1988 with a goal of eradicating polio globally, at a time when there were more than 350,000 cases of polio recorded annually;

Whereas Rotary International, a global association founded in Illinois, has contributed more than \$2,700,000,000 and volunteered countless hours in the global fight against polio since 1979;

Whereas, since the goal of global polio eradication was set in 1988, incidences of polio have been reduced by more than 99.9 percent through the use of the inactivated polio vaccine developed by Jonas Salk and the oral polio vaccine developed by Albert Sabin;

Whereas the Americas were the first region to be certified free from wild poliovirus by the WHO in 1994, with the last case of wild poliovirus in the Americas confirmed in Peru in 1991;

Whereas, since 1994, 4 other regions of the world have been certified free from wild poliovirus and 2 of the 3 strains of wild poliovirus have been certified eradicated worldwide;

Whereas, as of September 2024, only Afghanistan and Pakistan have been unable to fully stop transmission of wild poliovirus, a decrease from more than 125 countries in 1988;

Whereas the GPEI reaches the world's most vulnerable children, including those who have been displaced, living in areas of insecurity or conflict, where cases of variant poliovirus remain of concern;

Whereas, as of September 2024, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 20,000,000 people are walking who have been spared from paralysis and 1,500,000 deaths have been averted worldwide thanks to the efforts of the GPEI;

Whereas, in addition to combating polio, the global workforce and infrastructure of the GPEI has frequently served as first responders for natural disasters and other public health crises, including outbreaks of Ebola and the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, when polio is eradicated, it will be only the second human disease in history to make such an achievement, the first being smallpox;

Whereas progress toward global polio eradication is a testament to what can be achieved through sustained global commitment and collaboration; and

Whereas, as long as poliovirus circulates anywhere, it remains a threat to children everywhere: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Americas being certified polio-free by the World Health Organization on September 29, 1994;

(2) commends the work of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and its member states on keeping the Americas wild poliovirus free;

(3) supports the goals and ideals of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative;

(4) encourages and supports the international community of governments and nongovernmental organizations in remaining committed to the eradication of polio; and

(5) encourages the Federal Government to continue committing funding to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

SENATE RESOLUTION 847—HONORING WADEE ALFAYOUMI, A 6-YEAR-OLD PALESTINIAN-AMERICAN BOY, MURDERED AS A VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME FOR HIS PALESTINIAN-MUSLIM IDENTITY, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 847

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian-Muslim-American boy, was loved by his family and friends as an energetic, loving, and joyous light who brought sunshine to his loved ones and classmates;

Whereas, on October 14, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., Wadee Alfayoumi was brutally stabbed 26 times by a hate-driven perpetrator and tragically succumbed to his injuries;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi's perpetrator has been indicted for a hate crime by the Will County, Illinois, grand jury, and the Department of Justice has opened a hate crimes investigation into the events leading to Wadee Alfayoumi's death, as there is evidence the perpetrator yelled during the brutal killing, "All Muslims must die and your people must die" and has been observed to be a consumer of media containing dehumanizing and hateful rhetoric that is anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi was born and raised in the United States, and his family wanted the United States to provide them a life of safety away from dehumanizing and hateful rhetoric toward Palestinian people;

Whereas no one should be a target of hate because of their ethnicity or religion, whether such ethnicity or religion is expressed verbally or through how one dresses, such as through the wearing of a hijab, keffiyeh, turban, mitpachat, tichel, shpitzel, sheitel, kippah, or yarmulke;

Whereas dehumanizing rhetoric can fuel sentiments of hate that result in violence against those who belong or who are perceived to belong to a certain ethnic or religious group;

Whereas the Palestinian community's migration to the United States dates back to the late 19th century;

Whereas the United States is home to one of the largest Palestinian diasporas in the world that is made up of lawyers, doctors, teachers, business owners, law enforcement, and others, all who contribute to the history, arts, commerce, promise, and character of the United States;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi shared a heritage, history, love, culture, tradition, and brilliance belonging to the Palestinian people and was a symbol of another great Palestinian life full of promise;

Whereas Palestinian children, Israeli children, children in the United States, and those all across the globe deserve to live in peace and be free from discrimination, hate crimes, and violence; and

Whereas the recent Israel-Gaza conflict has had a particularly devastating impact on children in the region, including at one point resulting in a Palestinian child dying every 10 minutes, according to the World Health Organization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that—

- (1) the United States lost the beautiful light of Wadee Alfayoumi because of hate;

- (2) it is the duty of elected officials and media to tell the truth without dehumanizing rhetoric when informing the public of factual information;

- (3) freedom of speech and peaceful protest are constitutionally protected and a fundamental cornerstone of democracy; and

- (4) the United States has zero tolerance for hate crimes, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab discrimination.

SENATE RESOLUTION 848—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, AS "NATIONAL HAZING AWARENESS WEEK"

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 848

Whereas hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against a student regardless of the willingness of that student to participate, in connection with membership in an organization, and causes or is likely to contribute to a substantial risk above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical training necessary for participation on an athletic team), of physical injury, mental harm, or personal degradation;

Whereas 55 percent of college students involved in extracurricular clubs, athletic teams, and organizations reported experiencing hazing;

Whereas a hazing prevention policy is vital to help shape expectations for safe campus communities where healthy group behaviors, ethical leadership, and feelings of positive well-being and belonging are fostered;

Whereas it is recommended that hazing prevention education is broad and includes students, campus staff, administrators, faculty, alumni, and beyond;

Whereas hundreds of students have died as a result of collegiate hazing, including Kristin High on September 9, 2002, Kenitha Saafir on September 9, 2002, Clay Warren on September 21, in 2002, Lynn Gordon "Gordie" Bailey, Jr., on September 17, 2004, Matthew Carrington on February 2, 2005, Gary Louis DeVerelly, Jr. on March 30, 2007, Brett Griffin on November 8, 2008, Harrison Kowiak on November 18, 2008, Michael Anthony Smallwood Starks on November 21, 2008, Carson Leonard Starkey on December 2, 2008, George Desdunes on February 25, 2011, Robert Darnell Champion on November 19, 2011, Robert Eugene Timpton, Jr., on March 26, 2012, David R. Bogenberger on November 2, 2012, Marvell Edmonson on April 20, 2013, Jauwan Holmes on April 20, 2013, Marquise Braham on March 14, 2014, Dalton Debrick on August 24, 2014, Tucker W. Hipps on September 22, 2014, Nolan M. Burch on November 14, 2014, Timothy J. Piazza on February 4, 2017, Max Gruver on September 14, 2017, Andrew Coffey on November 3, 2017, Alexander Levi Rainey Beletsis on June 20, 2018, Nicky Cumberland on October 30, 2018, Collin Wiant on November 12, 2018, Noah Domingo on January 12, 2019, Bea Castro on March 17, 2019, Justin King on September 14, 2019, Antonio Tsialas on October 24, 2019, Samuel Martinez on November 12, 2019, Adam Jeffrey Oakes on February 27, 2021, Stone Justin Foltz on March 7, 2021, Lofton Hazelwood on October 18, 2021, and Luke Tyler on January 22, 2023;

Whereas students have suffered severe, life-altering injuries as a result of collegiate

hazing, including Danny Santulli on October 19, 2021; and

Whereas hazing has a lasting, harmful, and deadly impact, and preventing hazing must be prioritized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates September 23 through September 27, 2024, as "National Hazing Awareness Week";

- (2) acknowledges hazing prevention is not limited to a single week of awareness but is an ongoing commitment; and

- (3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Hazing Awareness Week through promoting hazing awareness and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 849—CALLING ON CONGRESS, SCHOOLS, AND STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DYSLEXIA THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED, AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS "NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 849

Whereas dyslexia is—

- (1) defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader; and

- (2) most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, spell, and, often, the ability to learn a second language;

Whereas the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391; 132 Stat. 5194 et seq.) included a definition of dyslexia as part of the requirement of the Act to screen inmates for dyslexia upon intake in Federal prisons;

Whereas the definition of dyslexia in section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of the First Step Act of 2018, is the first and only definition of dyslexia in a Federal statute;

Whereas dyslexia is the most common learning disability and affects 80 to 90 percent of all individuals with a learning disability;

Whereas dyslexia is persistent and highly prevalent, affecting as many as 1 out of every 5 individuals;

Whereas dyslexia is a paradox, in that an individual with dyslexia may have both—

- (1) weaknesses in decoding that result in difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition; and

- (2) strengths in higher-level cognitive functions, such as reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, and problem solving;

Whereas great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia on a scientific level, including the epidemiological, cognitive, and neurobiological bases of dyslexia;

Whereas the achievement gap between typical readers and dyslexic readers occurs as early as first grade; and

Whereas early screening for, and early diagnosis of, dyslexia are critical for ensuring that individuals with dyslexia receive focused, evidence-based intervention that leads to fluent reading, the promotion of self-awareness and self-empowerment, and the provision of necessary accommodations that ensure success in school and in life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed; and

(2) designates October 2024 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 850—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH”

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 850

Whereas country music, a uniquely American sound, echoes from the backroads of the United States to the streets of Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas Bristol, straddling the Tennessee and Virginia state line, is recognized as the “birthplace of country music”;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry, the most famous stage in country music, has been called the “home of American music”;

Whereas the Ryman Auditorium, the original home of the Grand Ole Opry, has been described as “the Mother Church of country music”;

Whereas country music reminds every American of the importance of faith, family, freedom, hope, opportunity, and patriotism;

Whereas country music has influenced numerous other genres of music;

Whereas country music is an incredibly diverse genre, appealing to Americans from all walks of life;

Whereas country music has millions of fans all across the United States;

Whereas the country music industry contributes billions of dollars in revenue each year to the economy of the United States;

Whereas the Country Music Association first celebrated “National Country Music Month” in 1964; and

Whereas President Nixon issued a presidential proclamation in 1970 to acknowledge October as “National Country Music Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2024 as “National Country Music Month”;

(2) honors the contributions of country music to the story and history of the United States; and

(3) encourages the American people to observe “National Country Music Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 851—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2, 2024, AS “NATIONAL BISON DAY”

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 851

Whereas, on May 9, 2016, the North American bison was adopted as the national mammal of the United States;

Whereas bison are considered a historical and cultural symbol of the United States;

Whereas bison are integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian Tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;

Whereas there are approximately 82 Indian Tribes participating in the InterTribal Buffalo Council, which is a Tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (48 Stat. 988, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 5124);

Whereas numerous members of Indian Tribes are involved in bison restoration on Tribal land;

Whereas members of Indian Tribes have a combined herd of almost 25,000 bison on more than 1,000,000 acres of Tribal land in 22 States;

Whereas bison play an important role in the health of the wildlife, landscapes, and grasslands of the United States;

Whereas bison hold significant economic value for private producers and Tribal and rural communities;

Whereas, as of 2022, the Department of Agriculture estimates that 192,477 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs and contributing to the food security of the United States by providing a sustainable and healthy meat source;

Whereas a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

Whereas the Department of the Interior has launched the Bison Conservation Initiative, a 10-year cooperative initiative to coordinate the conservation and restoration of wild American bison;

Whereas a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

Whereas the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

Whereas the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

Whereas several sports teams and businesses have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic and cultural significance of bison in the United States;

Whereas Indigenous communities and a group of ranchers helped save bison from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the remaining bison of the diminished herds;

Whereas, on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;

Whereas, on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society sent 15 captive-bred bison from the New York Zoological Park, now known as the “Bronx Zoo”, to the first big game refuge in the United States, now known as the “Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge”;

Whereas, in 2005, the American Bison Society was reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, Native American leaders and bison herd managers, Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, artists and writers, young people, and natural and social scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a vision for the North American bison in the 21st century;

Whereas there are bison herds in national wildlife refuges, national parks, and national forests, and on other Federal land;

Whereas there are bison in State-managed herds across 11 States;

Whereas private, public, and Tribal bison leaders are working together to continue bison restoration throughout North America;

Whereas there is a growing effort to celebrate and officially recognize the historical, cultural, and economic significance of the

North American bison to the heritage of the United States; and

Whereas members of Indian Tribes, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other public and private partners have celebrated the annual National Bison Day since 2012 and are committed to continuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday of November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2, 2024, the first Saturday of November, as “National Bison Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 852—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 20, 2024, AS “NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 852

Whereas many children from families with low incomes begin school already far behind children from families with higher incomes;

Whereas research shows that children from families with low incomes are less likely to have interactions that are critical for language development, including—

(1) being read to or spoken to regularly;

(2) having access to books;

(3) having a literacy-rich environment; and

(4) accessing high-quality early childhood education programs;

Whereas language development is an important precursor to literacy;

Whereas access to high-quality early childhood education programs can support early childhood language development and literacy;

Whereas, as early as 3 years of age, the vocabulary of a child can predict the future third-grade reading proficiency of the child;

Whereas, during the first 3 years of life, children from families with low-incomes can hear as many as 30,000,000 fewer words than children from more affluent families;

Whereas, in 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (referred to in this preamble as “NAEP”) reported that—

(1) 66 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP proficient level in reading; and

(2) 37 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP basic level in reading; and

Whereas awareness of early childhood literacy issues must be heightened to encourage greater support to help children achieve reading proficiency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 20, 2024, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages States, localities, schools, early childhood education programs, and nonprofit organizations to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing public awareness about early childhood literacy issues;

(3) recognizes the need to make early childhood literacy a public priority;

(4) supports the efforts of businesses, State and local governments, early childhood education programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and volunteers dedicated to increasing childhood literacy rates;

(5) applauds the initiatives of businesses, State and local governments, early childhood education programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and volunteers that—

(A) use time and resources to address early childhood literacy issues, the causes of poor reading scores, and potential solutions to those issues; and

(B) work to promote the love of reading among children; and

(6) encourages parents, other family members, and caregivers to introduce children to the world of books and other literacy activities in different ways, including by—

(A) reading to children;

(B) telling stories;

(C) teaching letters and words; and

(D) visiting libraries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 853—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 20 AS NATIONAL SERVICE DOG DAY

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

S. RES. 853

Whereas service dogs assist individuals with a wide range of challenges;

Whereas service dogs are able to support veterans struggling after war;

Whereas service dogs have assisted individuals in the United States since 1929;

Whereas evidence-based research has shown that service dogs provide numerous health and fitness benefits;

Whereas tens of thousands of service dogs are estimated to be working in the United States today; and

Whereas National Service Dog Day is an appropriate tribute to service dogs and the organizations that offer service dogs free of charge to United States veterans and individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports recognizing September 20 as National Service Dog Day;

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States to learn about the history of service dogs and the unique, positive impact service dogs have on individuals with disabilities; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for organizations that train and pair service dogs with disabled individuals in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 854—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. KELLEY

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

S. RES. 854

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Kelley*, Cr. No. 22-408, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Kelley*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 855—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. CUDO

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

S. RES. 855

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Cudo*, Cr. No. 24-007, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Cudo*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3294. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthor-

ize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

SA 3295. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. HAGERTY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

SA 3296. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 815, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

SA 3297. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6513, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3294. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, 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 "Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act" or the "WILD Act".

SEC. 2. PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT.

Section 5 of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3774) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 3. AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 2101 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for African elephants and the habitat of African elephants.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2306(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 4. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997.

(a) ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4264) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for Asian elephants and the habitat of Asian elephants.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 8(a) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 5. RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1994.

(a) RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5304) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for rhinoceroses or tigers and the habitat of rhinoceroses or tigers.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.”

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

SEC. 6. GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4(j)(1) of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6303(j)(1)) is amended by inserting “of up to 5 years” after “multiyear grant”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6305) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

SEC. 7. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004.

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4 of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises and the habitat of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.”

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(a) of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6606(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Annually, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation of—

(1) the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.);

(2) the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.);

(3) the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(4) the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); and

(5) the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all awards issued each year under the applicable Act;

(2) the total monetary amount issued to each award recipient;

(3) the name of each award recipient organization;

(4) the country where each award will be implemented; and

(5) a description of the projects to be completed and completed under each award.

SA 3295. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. HAGERTY) proposed an amendment to

the bill S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The following diplomats will be honored posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria Barreto Bustios (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe Bernardini (Vatican/Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bingham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzerland), Gilberto Bosques Saldivar (Mexico), Carlos de Liz-Teixeira Branquinho (Portugal), Samuel del Campo (Chile), Aracy de Carvalho Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), Jose Arturo Castellanos Contreras (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland), Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho (Republic of China), Constantin Karadja (Romania), Alexander Kasser (Sandor Kasza) (Sweden), Elow Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman (Netherlands), Julius Kuhl (Poland), Aleksander Lados (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Sweden), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu (Romania), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador), Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain/Italy), Ernst Prodolliet (Switzerland), Eduardo Propper de Callejon (Spain), Franjo Puncuch (Yugoslavia/Slovenia), Konstanty Rokicki (Poland), Sebastian de Romero Radigales (Spain), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Vatican/Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican/Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey/France), Jose Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Stefan Ryniewicz (Poland), Angel Sanz-Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United Kingdom), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal), Jan Spisiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara (Japan), Irenaeus Tspaldos (Spain), Alexander (Sandor) Ujvary (Vatican/Hungary), Selahattin Ulkumen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino (Vatican/Italy), Vladimir Vochoc (Czech Republic), Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zurcher (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Netherlands).

(2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which started World War II and threw the world into chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish population was in full motion. As battles were being fought between countries, Jews were being rounded up and sent to concentration camps throughout Europe. This process began a mass exodus of people out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish community.

(3) During the war, members of the Jewish community used every tool and means at their disposal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

(4) While the armies of countries were fighting each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the actions of

these diplomats they would be expelled, as a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict orders from their home countries to not aid the Jewish population in any way.

(5) These diplomats used every means at their disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to the instruction of the governments of the diplomats. This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were connected with the local populations and were great communicators for Jews trying to travel underground. They were able set up safehouses and getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of times, several of these diplomats confronted the Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally put themselves in grave danger.

(6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew what they were up against, and still pushed forward to save those in the most danger.

(7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized under this Act will help remind humanity that when the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they went beyond the fold, including risking their careers and the lives of themselves and their families, to engage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of today and future generations can look towards these heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and sacrifice.

(8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as stating or implying that this group of honorees encompasses everyone who took this type of heroic action during this era. As the title attests, the “Forgotten Heroes” performed these deeds out of righteousness, with no expectation of public acclaim. The sponsors of this Act wish to honor this group of individuals for whose deeds the historical record is currently definitive and well-documented. Given that historical research is ongoing, in the event that robust documentation from professional historians, expert stakeholders, and public input identify others worthy of official recognition, future Congresses retain the right to recognize additional forgotten heroes of the Holocaust pursuant to future legislation.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a single gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official representative of the country that each diplomat served and the cochairs of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Committee.

(d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with Holocaust remembrance.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SA 3296. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 815, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the “Hello Girls”; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany. As a historically neutral nation, the United States was unprepared to fight a technologically modern conflict overseas. The United States called upon American Telephone and Telegraph (referred to in this section as “AT&T”) to provide equipment and trained personnel for the Army Signal Corps in France. AT&T executives in Army uniform served at home under the provisions of the Act entitled “An Act for making further and more effectual provision for the national defense, and for other purposes.”, approved June 3, 1916 (referred to in this section as the “National Defense Act of 1916”), which allowed for the induction of individuals with specialized skills into a reserve force.

(2) When General John Pershing sailed for Europe in May of 1917 as head of the American Expeditionary Forces (referred to in this section as the “AEF”), he took telephone operating equipment with him in recognition of the inadequacy of European circuitry and with the understanding that telephones would play a key role in battlefield communications for the first time in the history of war.

(3) From May to November of 1917, the AEF struggled to develop the telephone service necessary for the Army to function under battlefield conditions. Monolingual infantrymen from the United States were unable to connect calls rapidly or communicate effectively with their French counterparts to put calls through over toll lines that linked one region of the country with another. The Army found that the average male operator required 60 seconds to make a connection. That rate was unacceptably slow, especially for operational calls between command outposts and the front lines.

(4) During this time, in the United States, telephone operating was largely sex-segregated. Hired for their speed in connecting calls, women filled 85 percent of the telephone operating positions in the United States. It took the average female operator 10 seconds to make a connection.

(5) On November 8, 1917, General Pershing cabled the War Department and wrote, “On account of the great difficulty of obtaining properly qualified men, request organization and dispatch to France a force of women telephone operators all speaking French and English equally well.”. To begin, General Pershing requested 100 women under the command of a commissioned captain, writing that “All should have allowances of Army nurses and should be uniformed.”.

(6) The War Department sent press releases to newspapers across the United States to recruit women willing to serve for the duration of the war and face the hazards of submarine warfare and aerial bombardment. These articles emphasized that patriotic women would be “full-fledged soldier[s] under the articles of war” and would “do as much to help win the war as the men in khaki who go ‘over the top.’”. All women selected would take the Army oath.

(7) More than 7,600 women volunteered for the 100 positions described in paragraph (5), and the first recruits took the Army oath on January 15, 1918.

(8) Like nurses and doctors at the time, female Signal Corps members had relative rather than traditional ranks and were ranked as Operator, Supervisor, or Chief Operator. When promoted, the women were required to swear the Army oath again.

(9) Telephone operators were the first women to serve as soldiers in non-medical classifications, and the job of the operators was to help win the war, not to mitigate the harms of the war. In popular parlance, they were known as the “Hello Girls”.

(10) Signal Corps Operators wore Army uniforms and Army insignia always, as well as standard-issue identity disks in case of death, and were subject to court martial for infractions of the military code.

(11) Unbeknownst to the women operators and their immediate officers, the legal counsel of the Army ruled internally on March 20, 1918, that the women were not actually soldiers but contract employees, even though the women had not seen or signed any contracts. Military code allowed only for the induction of men, and the code remained unchanged despite the orders of General Pershing. Nevertheless, legal counsel also recognized that the National Defense Act of 1916, which allowed for the induction of members of the telephone industry of the United States into the Armed Forces, imposed no gender restrictions.

(12) Four days later, on March 24, 1918, the first contingent of operators began their official duties in France. The operators arrived before most infantrymen of the Armed Forces in order to facilitate logistics and deployment and spent their first night in Paris under German bombardment.

(13) After the arrival of the operators, telephone service in France improved imme-

diately, as calls tripled from 13,000 to 36,000 per day.

(14) The Army quickly recruited, trained, and deployed 5 additional contingents of female Signal Corps operators. With these personnel, the number of calls increased to 150,000 per day.

(15) In addition to standard telephone operating, bilingual Signal Corps members provided simultaneous translation between officers from France and officers from the United States, who were communicating by telephone.

(16) The AEF fought their first major battles in the last 2 months of the war. By that point, the Signal Corps considered the contributions of women to be so essential that, in telephone exchanges closest to the front line, the Army exclusively used women, in rotating 12-hour shifts. In the rear, the Army established rotating 8-hour shifts and gave male soldiers the overnight shift when telephone traffic was slower.

(17) Seven bilingual operators—

(A) served at the Battles of St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne under the immediate command of General Pershing;

(B) staffed the Operations Boards through which orders to advance, fire, and retreat were delivered to soldiers in the trenches, to artillery units on alert, and to pilots awaiting orders at French airfields; and

(C) were awarded a “Defensive Sector Clasp” for the Meuse-Argonne operation.

(18) The Chief Operator supervising the Hello Girls, Grace Banker of Passaic, New Jersey, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Out of 16,000 eligible Signal Corps officers, Banker was one of only 18 individuals so honored.

(19) Thirty additional operators received special commendations, many signed by General Pershing himself, for “exceptionally meritorious and conspicuous services” in “Advance Sections” of the conflict.

(20) The war ended on November 11, 1918. As of that date, 223 female operators served in France and had connected 26,000,000 calls for the AEF.

(21) The Chief Signal Officer of the Army Signal Corps wrote in his official report 2 days after the date on which the war ended that “a large part of the success of the communications of this Army is due to . . . a competent staff of women operators.”.

(22) After the war ended, some women were ordered to Coblenz in Germany for the occupation of that country and to Paris for the Paris Peace Treaty of 1919 to continue telephone operations, sometimes in direct support of President Woodrow Wilson.

(23) Two operators, Corah Bartlett and Inez Crittenden, died in France in the service of the United States and were buried there in military cemeteries with military ceremonies. Those operators died of the same influenza pandemic that killed more soldiers of the Armed Forces than combat operations.

(24) Women of the Army Signal Corps were ineligible for discharge until formal release. Because of their role in logistics, those women were among the last soldiers to come home to the United States. The last Signal Corps operators returned from France in January of 1920.

(25) Upon arrival in the United States, the Army informed female veterans that they had performed as civilians, not soldiers, even though operators had served in Army uniform in a theater of war surrounded by men who were similarly engaged.

(26) Despite the objections of General George Squier, the top-ranking officer in the Signal Corps, the Army denied Signal Corps women the veterans’ benefits granted to male soldiers and female nurses, such as—

(A) hospitalization for disabilities incurred in the line of duty;

(B) cash bonuses;
 (C) soldiers' pensions;
 (D) flags on their coffins; and
 (E) the Victory Medals promised them in France.

(27) For the next 60 years, female veterans, led by Merle Egan from Montana, petitioned Congress more than 50 times for their recognition. In 1977, under the sponsorship of Senator Barry Goldwater, Congress passed legislation to retroactively acknowledge the military service of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (referred to in this section as "WASPs") of World War II and "the service of any person in any other similarly situated group the members of which rendered service to the Armed Forces of the United States in a capacity considered civilian employment or contractual service at the time such service was rendered".

(28) On November 23, 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed the legislation described in paragraph (27) into law as the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 91 Stat. 1433).

(29) The Signal Corps telephone operators applied for, and were granted, status as veterans in 1979.

(30) Only 33 of the operators who had returned home after the war were still alive to receive their Victory Medals and official discharge papers, which were finally awarded in 1979.

(31) One of the women, Olive Shaw from Massachusetts, returned to the United States after the war, where she worked on the professional staff of Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers. Shaw lived to receive her honorable discharge and was the first burial when the Massachusetts National Cemetery opened on October 11, 1980. Shaw's uniform is on display at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri.

(32) Upon receipt of her honorable discharge at a ceremony in her home in Marine City, Michigan, "Hello Girl" Oleda Joure Christides raised the paper to her lips and kissed it. The only thing Christides ever wanted from the Federal Government was a flag on her coffin.

(33) On July 1, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law Public Law 111-40 (123 Stat. 1958), which awarded the WASPs the Congressional Gold Medal for their service to the United States.

(34) For their role as pioneers who paved the way for all women in uniform, and for service that was essential to victory in World War I, the "Hello Girls" merit similar recognition.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps (commonly known as the "Hello Girls"), in recognition of those operators—

- (1) pioneering military service;
 - (2) devotion to duty; and
 - (3) 60-year struggle for—
- (A) recognition as soldiers; and
 (B) veterans' benefits.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution,

where the medal shall be available for display, as appropriate, and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available elsewhere, particularly at—

- (A) appropriate locations associated with—
- (i) the Army Signal Corps;
- (ii) the Women in Military Service for America Memorial;
- (iii) the U.S. Army Women's Museum; and
- (iv) the National World War I Museum and Memorial; and

(B) any other location determined appropriate by the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SA 3297. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. McCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6513, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Confirmation Of Congressional Observer Access Act of 2024" or the "COCOA Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS.

(a) ACCESS REQUIRED.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating section 304 and 305 as sections 305 and 306; and
- (2) by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

"SEC. 304. ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS.

"(a) FINDING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—Congress finds that, regardless of legislative action, it has the authority to send congressional election observers to observe polling locations, any location where processing, scanning, tabulating, canvassing, recounting, auditing, or certifying voting results is occurring, or any other part of the process associated with elections for Federal office under the authorities granted under article 1, section 5, clause 1 and article 1,

section 4, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States. Procedures described herein do not establish any new authorities or procedures with respect to Congress' constitutional authority to observe congressional elections but are provided simply to permit a convenient statutory reference for existing congressional authority and activity.

"(b) REQUIRING STATES TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR OBSERVERS.—

"(1) REQUIREMENT.—A State shall provide each individual who is acting as a designated congressional election observer for an election for Federal office with full access to clearly observe all elements of election administration procedures, including, but not limited to, access to any area in which a ballot is cast, processed, scanned, tabulated, canvassed, recounted, audited, or certified, including during pre- and post-election procedures.

"(2) RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF OBSERVERS.—No designated congressional election observer may handle a ballot or election equipment (whether voting or nonvoting or whether tabulating or nontabulating), advocate for any position or candidate, take any action to reduce ballot secrecy or voter privacy, take any action to interfere with the ability of a voter to cast a ballot or an election administrator to carry the administrator's duties, or otherwise interfere with the election administration process.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a designated congressional election observer from asking questions of an election administrator, election official, or election worker, or any other State or local official.

"(c) CONDUCT OF OBSERVERS.—

"(1) REMOVAL.—

"(A) AUTHORIZATION REMOVAL BY ELECTION OFFICIAL.—If a State or local election official has a reasonable basis to believe that a designated congressional election observer has engaged in or imminently will engage in intimidation or deceptive practices prohibited by Federal law, or in the disruption of voting, processing, scanning, tabulating, canvassing, or recounting of ballots, or the certification of results, a State or local election official may remove that observer from the area involved.

"(B) NOTICE TO COMMITTEE.—If a designated congressional election observer is removed from an area under subparagraph (A), the election official shall, within 24 hours of the observer's removal—

"(i) inform the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as applicable; and

"(ii) provide written notice detailing the reason or reasons the designated congressional election observer was removed.

"(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this subsection, the mere presence of a designated congressional election observer during an observation of election administration procedures, without any additional indicia supporting a reasonable basis for removal, is not a sufficient reason for removal under paragraph (1)(A).

"(3) RIGHT TO REPLACE OBSERVER.—If a designated congressional election observer is properly removed under paragraph (1)(A), the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as appropriate, may send another designated congressional election observer as a replacement for the remaining duration of the observation of election administration procedures.

"(d) DESIGNATED CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVER DESCRIBED.—In this section, a

'designated congressional election observer' is a House or Senate employee who is designated in writing by the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, or a successor committee, to gather information with respect to an election, including in the event that the election is contested in the House of Representatives or the Senate and for other purposes permitted by article 1, section 5, clause 1 and article 1, section 4, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

"(e) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking "and 303" and inserting "303, and 304".

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and 306; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following:

"Sec. 304. Confirming access for congressional election observers."

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Valerie Ullrich, a fellow in our office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate considerations of Calendar No. 332, H.R. 5009.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5009) to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Carper-Capito substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 3294) 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 "Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act" or the "WILD Act".

SEC. 2. PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT.

Section 5 of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3774) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 3. AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 2101 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for African elephants and the habitat of African elephants.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2306(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 4. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997.

(a) ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4264) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for Asian elephants and the habitat of Asian elephants.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 8(a) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 5. RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1994.

(a) RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5304) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for rhinoceroses or tigers and the habitat of rhinoceroses or tigers.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 6. GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4(j)(1) of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6303(j)(1)) is amended by inserting "of up to 5 years" after "multiyear grant".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6305) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 7. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004.

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4 of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises and the habitat of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises.

"(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(a) of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6606(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2023" and inserting "2024 through 2028".

SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Annually, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation of—

(1) the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.);

(2) the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.);

(3) the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(4) the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); and

(5) the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a list of all awards issued each year under the applicable Act;

(2) the total monetary amount issued to each award recipient;

(3) the name of each award recipient organization;

(4) the country where each award will be implemented; and

(5) a description of the projects to be completed and completed under each award.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 5009), as amended, was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table.

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

FORGOTTEN HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 91 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk reads as follows:

A bill (S. 91) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Hagerty substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3295) 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 “Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The following diplomats will be honored posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria Barreto Bustios (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe Bernardini (Vatican/

Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bingham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzerland), Gilberto Bosques Saldivar (Mexico), Carlos de Liz-Teixeira Branquinho (Portugal), Samuel del Campo (Chile), Aracy de Carvalho Guimaraes Rosa (Brazil), Jose Arturo Castellanos Contreras (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland), Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho (Republic of China), Constantin Karadja (Romania), Alexander Kasser (Sandor Kasza) (Sweden), Elow Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman (Netherlands), Julius Kuhl (Poland), Aleksander Lados (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Sweden), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu (Romania), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador), Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain/Italy), Ernst Prodolliet (Switzerland), Eduardo Propper de Callejon (Spain), Franjo Puncuch (Yugoslavia/Slovenia), Konstanty Rokicki (Poland), Sebastian de Romero Radigales (Spain), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Vatican/Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican/Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey/France), Jose Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Stefan Ryniewicz (Poland), Angel Sanz-Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United Kingdom), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal), Jan Spisiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara (Japan), Irenaeus Typaldos (Spain), Alexander (Sandor) Ujvary (Vatican/Hungary), Selahattin Ulkumen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino (Vatican/Italy), Vladimir Vochoc (Czech Republic), Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zurcher (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Netherlands).

(2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which started World War II and threw the world into chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish population was in full motion. As battles were being fought between countries, Jews were being rounded up and sent to concentration camps throughout Europe. This process began a mass exodus of people out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish community.

(3) During the war, members of the Jewish community used every tool and means at their disposal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

(4) While the armies of countries were fighting each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the actions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict orders from their home countries to not aid the Jewish population in any way.

(5) These diplomats used every means at their disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to the instruction of the governments of the diplomats. This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were connected with the local populations and were great communicators for Jews trying to

travel underground. They were able set up safehouses and getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of times, several of these diplomats confronted the Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally put themselves in grave danger.

(6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew what they were up against, and still pushed forward to save those in the most danger.

(7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized under this Act will help remind humanity that when the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they went beyond the fold, including risking their careers and the lives of themselves and their families, to engage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of today and future generations can look towards these heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and sacrifice.

(8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as stating or implying that this group of honorees encompasses everyone who took this type of heroic action during this era. As the title attests, the “Forgotten Heroes” performed these deeds out of righteousness, with no expectation of public acclaim. The sponsors of this Act wish to honor this group of individuals for whose deeds the historical record is currently definitive and well-documented. Given that historical research is ongoing, in the event that robust documentation from professional historians, expert stakeholders, and public input identify others worthy of official recognition, future Congresses retain the right to recognize additional forgotten heroes of the Holocaust pursuant to future legislation.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a single gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official representative of the country that each diplomat served and the cochair of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Committee.

(d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with Holocaust remembrance.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials,

dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The bill (S. 91), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HELLO GIRLS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 815 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 815) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Tester substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3296) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 815), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL CONCUSSION AWARENESS DAY

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged of S. Res. 812 and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following

Senate resolutions: S. Res. 812, S. Res. 847, S. Res. 848, S. Res. 849, S. Res. 850, S. Res. 851, S. Res. 852, S. Res. 853, S. Res. 854, and S. Res. 855.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant resolution, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. President, in two criminal cases pending in Federal district court in the District of Columbia and arising out of the events of January 6, 2021, the prosecution has requested testimony from a Senate witness.

In these cases, brought against Martin Cudo and Edward Kelley, respectively, trials are expected to commence in late October, and the prosecution has requested testimony from Daniel Schwager, formerly counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, concerning his knowledge and observations of the process, including use of the electoral ballots and other documents during the proceeding, and constitutional and legal bases for Congress's counting of of the Electoral College votes. Senate Secretary Berry would like to cooperate with these requests by providing relevant testimony in these trials from Mr. Schwager.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, these resolutions would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Mr. Schwager, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, 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 resolution (S. Res. 812) was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 12, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolutions (S. Res. 847, S. Res. 848, S. Res. 849, S. Res. 850, S. Res. 851, S. Res. 852, S. Res. 853, S. Res. 854, and S. Res. 855) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

CONFIRMATION OF CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVER ACCESS ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6513 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6513) to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the McConnell substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3297) 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 "Confirmation Of Congressional Observer Access Act of 2024" or the "COCOA Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS.

(a) ACCESS REQUIRED.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 304 and 305 as sections 305 and 306; and

(2) by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

"SEC. 304. ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS.

"(a) FINDING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—Congress finds that, regardless of legislative action, it has the authority to send congressional election observers to observe polling locations, any location where processing, scanning, tabulating, canvassing, recounting, auditing, or certifying voting results is occurring, or any other part of the process associated with elections for Federal office under the authorities granted under article 1, section 5, clause 1 and article 1, section 4, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States. Procedures described herein do not establish any new authorities or procedures with respect to Congress' constitutional authority to observe congressional elections but are provided simply to permit a convenient statutory reference for existing congressional authority and activity.

"(b) REQUIRING STATES TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR OBSERVERS.—

"(1) REQUIREMENT.—A State shall provide each individual who is acting as a designated congressional election observer for an election for Federal office with full access to clearly observe all elements of election administration procedures, including, but not limited to, access to any area in which a ballot is cast, processed, scanned, tabulated, canvassed, recounted, audited, or certified, including during pre- and post-election procedures.

"(2) RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF OBSERVERS.—No designated congressional election observer may handle a ballot or election equipment (whether voting or nonvoting or whether tabulating or nontabulating), advocate for any position or candidate, take any action to reduce ballot secrecy or voter privacy, take any action to interfere with the ability of a voter to cast a ballot or an election administrator to carry the administrator's duties, or otherwise interfere with the election administration process.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a designated congressional election observer from asking questions of an election administrator, election official, or election worker, or any other State or local official.

“(c) CONDUCT OF OBSERVERS.—

“(1) REMOVAL.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION REMOVAL BY ELECTION OFFICIAL.—If a State or local election official has a reasonable basis to believe that a designated congressional election observer has engaged in or imminently will engage in intimidation or deceptive practices prohibited by Federal law, or in the disruption of voting, processing, scanning, tabulating, canvassing, or recounting of ballots, or the certification of results, a State or local election official may remove that observer from the area involved.

“(B) NOTICE TO COMMITTEE.—If a designated congressional election observer is removed from an area under subparagraph (A), the election official shall, within 24 hours of the observer's removal—

“(i) inform the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as applicable; and

“(ii) provide written notice detailing the reason or reasons the designated congressional election observer was removed.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this subsection, the mere presence of a designated congressional election observer during an observation of election administration procedures, without any additional indicia supporting a reasonable basis for removal, is not a sufficient reason for removal under paragraph (1)(A).

“(3) RIGHT TO REPLACE OBSERVER.—If a designated congressional election observer is properly removed under paragraph (1)(A), the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as appropriate, may send another designated congressional election observer as a replacement for the remaining duration of the observation of election administration procedures.

“(d) DESIGNATED CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVER DESCRIBED.—In this section, a ‘designated congressional election observer’ is a House or Senate employee who is designated in writing by the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, or a successor committee, to gather information with respect to an election, including in the event that the election is contested in the House of Representatives or the Senate and for other purposes permitted by article 1, section 5, clause 1 and article 1, section 4, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

“(e) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking “and 303” and inserting “303, and 304”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and 306; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following:

“Sec. 304. Confirming access for congressional election observers.”

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 6513), as amended, was passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25; that following the prayer and the 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 Conway nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:40 a.m., Senator PAUL be recognized for up to 20 minutes and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate resume legislative session and Senator PAUL be recognized to make a motion to proceed to S. Con. Res. 41; further, if the motion to proceed is not made or agreed to, the Senate resume executive session and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Conway nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all time be considered expired at 3:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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 7:56 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 24, 2024:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. RONALD P. CLARK

IN THE NAVY

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. CHRISTOPHER A. NASH

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be brigadier general

COL. MATTHEW A. LEARD

IN THE ARMY

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DEAN A. PRESTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JETH B. REY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSHUA M. RUDD

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. SIMMERING

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AND APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10502:

To be general

LT. GEN. STEVEN S. NORDHAUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. RANDALL REED

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GAVIN A. LAWRENCE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. ALVIN HOLSEY

IN THE SPACE FORCE

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DEVIN R. PEPPER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JENNIFER M. SHORT

IN THE ARMY

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. CUSHING

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

To be brigadier general

COL. JONATHAN C. TAYLOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. XAVIER T. BRUNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RICHARD E. ANGLE

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. GARY A. ROPERS

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

To be brigadier general

COL. THERESA K. COGSWELL

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LANCE A. OKAMURA

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. SCOTT W. HIPAKKA

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

To be brigadier general

COL. PAUL L. KUETTNER

COL. SANDRA K. MARTIN

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JASON W. CROMAR, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ALLISON S. HARDWICK, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRENT A. ALVES AND ENDING WITH ERICA R. WEITGENANT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTIAN E. BANASKY AND ENDING WITH ANITA M. YATES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 30, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOHN C. REED, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH J. BUCKINGHAM AND ENDING WITH BENJAMIN DONALD ZATORSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CHELSEY D. MCMASTERS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JARED M. ZENTZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF STEVEN M. HYER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PATRICIA WARD ADAMS AND ENDING WITH AARON JOSEPH ZAMORA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALISON LEE BEACH AND ENDING WITH AARON ALLEN WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON R. BARKER AND ENDING WITH JONATHAN T. RUNNELS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GABRIEL R. DINOFRIO AND ENDING WITH JACK VILARDI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WESLEY R. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH DIAMOND D. ZEPHIR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. B. ACHESON AND ENDING WITH MARA LIZBETH WLADYKA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDI RAE AIKEN AND ENDING WITH ERICA M. ZUNIGA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JORDAN JOHN ARCTURUS AND ENDING WITH ALEXANDER WILLIAM WOLF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN D. ALE AND ENDING WITH MASON ZHANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF BARBARA A. BERNINGER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIELLE N. GONZALEZ AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER A. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN R. ABELLA AND ENDING WITH 0002564985, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RONALD P. ALCALA AND ENDING WITH 0003565984, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATHAN T. ADKINS AND ENDING WITH 0002318081, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIK C. ALFSEN AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA J. ZIEGLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SIDNEY B. AARON AND ENDING WITH 0002755788, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATHANIEL H. BABB AND ENDING WITH JEREMY A. HAUGH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ALICE S. BLIZMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATHAN M. ARNOLD AND ENDING WITH ROLAND J. WILLIBY, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROGER A. BEAULIEU AND ENDING WITH SCOTT A. ZECHMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRYAN E. APLEGATE AND ENDING WITH CHRISTINA C. ZAIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WESLEY S. SHUTE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WALLACE E. MILLER III, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LORI S. KUYT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHELSEA D. STATLER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. LANE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRISHA M. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH CHELSEA E. ZYBURT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIN L. ACREE AND ENDING WITH 0003582191, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JACOB M. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH 0003527579, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD M. STANDAGE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY M. LARSON AND ENDING WITH JULIAN A. RUIZBETANCUR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KARIM A. BRANFORD AND ENDING WITH ERIC D. SHARP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY D. KYLE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN C. BABCOCK AND ENDING WITH JORGE VELEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

ARMY NOMINATION OF EURANA A. RODRIGUEZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER K. KIM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MAXINE C. COLEMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TORRI M. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH SORA YANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER B. RYAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICO ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH GREGORY J. YOUNGBERG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER N. ABATE AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH A. ZUKOWSKI, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW R. HARTUNG, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY C. JOHNSON, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHET M. KORENSKY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. COATS, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER H. ANSCHUETZ AND ENDING WITH LIN L. ZHENG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW J. BROD AND ENDING WITH MARK J. WON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER S. WALTON, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAMON ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH SEN F. YU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CANDIS A. ALFORD AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS S. ZIMMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHELLE C. ALAGABAN AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW E. WITTMANN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CLINTON M. BARKER AND ENDING WITH AMY C. ZAJAC, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DIANNE J. ABEL AND ENDING WITH WEI Y. WU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID P. ANGUIANO AND ENDING WITH SEAN T. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY A. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL D. T. YUE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK A. A. ABADILLA AND ENDING WITH STACEY L. YON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN D. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH JOHN C. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BILLY L. AGUIRRE AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY D. VORWALD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY S. B. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH ALLISON D. WEINBERG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JACOB A. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH REILLY L. ZENK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW A. MRVLJA, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRIAN K. BLASCHKE, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TODD A. HASENSTEIN AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL R. KUKENBERGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DANIEL J. WHITSETT II, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LORAN A. ABRAM AND ENDING WITH JOSE A. VALADEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHELSEA D. CANNADAY AND ENDING WITH KRISTINA M. WIEDEMANN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SARAH A. L. BARNUM AND ENDING WITH MARIA F. WALSH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JORDANKANE U. ACEDERA AND ENDING WITH ZACHARIAH CLARK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN A. BEACH AND ENDING WITH JULIAN G. TURNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RONNIE E. BAISDEN AND ENDING WITH BRIAN D. YOUNGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVE A. ADRIAZOLA AND ENDING WITH CHAD E. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JASON M. FLOOD, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PATRICK M. CHAPMAN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ALEX G. DULUDE, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ALEXANDRIA N. MEMBRENO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ZACHARY A. COLLVER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. KRZYZANIAK, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLY M. ABRAMSON AND ENDING WITH CAMERON P. WOODS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA G. AMMANN AND ENDING WITH JUSTIN L. ZWALD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARY M. BENKE AND ENDING WITH JAMES H. WOMACK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHNREGI D. AMPARO AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH P. YOTT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND AP-

PEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARIO A. ARIASDAVISON AND ENDING WITH GARY A. WOODS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MITCHELL T. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH CHARLES M. WHITTENTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HAKIM ABDUL AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM H. ZUPKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROMEO B. AKA AND ENDING WITH SHANNON N. WILLINGS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CALEB H. ACHOR AND ENDING WITH MYLES F. WORTHAM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN D. ALBANO AND ENDING WITH NETETIA K. WALKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH YONATAN G. ABEBE AND ENDING WITH EMILY C. WOLFF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND AP-

PEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOSHUA R. LAMB, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LEE J. CHASCO, TO BE COMMANDER.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER GENE ADAMS AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW L. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FELIX AARON ABEYTA AND ENDING WITH BENJAMIN R. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID C. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH LUCIA R. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANASTACIO OH ARREOLA AND ENDING WITH JORGE E. ZAMORA QUILES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STUART C. ARCHER AND ENDING WITH ROBERT DANIEL YOUSSEF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.